

GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON ISLAM AND MUSLIMS

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ABSTRACT

This qualitative research article will examine the different definition of globalization in different perspectives and its relation to the Muslims, the founders and makers of this term, we will prove the positive and negative portions of this term and the conditions in which globalization is harmless and also that areas in which globalization is harmful and producing bad effects on societies, this article will also investigate the main aims and objectives of this term, this article include various means of globalization and also explain the fact that Islam is fully enriched with this term but in positive way and we will explore the history of globalization in Islam, the peak and dawn of Islamic rule the reason behind the Muslim empires fall and in the second portion we will have a descriptive detail on the impact and challenges of globalization on Islamic religion and Muslim communities and Islamic culture and we will discuss the purposes of this term and then this article will also tell about the responsibilities of a Muslim and Islamic societies in this globalized era to get the same peak of prosperity as they had in past centuries. The basic concept of this article is to define globalization and the impact of this term on Muslims and Islam.

KEYWORDS: Globalization, impact, Muslim societies, West, aims, Muslims.

INTRODUCTION:

The term globalization is nowadays taking attention of the governments, business communities, teachers, and worldwide economists. The enthusiasm and interest for this topic pushed many organizations and platforms to arrange seminars and conferences on the intricate issues related to globalization. The whole world is keen concerned about knowing the advantages and disadvantages of this subject. The most discussed question about this debate is who are the real benefiter and who are the losers of this process. The importance of this topic is also because it is spreading widely day by day and also effecting societies, their cultures, their traditions and their languages. For example, if someone from Asian region is living in

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western country, he would not be able to conduct his pure and real language anymore because globalization took place there.

This process is fairly new but the process of global interdependence begun centuries ago. In today's context globalization is the emergence of a single economy and super speed of exchange goods in limited time across the wide distances in globalized world there would be a single society and a single culture. There will be trade and culture connections between the countries but the fact is that there will be no place for religion in this concept. Although globalization is the process in which the world is like a single place that the events of one part of the world have consequences for action another place in the world². So also globalization has some significances as well but this is also a fact that globalization also brings a wider number of challenges on religion in the field of beliefs and in the field of religious practices. So it indicates that globalization force Muslims and Islam to do and go against the high moral values. Globalization involves policies transfer, political integration, converting process of knowledge, transmission of culture, reproduction, fashions, designs, thoughts. The means of transport are the basic sources of reducing distances between countries so this process continues in an integrated way.

DEFINITION OF GLOBALIZATION:

Globalization is the process in which movements and exchanges of human beings, services, politics, economies, cultural practices become fastened all over the world. So that it promotes the connections between different countries and people throughout the globe. Another definition of this process is that globalization is the process that surrounds the sources and consequences of transcultural spread of human and other goods. Anthony

McGrow's explanation of globalization defines that:

Globalization is a process which generates flows and connections, not simply across nation states and national territorial boundaries, but between global regions, continents and civilizations. This invites a definition of globalization as an "historical process which engenders a significant shift in the spatial reach of networks and systems of social relations to transcontinental or interregional patterns of human organization, activity and the exercise of power.

Globalization has various definitions because of the difference and mismatching the ideological background, so it can be categorized in to five

forms. One of them treats globalization as same as “internationalization”. On this point of view, this term also means cross-border relations between countries in sense of large and growing flows of investments and trade. Second form of definition views this term as “liberalization” and defines it as a process of international economic integration and wide prevailing reductions of statutory constraints on inter border movements of services, technology movements and financial instruments. But some critics totally refused this definition and argued that the international economic integration have had its place a long time before the emerging of globalization. Third form of definition describes globalization as “universalization” and its followers describe globalization as a process of imparting various objects and experience to the population at all corners of the globe. They found the evidence for this type of globalization to the spread of the Gregorian calendar, televisions and automobiles. The forth form of definition equates globalization with “westernization” and presents it as a moving factor that motivates the trans-continental spread of the modernity’s structure. For example: rationalism, industrialism, bureaucracy etc. and damages the pre-existing cultures of non- western nations.

Example of this globalization can be found in the transcontinental impart of Hollywood culture and McDonald’s fast food.

The forth form of definition defines globalization as “deterritorialization”, global relations are transborder exchanges without distance. Transborder organizations of many kinds grow and more people become aware of the world as a single whole pushed by the structural forces of capitalism and rationalism and propelled by actor initiatives.³

HISTORY OF ISLAMIC GLOBALIZATION:

When prophet Muhammad ﷺ was in makkah, there was not much expansion of Islam in the rest of world. During the early days in Makkah there were few people from Muslims migrated to Abyssinia for a short period of time because Prophet ﷺ ordered them to go there, the aim was to protect themselves from the oppressions of non-believers in Makkah.

But when prophet Muhammad ﷺ migrated to Madinah and established the Islamic state, that was actually the real era of Islamic globalization in 622 AD and after that period of time, Islam started to develop and expand across the world.⁴

When Islam established on the region of Saudi Arabia, it got the expansion ,that was the good time when it should come face to face in front of other

civilizations, at that time exchange of thoughts and sharing the ideas was the only way to make interaction between Muslims and other civilizations, they were taking benefits and fruits from other's knowledge, ideas and values so the result was that Muslim civilization was able to have its grip and have recognition across the world in the earlier five centuries on the basic principles of Islam ,in that span of time Islamic culture introduced very talented scholars, amazing modernized weaponry.

It is a known reality that the spread of Islam was not through violent means but with peaceful means, this is the reason that compelled G Bernard to show his views that the Islam will soon get influence over Europe.⁵

Islamic globalization become more clear during the time period of Umayyad dynasty (661-750)when the Umayyad dynasty come to end it gave way to the rise of the Abbasid dynasty(750-1258),comparing the other rulers the Abbasid had more interest in seeking and promoting knowledge and technology. This period is known as the golden age of the Muslims rulers of this beautiful age were very eager towards their scholars and their scientists in their way forward to get conquer in technology field, Muslims had an open mind in seeking all that is beneficial from others and with this attitude they were prepared to get ideas from Persians and Greeks.

Their leaders without any hesitation employed Jewish and Christian scholars for translation purpose in their libraries. At that time they went on to further develop and come up with the innovative ideas, similarly western scholars also borrowed new ideas from Islamic side.in the Islamic era of globalization the expansion of Islam is actually because the dynamic nature of Islamic preaching because Islam emphasizes both lifes now and hereafter.⁶

When thirteenth century was about to end in the region of Africa,indian sub –continent and east asia Muslims had well-established rule,and at that time Islam got recognition globally as a religion. But unfortunately this golden era of Muslim globalization started to fall in seventeenth century for so many reasons,the falling of ottoman empire started with the areal disintegration that finally resulted in the fall of ottoman empire,after this collapse the European global empire started emergence ,new ideas were gaining attention of people and the religion has been eliminated from this concept.

This process was grown again in the twentieth century as US become the new global and super power in world .the word “western world” was produced at that time and this term consists of two partners USA and Europe, so after this process the world was categorized in to two parts i.e. developed and under developed and Muslims countries were from the second category because the Muslims were not in the stable position economically, socially and politically. Despite the fact that Muslim countries were fully enriched with the natural resources but unfortunately they lost control over that resources.

The third phase of globalization started after the collapse of soviet union and the power has shifted from bi-polar to uni-polar.⁷ Globalization in Islam is actually not from Abbasid or Umayyad dynasty or not in ottoman empire but Islamic idea of globalization is generated and one can be observed by reciting this Ayat in the holy book.

ALLAH (s.w.t) said:

’قل سيروا في الارض فانظروا كيف كان عاقبة المكذبين (سورة النحل: ٣٦: ١٦)

*do but travel in the land and see the nature of the consequence for the deniers*⁸

VARIOUS FORMS OF GLOBALIZATION:

Actually globalization is the process of wide spreading something across the globe and today we are looking the globalization everywhere around us whether in technology, outlets, fashions, migration, food chains etc.so the result is that we look for something on television or on mobile in anywhere in the world and just after some time we have the same thing with us. Barack Obama quotes:

“Globalization is a fact because of technology, because of an integrated global supply chain because of changes in transportation and we are not going to be able to build a wall around that”.⁹

Here we are going to discuss some super famous means and forms of globalization. Developments of international organizations for example UNICEF, UN and OIC.so many actions and steps across the world take place at this level and almost all countries are the members of these organizations and they are used in the purpose of serving poor countries as they conduct missions, this process also connect people they also generate NGO’s who are operating welfare actions in the all parts of world, this is what we called it political globalization.

TECHNOLOGICAL GLOBALIZATION:

This is the most important phenomenon and the must needed mean of globalization, it means that technology is the main source of spreading this system such as the mobile, internet, social media and other gadgets and digital world.

CULTURAL GLOBALIZATION:

It means to the interpenetration of different traditions and cultures which means people and nations adopt customs, principles and thoughts of other countries and losing their own culture and it involves the dressing and speaking sense of people for example usually in poor and under-developed countries people want to follow the fashion of the west-based fashion designers and outlets ignoring their own local outlets and fashions and also women like to use the imported makeup while their local makeup brands offer them good and affordable objects.

Financial globalization:

This can be understood with the recent (not very recent) rise of global financial system. For example: financial exchanges and monetary exchanges like stock markets, it is globally connected financially world and that is the reason that when one stock market has crashed it effects other markets badly as they are sharing economy as a whole. And also the change of oil rates across the world effect the rates of gold across the globe because they are parallel to each other in economy.

SOCIOLOGICAL GLOBALIZATION:

Information moves in real time together with the interdependence of events, people moving across the globe used to stay there, and adopting the social cultures of that societies.

DIVISION IN WORLD SYSTEM:

In world system all nations and countries are connected to each other and this is a setup of culture, economic relation around the exchange of services.so in this world system countries are classified in three categories i.e. core, peripheral, and semi peripheral. The core nations consist of the

ruler countries like Japan, United States, British. These wealthy countries believe in production based on technology. Developing countries are considered in the peripheral category and in these countries production is based on human labour. and the semi-peripheral countries are the mixture of technology and human labour production maxico is the example of this category¹⁰.

GLOBALIZATION AND THE LOCAL LANGUAGES:

Globalization has covered another major area that is the area of language. This system made English language a dominant language throughout the globe. The reason behind this influence is the foundation of foreign universities and the system of new modern education which is based on technologies because all these software developments came from the west and English-speaking countries. This influx of technology has made all learnings in English. This greater use of English in developed and under developed countries has sitten a new beneficial business for the publishing companies of England and united states of America. The whole system has been arranged as the poor countries who want to use this language as a medium of studies and explosion of knowledge. They established these publication houses in their countries and they would be the providers of all these books and other stuffs.¹¹this international language has brought western culture in the eastern and poor countries, and in this culture wearing western outfits, eating from imported food courts for example: they want to wear Adidas, Nike instead of local brands without knowing the fact that which kind and which sort of companies they are and what they tend to do by promoting their brands in under-developed and poor countries and without knowing the fact that ignoring their own and local brands bring their own country to be more poorer as they were.

Having foods from McDonalds and Kfc and consuming soft drinks like Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Miranda etc.

Wearing t-shirts and jeans from Muslim young generations also effecting Islamic culture and Islamic preaching, and taking Muslims too far from Islam and their moral values.

Some purposes behind this interference in Muslim cultures are:

1. Promoting their language as international language so no one can get escaped from this.
2. To promote multinational products for making good sell.
3. To make people convinced that secularism is better than being religious.

4. To promote vulgarity in every walk of life.
5. To promote fashion and dramas to get Muslims away from their moral values.¹²

EDUCATION AND IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON EDUCATION:

Education which is started long ago as a private mission ,and it mainly concerned in producing human being with the knowledge and some skills for his prosperity in nowhere and hereafter,but as political setup and boundaries started differentiating between countries at that time involvement of government came to be seen when they established public schools and the reason behind establishing public schools and this interest was to have a strong control on their citizens.when government had a good control so that they were able to make their citizens feeling patriotic towards the state and government.

IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION:

In today's era of globalization the widespread of knowledge and information helped the education to be globalized. The introduction of of new technologies and internet through email, web pages and online digital libraries have played the role in the explosion of knowledge to millions around the world.

The technology system of education has revolutionized the education process, furthermore before this revolution when the researcher wanted to have books and other research work done in that particular field in other parts of world he had to travel, but in this new era he can get access to all these stuffs without any difficulty and hurdle.

Although these technologies have made today's man to fast access to information but apart this, they made people to get educated in more personalized way, so in the result they are cutting off much of their connections with the family, community. Also, in this personalized form of education the interaction and connection with teachers is also getting into end because the aim behind "teacher and student" interaction in the face-to-face way is that it is important for learner and for the boost of confidence.

With this wave of globalization western education institutions came to realized that they could have good opportunity in the third world countries specially in Asia and Africa they were the colonies of west in past to open-up their branches there, so they come to sell their degrees and diplomas to the third world students¹³.

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