

## Globalization and its Victims

Isaias R. Rivera

### **Globalization and its victims**

Sobrinio and Wilfred begin with an introduction to these essays and call it "The reason for Returning to This Theme". Globalization is the theme that they refer to in this title. The attack on September 11<sup>th</sup> according to Sobrinio and Wilfred opened the eyes of many people and many questions began to arise. This was an attack on the United States focused specifically on the heart of global representation; the Twin Towers. This attack cannot be called anything else, but a terrorist attack. It was an attack that killed innocent people, and actions of similar sort should be condemned. There is a question posted here in the introduction that calls attention; "Was it perhaps a symbolic and defiant hit at the trade and transnational capital which engines globalization?" (Sobrinio, Wilfred 11) The answer can almost be defined as yes.

Undoubtedly it is globalization that has given the ability for anyone interested in carrying out these attacks to communicate and obtain exact information. This is something positive about globalization. Technology and science have achieved greater accomplishments than ever before seen in history.

"Globalization is a *maya*, the term for illusion in classical Indian philosophy. It creates a world of make-believe which people happily inhabit." (Sobrinio, Wilfred 11) This is the world of make believe that we studied with Garry Cross. It is the feeling that we are in a good situation because we can obtain material goods. Instant solutions for any imaginable problem can be obtained. This is a *maya*, it is a sense of illusion that the westernized way of living has created for anyone that wants to join and it is willing to pay the price. The people that do not live in this world of illusion are constantly increasing in number. These are the people that we can call the poor. In the United States alone the number of poor people

increased in 2002 by 1.7 million.

(<http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/03/us/uspolicycenter.htm>)

These are the people that we need to ask what is it that globalization has brought to them. The fact is that in order to know what helps to alleviate poverty, what works and what does not, what changes over time, poverty has to be defined, measured, and studied, and sometimes even lived. Poverty has many dimensions; it must be analyzed through a variety of indicators. Levels of income and consumption have to be measured, social indicators must be decodified. Political actions must be taken in order to alleviate this serious problem.

One big problem with globalization is that it lacks justice; it lacks a global structure that guards the interest of the society, region, community and neighborhood. The problem is not that people that do not have access to modernity now; do not like modernity. The problem is that they do not have access to achieve modernity. This is one of the reasons why Walden Bello's deglobalization process can help to work along with the understanding of poverty.

### ***General Dimensions of Globalization***

Etienne Perrot writes an article that is called "The ambiguities of Globalization". Here parrot makes a simple equation that up to now has not proven to be true. "Internationalization + homogenization = globalization. He then proceeds to quote Paul Valery's definition of life in "*The Soul and the Dance*" in order to prove that this equation does not hold to be true; "An incoherent which functions and a disorder which acts'." (Sobrino, Wilfred 17)

It can be perhaps easy to understand that when economic incoherence appears social disorder will follow. What this means is that the western-style of life cannot be implemented in every corner of the world. The argument that claims that "If it worked for me, it will work for you" is not a universability principle. When an international organization such as the IMF, the World Bank or WTO try

to implement an economic program in a country that does not fit their requirements, it is bound to fail.

Internationalization means that you have, know, and see, what somebody else in another part of the world has. The best way to become internationalized is to consume what the others are consuming. It is the urban phenomenon based on commerce. All this idea of being global creates incredible amounts of revenue for only a few. And now we have seen what massive amounts of monetary accumulations can create. "Money makes possible for mercenaries to be paid, for distant armies to be maintained, and for vast areas to be unified under the same monetary authority." (Sobrino, Wilfred 22)

Another essay of relevance to this subject is by Franz Hinkelammert. He writes about the ability and responsibility that humans must have in order to become global. There are many global threats that are bound to trigger general crisis of human co-existence. "The capacity for co-existence is perhaps fading faster from the ranks of the included than it is from those of the excluded." (Sobrino, Wilfred 27) The poor are the ones that are excluded, and these excluded people are the ones that suffer from hunger, die because of disease, are unable to receive medical care and yet most times are judged to be lazy because they will not participate in the globalization model. The poor are in no direct way blameworthy of a system that has created the conditions that led them to be poor. Hinkelammert claims, "We are responsible even if we do not wish to be; even if we want to reject such a responsibility, we cannot shake it from our shoulders. If we do, we are responsible." (Sobrino, Wilfred)

### ***Latin America***

Globalization in the modern practical term can be identified as the most efficient form for the accumulation of capital. This must be clear in order to understand three structural adjustments that have taken place for the globalization process in Latin America. The author makes three specific points.

1. "It is the increasingly unlimited opening of financial capital and the exchange of all currency goods in most of Latin America." This makes many poor countries very vulnerable to the economic decisions that rich countries make. 2. The state is now almost totally deprived of policy-making. This is a situation that takes place in the CD. Juarez. Local government had very little power over economic regulations, because, it is afraid that if it tries to take away from all the capital accumulation that Transnational Maquiladoras established in the city, they might pick-up and leave. Juarez, has been an Industrialized city, hosting a number of American, and European manufacturing plants with no serious restrictions during their stay in the region, but now that the market has opened to toward china, they are still leaving. 3. The many rights that in a discrete manner have been taken away from the worker. Less rights, because no worker unions are allowed, even though, they are legal. Many things have been taken away from the disadvantaged; many have been done so in the name of capital accumulation.

### ***Free-Market Globalization on Women's Lives***

Maria Arcelia Gonzales Butron analyzes the struggle that women face in free-market globalization. She points out about twenty four important observations that allows anyone to see the devastating effect that globalization has had on Women's lives. The first three will be mentioned here, and analyzed briefly. It is important to point out that some of these statistics were released in 1995. "

1. Women make up some 70% of the 1,300 million inhabitants of the world classed as poor. In 1988 the number of poor women in rural areas was 564 million, which represents an increase of 47% over the period 1965-70.
2. Indigenous women are the poorest of the poor.
3. One third of families around the world are headed by women, with the highest proportion in developing countries found in Africa. In Latin America nearly 30% of all families are headed by women, and in the United States almost half the poor families are supported by women without partners, living on an average income 23% below the official poverty index.

With these three facts mentioned out of twenty four that show an enormous inequality for women in the globalization process. This is a system that excludes many, and women, as it was shown in 1995 are the worse off.

The first part of this document is intended to show the conditions and rules that govern the victims of globalization. At the same time, it is intended to raise questions, and to look for solutions. Walden Bello is Director of Focus on the Global South in Bangkok, a project of Chulalongkorn University's Social Research Institute and Professor of Public Administration and Sociology at the University of the Philippines. He talks about reform, a reform that can help alleviate the conditions of many that have been victimized by globalization. It is interesting to try and understand what he is saying.

Deglobalization questions whether the world economy and the current system be forever market oriented. It is an analysis that even though it does not touch basis with the immediate local level, it undoubtedly knows that most of the restructuring of the international organizations will help the poor obtain a more balanced structured system.