

Definitions of Globalization

From the MSN Encarta Online Dictionary: http://encarta.msn.com/dictionary_1861675594/globalize.html

1. make something become adopted globally: to become adopted on a global scale, or cause something, especially social institutions, to become adopted on a global scale

2. become or make something become international: to become international or start operating at the international level, or cause something, especially a business or company, to become international

From the International Monetary Fund: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/ib/2000/041200.htm#l>

“Economic “globalization” is a historical process, the result of human innovation and technological progress. It refers to the increasing integration of economies around the world, particularly through trade and financial flows. The term sometimes also refers to the movement of people (labor) and knowledge (technology) across international borders”.

From Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Globalization> (as of Nov. 4, 2005)

*“**Globalisation** (or **globalization**) is a modern term used to describe the changes in societies and the world economy that result from dramatically increased [international trade](#) and cultural exchange. It describes the increase of trade and investing due to the falling of barriers and the interdependence of countries. In specifically economic contexts, it is often understood to refer almost exclusively to the effects of trade, particularly trade [liberalization](#) or “[free trade](#)”...”*

From the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/globalization/>

“Globalization is multidimensional, consisting of numerous complex and interrelated processes that can have a dynamism of their own, resulting in varied and sometimes unpredictable effects. While previous eras have experienced globalization, the present-day version has a number of distinctive features, including though not limited to:

- *trade liberalization*
- *changing patterns of financial flows*
- *a growth in the size and power of corporations*
- *advances in information and communication technology*
- *changing flows of people”*

For this lesson, you may find it helpful to combine these definitions into one that you can use with your students. Alternatively, as a preliminary exercise, you might consider creating an assignment in which your students synthesize these four definition into one common definition.