THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW HEIR OPPONENT'S ARGUMENT DO NOT COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THEIR OWN.



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Viewpoint

"Free trade enables capital to come to those who need it most."

Globalization Benefits Developing Nations

Steven Horwitz

Steven Horwitz is a professor of economics at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. In the following viewpoint, he states that living conditions worldwide have improved because of globalization. Conceding that international free trade has benefited some actors more than others, Horwitz blames formal trade regulations for denying Third World nations certain advantages that he believes naturally accompany free trade, including more jobs, cheaper goods, better pay, and environmental and political security. Although multinational corporations profit from the cheap labor available in less developed countries, the author claims, it is also in their interest to invest in the workers' communities.

As you read, consider the following questions:

1. What is "comparative advantage," as Horwitz defines it?

Steven Horwitz, "Free Trade and the Climb out of Poverty," *The Freeman*, March 2005. Copyright © 2005 Foundation for Economic Education, Incorporated, www.fee.org. All rights reserved. Reproduced by permission.

- 2. Why, in the author's view, are claims that free trade maximizes profits at human expense irrelevant?
- 3. How does free trade undermine the incentives of warfare, according to Horwitz?

or the thousands of years of human history, poverty and early death have been the norm, with comfort and longevity the exceptions. The improvements in the human condition, at least on average, seen over the course of the twentieth century dwarf the improvements of the previous centuries combined. By virtually any measure one can imagine, human beings are living longer, better lives than at any other time. However, the wonders of the last century certainly did not touch all humanity equally. The clear majority of the world's population, though better off than 100 years earlier, still have lives a far cry from those of even the poorest in the West and North. One of the most pressing questions of this century is how we can extend the bounty of last century to those who have not yet been able to enjoy fully the fruits of human improvement.

At center stage in the debate over this issue is the role of "free trade" in generating or retarding human improvement. The concern, and protests in the streets, over "globalization" reflect the perceived centrality of international economic activity in understanding what makes people better off. As trade across national borders continues to grow, there are those who see in that growth the attempt by Western corporations and quasigovernmental institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to extract resources from the rest of the world for their own use, leaving those who already have a long hill to climb even farther from the top.

In addition, recent "free trade" agreements like NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] and the proposed FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) complicate matters even more by simultaneously opening up trade and heavily

regulating the trade now opened. Critics of free trade and so-called "profit-led" globalization are sometimes correct in pointing to the harmful effects of the IMF and World Bank, and the clear corporate special interests that are embodied in particular agreements. However, when those criticisms are extended to genuine free trade rightly understood, they miss the mark. Attempts to restrict such trade, or to "direct it from below," are bound to worsen the condition of those people who can afford it least. Although free trade is not sufficient to ensure economic and social well-being, it is a necessary means to that end.

The Upside of Low Wages

The key to free trade's liberating role is that those who possess capital are able to bring it to workers who lack it, which in turn raises their productivity and enhances their earning power. Underlying the argument for free trade is the principle of comparative advantage, which argues that all parties are better off when each producer does what he or she does *comparatively* best and trades the results with others. Specialization by comparative advantage enables each person, or state/province, or country to find what they do at least cost and to benefit from the ability to exchange for what others can produce cheaply. . . .

For many Third World countries, their comparative advantage is the cheapness of their labor and the availability of some natural resources. For Western firms, this presents an opportunity for profit by reducing labor and resource costs. When Western firms open up shop in the Third World, they bring capital to those places. This creates jobs for citizens there and provides the West with cheaper goods. It is the classic mutual benefit of all exchange: the developing country gets jobs; the home country gets cheaper goods. The jobs created by Western firms in low-income countries average about eight



The Capitalist Peace Theory

Trade or economic interdependence plays a pivotal role in the prevention of war, because it exerts direct and indirect pacifying effects. In addition to the direct effect, there is the indirect effect of free trade on smaller risks of military conflict mediated by growth, prosperity, and democracy. Since the exploitation of gains from trade is the essence or purpose of capitalism and free markets, I label the sum of the direct and indirect international security benefits "the capitalist peace," of which "the democratic peace" [theory that democracies are unlikely to war against each other] merely is a component. Even if the direct 'peace by trade'-effect were eliminated by future research, economic freedom and globalization would still retain their crucial role in overcoming mass poverty and establishing the prerequisites of the democratic peace.

Erich Weede, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, 2005.

times the per capita wages of the local area, providing a significant benefit to those who take such jobs in comparison to their other options. . . .

Unexpected Benefits

Free trade enables capital to come to those who need it most. In addition, the very profits that Western firms make in developing countries can be a long-run source of growth for those countries. Firms that operate there frequently "recycle" their profits back into investment in better technology and equipment in those countries. It is often cheaper for the firms to invest their own profits than to use formal banking institutions because the rate of indigenous savings is low and the financial institutional structure is often weak or nonexistent.

Despite the claim of anti-globalization forces that free trade "puts profit before people," there is not a choice between "profits" and "people." Profits legitimately made in the market are a symbol of having created value and served people, and those same profits can be used in the future to make others better off. None of this assumes that Western firms are angelic, only self-interested. What the critics of globalization fail to recognize is that markets generate beneficial results as *unintended* consequences of the self-interested behavior of firms and individuals. . . .

The overwhelming empirical evidence of what is called the Environmental Kuznets Curve [shows one such unintended benefit]. In country after country we see a U-shaped relationship between per capita income and environmental quality. As growth takes place, measures of environmental quality fall, but at about \$5,000 per capita GDP [gross domestic product] this turns around, with almost all categories of environmental damage showing improvement at about \$8,000. Although there will be short-run costs, in the long run the path to environmental protection is paved with economic growth. Free trade promotes that growth and thus will create the wealth necessary for clean technologies. To burden the developing world with Western-style environmental standards is to condemn its citizens to a longer stay in the poverty they wish to escape and would appear to replicate the paternalistic colonialism that anti-globalists decry. As former Mexican president Ernesto Zedillo put it: "A peculiar alliance has recently come into life. Forces from the extreme left, the extreme right, environmentalist groups, trade unions of developed countries and some self-appointed representatives of civil society are gathering around a common endeavor: to save the people of developing countries from-development."

One further benefit of free trade is that it promotes international peace. Countries that trade with one another create mutual interdependence, which raises the cost of armed con-

flict. If one country depends on another for cheap goods and services, what gain is there to a military invasion? Where interdependence is the nature of the relationship, fates are tied and war makes little sense. International conflict flows out of the sort of nationalism that results from restrictions on free trade. Just as democracies do not go to war with other democracies, so it is that countries with open trading relationships do not go to war. Peace and free trade have a long and storied history, and the very same thinkers who have argued for free trade, and have been excoriated for it by the antimilitarist left, did so because they believed it would promote international harmony and peace. The critics of free trade need to re-read both economic history and the history of ideas, and realize that their opposition to free trade is likely to *increase* international military activity, not reduce it....

Progress Comes from Good Policies

All sides involved in the globalization issue need to take a step back and recognize that a country's "external" policies (its policies concerning international trade and relations) are only half the equation. Free trade is necessary but not sufficient for development. A country's "internal" policies (regulation, monetary stability, and reliable political institutions) are at least as important for economic development. A country open to international trade but with highly restricted markets, high rates of inflation, weak legal and financial institutions, and political instability is unlikely to grow because it is not an attractive place even for those who can relocate there. An agenda for encouraging the spread of wealth to all humanity should support freedom not only across national borders but within them as well. Restrictions on free trade are no more noxious than misguided economic policies put in place by postcolonial leaders, who imported those ideas from economically illinformed Western elites. The fight to reduce human poverty must take place on many fronts.

Despite their attempts to monopolize it, the anti-globalists' views are not the only ones to lay a legitimate claim to the word "progressive." The more than 200-year-long attempt to open up the world to the free flow of goods, services, and people, and to make the wealth of the West available to the rest of the world, is one of the most progressive projects in human history. It has already resulted in previously unimaginable increases in wealth in those parts of the world most open to trade, and there is no reason to believe those benefits will not be extended to those who have yet to experience them.

Those who wish to slow down, stop, or politically control that process are the true reactionaries, standing atop the wave of human progress yelling "stop" simply because they cannot understand how an uncontrolled, spontaneously ordered process can possibly benefit everyone. Progress is not synonymous with intentional human control. Progress comes from good policies that let individuals use their local knowledge to their own benefit, and in doing so, unintentionally benefit others. The path toward development requires free trade. To restrict it is to condemn to prolonged poverty those who most need to escape it.



"The era of globalisation has resulted in slower economic and social progress."

Globalization Does Not Benefit Developing Nations

Dave Curran

Dave Curran argues in the following viewpoint that studies showing a link between trade liberalization and prosperity are misleading. Trade, he contends, does not automatically lead to development; rather, trade is a by-product of development. He points out that the most economically liberalized nations experience less growth than nations with only moderately liberalized markets. Admitting that trade is an important steppingstone for developing nations to become industrialized and integrated with the global community, he calls for intergovernmental organizations to temper capitalist greed with common morality. Curran is deputy president of the Union of Students in Ireland, an organization dedicated to expanding opportunities for higher education.

As you read, consider the following questions:

1. How many people worldwide, as Curran reports, suffer chronic undernourishment?

Dave Curran, "Rigged Rules and Diminished Progress: The Failure of Globalisation," Indymedia Ireland, November 21, 2004. Reproduced by permission of the author.

- 2. By what measures can human well-being be determined, as stated by the author?
- 3. According to Curran, by what means do developing countries try to "attract multinational corporations"?

The free market solution to world poverty has failed, so countries should be allowed self-determination in their economic policies.

The current religion among much of the economics community is that "openness" to international trade is the best—indeed the only—route out of poverty for the world's poor countries. This chorus echoing the wondrous ability of free trade globalisation to reduce the obscene levels of poverty in the world today has been backed up by the dominant powers that shape the global economy—institutions like the International Monetary Fund [IMF] the World Bank and the OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development], and powerful rich country governments in North America and Europe. And yet, the past twenty-five years have seen unprecedented levels of rapid economic "liberalisation" on every continent, and at the end of this period half the world still lives on less than two dollars a day and 800 million people are still chronically undernourished.

The 1980s, which saw the beginning of "rolling back" the state in Latin America and Africa under the IMF's "Structural Adjustment Programmes", is now considered by many development agencies to be a "lost decade" in terms of poverty reduction, with economic development slowing in most regions of the world, and with many countries falling back further into poverty. And the 1990s have not been much better. A study by the US-based Centre for Economic and Policy Research found that by all measures of human well-being—infant mortality, life expectancy, even economic growth—progress has been slower in the 1980s and 90s than in previous decades, and in the regions subject to neo-liberal economic

policies the most, such as Latin America and Africa, growth has been almost zero, with many countries actually experiencing negative growth. In other words, the era of globalisation has resulted in slower economic and social progress, even by its own narrowly defined indicators. Contrary to the assurances of the World Bank and free-market globalisers, the "rising tide" has lifted mainly yachts, and many boats are now sinking fast.

Free Trade Myths

It is not that there has been no growth under globalisation—rather, that the benefit of this growth has gone primarily to a small few. Inequality in most countries has increased to levels never seen before, and hundreds of millions of poor people have seen their situations worsen. The rabid anti-statism of neo-liberal theory saw African countries instructed to cut back on state expenditure on health care and education. In a region now devastated by AIDS, these recommendations were irresponsible in the extreme.

Despite the failures of the neo-liberal model to reduce poverty, it still remains the dominant discourse among the forces that shape the global economic system. Advocates of neo-liberal globalisation, including the myriad of right-wing "think-tanks" that have come to dominate the political land-scape over the past few decades (with generous help from the corporate community), still cling to several discredited myths about the benefits of rapid liberalisation.

One such myth is reinforced by studies of "Global Economic Freedom", which allege to show a strong correlation between "globalising" countries and rich countries. The richest countries, they say, are those that trade more and are more "open" to the global economy. Thus, opening up by cutting back the state and embracing the free market will lead to growth and development. The problem here is one of confused methodology, because economic "openness" has two



Deregulation and the Poor

Evidence of the trends in global poverty and inequality tends not to support the stance taken by proponents of the global liberalization agenda. Gains in poverty reduction [since the 1980s], if any, were relatively small and geographically isolated. The number of poor people rose from 1987 to 1998, and the share of poor people increased in many countries; in 1998 close to half of the population were considered poor in many parts of the world. Moreover, the numbers show that income inequality between and within countries increased along with deregulation of trade and capital markets. In 1980, median income in the richest 10 percent of countries was 77 times greater than in the poorest 10 percent; by 1999, that gap had grown to 122 times. Inequality has also increased within a vast majority of countries.

Christian E. Weller and Adam Hersh, ZEI Working Paper B02-14, 2002.

very different meanings. Openness can refer to an economic outcome—such as if a country's economy consists largely of imports and exports—or it can refer to government policies of "opening up", which usually involve rapid export increase and deregulation of markets. What the studies that claim to show a link between government policies of "opening up" and prosperity actually show is that as countries get richer, they begin to open up. Development leads to trade, and not the other way around.

For example, a recent Oxfam report entitled "Rigged Rules and Double Standards" studies developing countries that embraced "openness"—defined as following neo-liberal doctrine and dismantling state regulation of the economy. These coun-

tries are the ones that rapidly privatised state firms, deregulated financial markets, cut state support of infant industries and suppressed unions in order to drive down wages and attract multinational corporations. When these policies are tested, according to the Oxfam report, "the World Bank view appears as an upside version of reality." It turns out that some of the most successful countries "are anything but rapid liberalisers, while many of the most radical liberalisers have actually achieved very little in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction". For example, South Korea and Taiwan-the very models of successful economic development—achieved growth by ignoring the policy prescriptions of neo-liberals and using massive protectionism and state regulation of the economy. They embraced trade, but very carefully and with strict state guidance. At the other extreme, according to a report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 2004, countries which simply threw open their economies, such as Haiti, are some of the poorest in the world.

Poverty and Trade Systems

While poor countries cannot simply trade their way out of poverty, trade if used correctly can be a powerful force for prosperity and poverty reduction. But the current trade rules are totally unfair, and serve to divert the potential benefits of trade away from the poor and toward the rich and powerful. Trade is not free when all the rules have been rigged to benefit western corporations. Poor farmers in Africa cannot "freely" bargain over price with giant coffee conglomerates, because of the huge bargaining power of the companies and the vulnerability of the producers. And a trading system that values the "intellectual property" of drug companies over the lives of AIDS victims should be either reformed or dismantled. For trade to work for the poor, it must be more than free. It must also be fair trade, and must be combined with redistribution,

regulation of capital flight, debt cancellation, environmental sustainability and the dismantling of exploitative power relations. The neo-liberal prescription for development, because it ignores all these considerations, is a shallow, self-serving way of redistributing the world's resources further into the hands of the powerful.

But while free market fundamentalism is a false dawn of world development, its polar extreme is no better. The UNCTAD [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development] report earlier [in 2004] showed that the poorest countries in the world are on the one hand those that are most open, and on the other hand those that close themselves off to the global economy. It seems that grand theories, from either left or right have failed. Just as the crumbling of the Berlin Wall revealed for the world the failures of communism, the defiant chants of protestors from Seattle to Caracas have drowned out the authoritarian mantra that "there is no alternative" to free market capitalism.

The message for poor countries should be that they do have a choice over which socio-economic path to take. There is no single theory or grand narrative which can solve the problems of world poverty. There are many paths, and there are always alternatives. The message of the global justice movement is that we in the rich countries also have a choice. We can allow globalisation to continue to work for the few, rather than the many. Or we can join together with the progressive movements in the global south and forge a new model of inclusive globalisation, one based not on corporate greed but on the principles of equality, solidarity and social justice.

Viewpoint

"As trade, foreign investment and technology have spread, the gap between economic haves and have-nots has frequently widened."

Globalization Promotes Income Inequality

Bob Davis, John Lyons, and Andrew Batson

In the following viewpoint, Wall Street Journal reporters Bob Davis, John Lyons, and Andrew Batson argue that globalization has led to increasing income inequality worldwide. They suggest that the increasing disparity in Latin America may result from the region's slow growth, while the disparity in China may result from employers seeking out well-educated workers with rare job skills. The authors point out that although the standard of living has generally improved in developing countries such as Mexico, the elite class has seen a disproportionate share of economic growth, leading to widespread political discontent. According to the authors, the scarcity of educational opportunities perpetuates an ever-growing force of unemployed workers who desperately compete for low-paying jobs without benefits.

Bob Davis, John Lyons, and Andrew Batson, "Globalization's Gains Come with a Price: While Poor Benefit, Inequality Feeds a Backlash Overseas," Wall Street Journal, vol. 249, May 24, 2007, pp. A1, A12. Copyright © 2007 by Dow Jones & Company, Inc. Republished with permission of Wall Street Journal, conveyed through Copyright Clearance Center, Inc.

Organizations to Contact

The editors have compiled the following list of organizations concerned with the issues debated in this book. The descriptions are derived from materials provided by the organizations. All have publications or information available for interested readers. The list was compiled on the date of publication of the present volume; the information provided here may change. Be aware that many organizations take several weeks or longer to respond to inquiries, so allow as much time as possible.

American Enterprise Institute (AEI)

1150 Seventeenth Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 862-5800 • fax: (202) 862-7177

Web site: www.aei.org

Since its founding in 1943, AEI has been working to espouse the ideas of limited government, free market economics, individual liberty and responsibility, and a strong national defense as the basis for a strong and successful United States. Generally, the institute has been supportive of globalization, seeing this trend as necessary to improving the global economy, reducing poverty, and spreading democracy. AEI's official magazine, the *American*, has published articles concerning globalization, many of which are available on the organization's Web site along with additional commentary and reports.

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

815 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington, DC 20006 Web site: www.afl-cio.org

The AFL-CIO is a membership organization serving national and international labor unions comprising workers in varying professions including teachers, truck drivers, musicians, miners, firefighters, and farmworkers, among others. The organization's mission is to better the lives of working families by ensuring economic justice in the workplace and social justice nationwide. With regard to globalization, the AFL-CIO cautions that in many cases this trend benefits the American elite and already-wealthy corporations while placing increased economic burden on the American working class. Reports and commentary exploring the impact of globalization on the United States can be accessed online.

Cato Institute

1000 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-5403 (202) 842-0200 • fax: (202) 842-3490 Web site: www.cato.org

The Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, promotes public policies exemplifying the values and principles of a free market economic system coupled with limited government intervention into the private lives of American citizens. The institute insists that globalization will benefit all members of the global community by opening up markets for increased participation and profit, thereby providing opportunity for those living in poverty to advance their economic and social situations. Cato's triannual *Cato Journal* and the quarterly *Cato's Letters* are available online; in addition, the organization's Web site offers access to additional reports and commentary about the benefits of globalization.

CorpWatch

1611 Telegraph Ave., #720, Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 271-8080

Web site: www.corpwatch.org

CorpWatch works to ensure that corporations are held accountable for their actions, human rights are observed worldwide, and environmental crimes, fraud, and corruption are exposed. For CorpWatch, globalization encompasses numerous and varied subissues relating to topics such as poor labor conditions, offshoring, human rights, and international monetary policy. Fact sheets on the organization's Web site point out the

gross inequalities that exist in the current global economy and provide information about the involvement, or lack thereof, of nongovernmental organizations, such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, in addressing these problems. Additional reports and commentary discussing the many facets of globalization can be read on the CorpWatch Web site.

Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)

The Harold Pratt House, 58 E. Sixty-eighth Street

New York, NY 10065

(212) 434-9400 • fax: (212) 434-9800

Web site: www.cfr.org

CFR is a nonpartisan think tank seeking to provide unbiased educational information on government foreign policy to its members, government officials, the media, the public, and any interested individual. The council does not endorse any single viewpoint and provides scholars an opportunity to debate current foreign policy issues. With regard to globalization, topics of interest covered by the organization range from democracy and human rights to economics to global governance. CFR's bimonthly journal, Foreign Affairs, publishes articles relating to these topics, and the council's Web site provides additional commentary and reports.

Economic Policy Institute (EPI)

1333 H Street NW, Suite 300, East Tower

Washington, DC 20005-4707

(202) 775-8810 · fax: (202) 775-0819

e-mail: epi@epi.org Web site: www.epi.org

The goal of EPI is to see a prosperous and fair economy thrive in the United States. It seeks to achieve this goal by facilitating public debate about the most appropriate strategies to advance the U.S. economy and providing citizens with the tools they need to make informed decisions concerning economic policy making. The institute advocates for a new outlook on the global economy that places greater emphasis on the rights

of workers. The EPI also serves as the secretariat for the Global Policy Network (GPN), a consortium of organizations from around the world dedicated to analyzing and providing suggestions to improve the state of global affairs. The official publication of the institute is the EPI Journal, and more information about GPN can be found at www.gpn.org.

Global Policy Forum (GPF)

777 UN Plaza, Suite 3D, New York, NY 10017

(212) 557-3161 • fax: (212) 557-3165

e-mail: gpf@globalpolicy.org

Web site: www.globalpolicy.org

GPF serves as a watchdog over policy making at the United Nations, ensuring accountability within this organization, acting as an advocate for significant international peace and justice issues, and providing citizens worldwide with the information they need to actively participate in the global society. GPF believes that security and economic justice are the keys to human development. The forum fully explores the benefits and costs of globalization and seeks to ensure that the positive impact of this trend will ultimately outweigh the negative. Reports and discussion of globalization can be read on the GPF Web site.

The Heritage Foundation

214 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002-4999

(202) 546-4400 • fax: (202) 546-8328

e-mail: info@heritage.org Web site: www.heritage.org

A conservative public policy institute promoting policies consistent with the ideas of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense, Heritage has taken a firm stance on globalization and America's role in international relations. The foundation believes that American foreign aid should be less related to monetary gifts and more focused on the promotion of democratic principles and the observance of human rights

Organizations to Contact

that will ultimately strengthen a country's ability to prosper. Additionally, Heritage maintains that open markets are the best way for the global economy to thrive. Heritage Web-Memos and Backgrounders providing detailed information about the organization's stance on these topics and others are accessible online.

International Forum on Globalization (IFG)

1009 General Kennedy Ave. #2, San Francisco, CA 94129

(415) 561-7650 • fax: (415) 561-7651

e-mail: ifg@ifg.org Web site: www.ifg.org

The IFG has been working since 1994 to critique the process of globalization imposed by nongovernmental organizations such as the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, and the International Monetary Fund. The IFG worries that the development model promoted by these organizations benefits corporations and investors more than the workers and citizens of developing countries. Analysis of these organizations and their work is available on the IFG Web site.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

700 Nineteenth Street NW, Washington, DC 20431

(202) 623-7300 · fax: (202) 623-6278

e-mail: publicaffairs@imf.org

Web site: www.imf.org

The IMF was created following World War II to promote international cooperation and trade in order to facilitate improved economic stability and the reduction of poverty worldwide. The IMF Web site provides background information on the topic of globalization as well as current information regarding the impact of the global financial crisis on the process of globalization. Additional articles examining the globalization of finance, labor, trade, and other processes can be read online.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

1750 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036-1903 (202) 328-9000 • fax: (202) 659-3225

e-mail: comments@petersoninstitute.org

Web site: www.petersoninstitute.org

Widely renowned for its neutral views, the Peterson Institute offers nonpartisan research on international economic policy. The institute addresses the issue of globalization as it relates directly to trade and jobs, but also examines the impact of globalization with regard to foreign investment in the United States, the current global financial crisis, and global warming. Policy briefs, working papers, speeches and testimony, and additional commentary on these topics and others can be read on the Peterson Institute's Web site.

Progressive Policy Institute (PPI)

600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20003 (202) 547-0001 • fax: (202) 544-5014

Web site: www.ppionline.org

PPI attempts to move away from traditional views and the left-right debate to provide a progressive approach to public policy making, advocating policies that strengthen international and political freedom. The institute sees the benefit in globalization for both American workers and the global economy and encourages in-depth discussion of related issues. Commentary, testimony, and additional reports on these topics can be read online.

World Bank

1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20433 (202) 473-1000 • fax: (202) 477-6391

Web site: www.worldbank.org

The World Bank is a financial institution made up of two development institutions owned by 185 member countries, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the International Devolune

Globalization

stitutions provide financial assistance to developing countries, aiding them in improving social and financial infrastructure, such as educational systems, health care, public administration, and agricultural development and sustainability, to name a few. While acknowledging that globalization has resulted in increased inequality and environmental problems, the World Bank maintains that globalization can be a catalyst for positive change. Reports on the impact of globalization can be read on the World Bank Web site.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

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The WTO is an international organization providing a forum for member governments to discuss and negotiate trade agreements with the overarching goal of improving and opening global trade. The WTO sets the guidelines for the trade of goods and services, defines the protections afforded to intellectual property, and works to settle trade disputes. Detailed information about the workings of the WTO can be read online.

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