

The Globalization of International Economics

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Friday May 13, 2005

Global Perspectives

Preface

The Globalization of International Economics is a critical issue, which affects every person, in every country. Economics is a subject that is present in all aspects of life. The recent, rapid increase in the speed with which globalization is occurring is putting economics in a new light. The combination of these two phenomena together has the potential to change life as we have known it for the past several hundred years.

The Oxford dictionary defines the word “economics”, as “ the branch of knowledge issue concerned with the production, consumption, and transfer of wealth”(282). This term is widely recognized by the general world population, with a meaning that has been shaping and developing for many years. In its definition of this term, the Oxford dictionary accurately captures the significance of this word for general use, and for the specific requirements of this report.

The terms “globalize”, and “globalization”, however, are not as well known, nor do they have such a specific definition. They are described as: “to develop or operate worldwide”(384). The broadness of this definition leaves much room for interpretation. This begs the question, if dictionaries cannot concisely define the term, is there one specific meaning for it? Globally, the answer is arguably no. Self-proclaimed Social Marxist Mick Brooks states, “The problem with trying to pin [globalization] down is it's not so much a theory, more a buzzword. The general idea is that the whole world is being opened up to world capitalism. All the old barriers are coming down.” Globalization 101 website asks, “Is globalization a force for economic growth, prosperity, and democratic freedom? Or is it a force for environmental devastation, exploitation of the developing world, and suppression of human rights?”

The topic of globalization is so broad-based, and has only been fundamentally recognized as a global issue for such a short time, that each individual and expert who studies this topic is left to interpret the term in his or her own way, to suit his or her needs. That is what will be done for the purpose of this report. The terms “globalization” and “economics” will be combined to create a topic that is workable for the purpose of discussing these terms as a global issue: The Globalization of International Economics.

These terms, collectively, will refer to the development of the world’s economics, and how nations forming relations, trading groups, exclusive deals, etc with one another (in other words, “globalizing”), is resulting in most of the world’s countries being brought closer together today, at a more rapid pace than ever before. The Globalization of Economics is an issue, not a problem, which needs to be embraced in its current state of development. There is much potential for positive aspects, but also some possibility for bad. These positive components must be examined, and improved, while discovering how to avoid the negative ramifications.

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The Significance of Global Economics—Summary of Thesis

The Globalization of International Economics is a worldwide issue that equally affects every person on earth, whether they live in the slums of a city in Southeast Asia, or a high-end home in Western Europe. In today's modern world, globalization is something that is being discussed more and more. In recent times, it has rapidly increased in speed, and as a result, attracts a lot more media, and public attention.

Economics is fundamental to all of the relationships among countries around the world. It is central to what determines what countries have power and wealth, and which ones do not. Because of the increase in technology, and our ability to communicate and travel around the world at great speeds, the economies in all countries are linked in ways never before possible. Also, changes in the world's populations alter which countries have the potential to grow economically, and which ones do not. The world at large must pay special attention to economics and the effects that globalization is having on it in that significant change is occurring. The countries that current generations have known to be the most wealthy and powerful may not be so within the next half-century. Change will continue to occur that will affect the balance of power, and therefore the way of life as it has been known for the past several hundred years.

Even with the potential change in the power base in the world, the globalization of the world's economy has the potential to have many positive effects on people worldwide, if it is managed well internationally. If it is not managed well, however, globalization of the economy has the potential to have many negative results to many people worldwide.

Background

The origins of economics can be first traced back to the primordial exchanges of goods for services. This began between small groups, and eventually led to more complex agreements between larger organized regions, and ultimately, countries. A medieval form of our modern banking followed these agreements, which leads into our current economical activities. The development of the world's economics from its starting point to its current status can be seen through the following ten points. These points are a concise summary of the development of economics and globalization from their beginnings, to their current state:

- Economics were largely discussed in many forms in several portions of Greek and Roman mythology, thus implying their presence during the time of the Roman Empire. In his paper entitled Humanities and the Liberal Arts, Middlebury College professor William Harris states that when viewed through a Greek mythology standpoint, "Economics is a function of the way a society runs, not the set of rules by which a society operates." He goes on to provide many examples of the presence of economics in various Greek myths. For example, he discusses the concept that one can become wealthy by being "intelligent and guileful", traits which began in those times to be seen, and continue even today to be known, as the traits of a successful businessman. This concept is introduced as an alternative to simply being born into a wealthy family and remaining that way for one's entire life. This notion is seen in Petronius (an eastern author)'s elucidation

of the myth of Trimalchio, which is a story about a man who keeps himself “invisible” until he is securely wealthy, at which time he reveals himself through his successful business tactics. In examining Greek and Roman myths, it becomes very apparent that these empires contained many complex economic systems, with an understanding of the importance of economics at a highly advanced level for their time.

- The farthest back one can trace economics is to the ancient trade of bartering. Barter can really be seen as a fundament of economics. It stemmed directly into the use of coins, and money. A prime example of ancient economics and bartering is Ancient Egypt. They practiced advanced trading techniques, establishing large marketplaces so as to simplify the process of “buying” or exchanging goods. This was a “...reasonably efficient method when mostly basic necessities were exchanged”(Dollinger). Merchants also began roaming, in attempts to barter and trade. Toward the end of Egypt’s reign, it also introduced the concept of monetary exchange. Even after coined money was introduced in the second half of the first millennium BCE, however, barter continued to be widespread among the farming population for centuries. Grain and oil served as the first form of “coinage”. Evidence has been found to prove that metal coins were used in the Hellenistic Period () of Egypt, however it is believed that only the wealthy were given this privilege. The use of coins with certain values came to be increasingly relied upon, particularly by Mediterranean traders and Greek Mercenaries, towards the end of the fourth century BCE. “The impact coined money had on the domestic economy and trade was probably small until Roman

- times, when European business practices such as the paying of interest became mandatory, and hoarding of wealth became possible”(Dollinger).
- Globalization, though only first recognized as a term by Webster’s dictionary in 1944, has existed for many centuries before that time (Globalization). Some experts believe that Globalization truly began in 1942, while others look to much more recent times, when technology began to advance at a rapid rate. Others still, however, attest that globalization has its origins in more historical times. A scholar from Pennsylvania University states that the “...formation of systems of interaction between the global and the local has been a central driving force in world history.” This quote denotes that while globalization may have rapidly increased in recent times, it began many hundreds of years ago. The website continues to pinpoint the very first example of globalization as in 325 BCE, when new Buddhist Chandragupta Maurya combines powers of a world religion, trade economy, and imperial armies for the first time. Following this event, Alexander the Great becomes involved, and “marks the eastward link among overland routes between the Mediterranean, Persia, India, and Central Asia.”
 - The beginnings of banking as we know it today can be traced back to medieval Italy, the term “bank” having been derived from the Italian word “banco” (Story). This first modern bank was established in Florence in 1397, and had branches throughout Europe, especially in London, which proceeded to become the banking capital of Europe and the world, maintaining that status into the twentieth century- ongoing. England’s first bank, the Bank of England, was founded in

1694. Contemporary banking was a natural leading point into more complex trading between nations, and, collaterally, to globalization.
- Mercantilism was predominant throughout Europe from the 1500's to the 1700's. This system worked for countries that went in search of precious metals such as gold and silver. Such riches would enable a country to both "...have a strong military and also use this wealth for domestic investment"(Foldvary). Some countries, such as Spain, had mines abroad. Others created an "export surplus" to counter the metals being imported. A problem that arose with mercantilism was that while some nations became richer, others became poorer. Such is a primary problem with our globalizing economic society today. To counter this, however, Adam Smith wrote that "when all countries restrict trade, the result is less wealth overall"(Smith qtd in Foldvary).
 - Adam Smith was a large contributor to economics in the 1700's. He published his work Wealth of Nations in 1776, a book with revolutionary economic concepts for that period of time. In fact, the book was so influential that the department of Economics at Rutgers University states that the "beginnings of modern economics are found within Adam Smith's novel". Smith ushered in a new stream of thought; Physiocracy ("the rule of natural law"). People who developed the school of thought of Physiocracy were the first to ever call themselves "economists". Possibly the most renowned person in Physiocracy was Francoise Quesnay, who emphasized the Physiocratic belief that trading barriers between nations diminish wealth, and that free trade should be predominant.

- The Western European Scientific Revolution, (beginning in 1543 with Copernicus' publications of his works The Revolution of the Heavenly Bodies and Vesalius, On the Structure of the Human Body) which led into the Agricultural Revolution (primarily taking place in Holland and England in the 17th century), which itself stemmed into the Industrial Revolution (beginning in England in 1780, and the rest of Europe in 1830 and on), shaped a time of enormous economic and international development throughout Europe and the world. Many of the primary causes of these revolutions were money, or freedom, which tied in directly, therefore, with economics and globalization. Some results of the ladder of the three revolutions, the Industrial Revolution, were stable government, economic freedoms, available capital, and mobile labour - all of which encouraged growth. With the industrial revolution came much more advanced technology throughout Britain and Europe. Among the inventions at the time was the steamship, which had an improved version patented in 1769 by James Watt, and a first successful prototype invented in 1807 by Robert Fulton (Bellis). The steamship was credited by many with having "ushered in the Industrial Revolution". The invention of the steamship not only encouraged the Industrial Revolution, but a large spree of globalization, as travel, and therefore exchange and trade with other countries, was greatly simplified.
- Supply and demand is a phenomena associated with economics. It gained significant importance in 1890, when English economist Alfred Marshall published his work, Principles of Economics. In his writing, Marshall denoted presence of supply and demand, and how this affected trade, and profit. Today,

the “supply-demand model is one of the fundamental concepts of economics”(Supply). It is used as a format to determine the point at which the quantity supplied equals quantity demanded. By providing this information in a straightforward, uncomplicated way, the supply-demand formula is today an integral part of basic economics.

- The Stock Market Crash of 1929 is the most recent event leading to a large change in global economics. This large and sudden crash left much of the world in economic despair. When the world was finally able to regain economic stability almost a decade later, many changes to international economics, made locally and globally, were both implemented, and naturally occurred. Prior to the crash, many of the banks all over the world were small, family owned, private companies. Because of this, when they had lent all of their money out, the market crashed and people were unable to repay the banks, they closed. It was, in fact, the banks' failures that turned the stock market crisis into an economy-wide crisis (Great). As the banks went down, they took all the small businesses to whom they had made loans, down with them. In the years and decades following the crash, banks began to merge together, forming fewer, larger, and more powerful banks, so as to be able to better contain a similar event should it occur in the future. This gradual merging of banks, eventually becoming those we recognize today, caused great, if not somewhat gradual, economic change. Because the banks were now so large, companies and corporations could take out larger loans, and become larger themselves, initiating the beginnings of the onslaught of Multinational Corporations (MNC's). In the times following the crash of 1929,

many barriers and safeguards were also put up around the stock market.

Advanced systems were created in order to monitor the economy's progress, and project future happenings. Special attentions were paid to watching currency values, and nation's economies. Much care was taken, and continues to be taken, in order to prevent such an event from recurring. Because all these new systems and safeguards were implemented, the global economy felt a change in the manner in which things were run following the crash.

- The formation of the World Bank was a more recent, but still very important step when considering economics and globalization through the ages. The World Bank started during World War II. Its initial goal was to aid in the reconstruction of Europe. Its first loan was of \$250 million to France in 1947 for its rebuilding post-war. Reconstruction has remained an important focus of the Bank's work. It gives aid to various countries, primarily those with developing or transitional economies, following natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies, and internal, or external conflict. Because it helps out countries when they are in economical need, the World Bank, as soon as it established itself as an organization, became an integral part of global economics. It helped shape and alter the world's economy when it was first founded, and continues to do so today. The World Bank is an example the direction many hope economics will take in the next century. It was not created for the purpose of projecting enormous wealth to one, or a few select, already powerful, countries and economies. Instead, it focuses on helping out economies in need. It attempts to bring nations with struggling economies up to a higher level, so they can eventually work towards their own

- economic independence. An organization that attempts to help this global issue in a truly global manner is a new concept, one that if it is continued, and taken as an example, could change the way globalization, and economics, work in the future.
- Information Technology, (IT) and the invention of the World Wide Web (WWW) have had an enormous impact on globalization. People from all different parts of the world are, because of these two technological advancements, now able to communicate with each other instantly. They are one of the primary reasons, if not *the* main reason, that globalization has taken off at the rate with which it did. Without this technology, the world as we know it today would be completely different. A synopsis of the way technology and globalization work together harmoniously is given on the website of Labour Market Information:

Technology and globalization go hand-in-hand. Globalization unleashes technology, which in turn drives firms to plan production and sales on a global basis. Technology changes the work we do and in nearly all cases, the jobs created by it demand more education and training. It also changes the way business operates by transforming relationships between suppliers, producers, retailers and customers.

“Expert” in Economics and Globalization—Joseph E. Stiglitz

Joseph E. Stiglitz is one of today’s foremost economists. He is a renowned author, having written such well-known titles as The Roaring Nineties, and Globalization and its Discontents. Stiglitz was raised in the small community of Gary, Indiana. This town was unique; several renowned economists, among them Paul Samuelson, Nobel memorial prizewinner, were also born and raised here. Stiglitz began his post-secondary education with three years at Amherst College, which he says were “the [most] intellectually...[and] formative experiences”(Stiglitz) of his life. In his third year at Amherst, Stiglitz chose to major in economics.

Rather than completing his undergraduate degree, he was encouraged to go directly on to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) graduate school, which he proceeded in doing, continuing with the full scholarship he had been on at Amherst. (He later received not only an honorary degree, but also an honorary Doctorate from Amherst College.) Taking courses from four Nobel Prize winners at MIT, Stiglitz states that it “[was pivotal] in my development as a professional economist.” During his years at MIT, Stiglitz was given the opportunity to edit Paul Samuelson’s collective papers during his second year there.

After two years at MIT, Mr. Stiglitz was provided with the opportunity to study at Cambridge University in England, having won a Fulbright scholarship. In England, Stiglitz was able to study under, and with, many world-renowned and highly accredited scholars and economists, such as Jim Mirrlees (later to win the Nobel prize), Joan Robinson, and Frank Hahn. During his time at Cambridge, Stiglitz focused his research

mostly on “growth, technical change, and income distribution, both how growth affected the distribution of income and how the distribution of income affected growth.”

Following his stay at Cambridge, Stiglitz taught at Yale, where he published a work with Karl Shell on competitive economies that appear to be stable on a long-term scale, when in fact at some point in the future, they will become inefficient and unstable (Stiglitz and Shell in Stiglitz). In this work, Stiglitz and Shell questioned the Capitalist system:

The subject was central to the on-going debate concerning the efficiency of the capitalist economy. If stability and efficiency required that there existed markets that extended infinitely far into the future - and these markets clearly did not exist - what assurance do we have of the stability and efficiency of the capitalist system? (Stiglitz)

The concern Stiglitz had, which was demonstrated in this work, was with “multiplicity of equilibrium (both in the short run and the long)”. This would appear in much of Stiglitz’s subsequent work, where under a wide variety of circumstances, the economy could be “trapped in a "bad" equilibrium.”

Stiglitz also later worked at Stanford University, among other teaching posts. Taking a reprieve from Universities, Joseph Stiglitz went on to accomplish a variety of other feats. He joined the Clinton administration team as a member of the Council of Economic Advisors in 1993. He was later named the council’s chairman. Following that, Mr. Stiglitz took the post of Senior Vice President and Chief Economist at the World Bank.

Stiglitz was unhappy, however, with the way in which the World Bank operated, and began proclaiming this to the public. His career with the World Bank was even defined as “stormy”, by the Global Policy Forum. He was eventually fired from position,

allegedly under orders of the US Treasury Secretary. After leaving the World Bank, Stiglitz became increasingly vocal about his opinions of the World Bank, and the IMF, among other organizations. He disagreed with the way in which they were run and operated. He even made public an embarrassing secret of the IMF: the Russian Loan Scandal, a scandal taking place in 1999 involving a Russian crime syndicate laundering some ten billion dollars—funds diverted from IMF payments, money which was taken through lax security and lack of effective money tracking systems. His rather sudden vocal tirades against the World Bank and the IMF took many by surprise. He had become suddenly, and increasingly, vocal about his opinions that international financial organizations, particularly the IMF, were doing more damage than they were helping the world economy.

Mr. Stiglitz is viewed by many to be today's leader in anti-globalization. In his most recent novel, Globalization and its Discontents, Stiglitz discusses how globalization does not work.

Globalization doesn't work for the benefit of everybody, even if some people and, in certain parts of the world, many people, have benefited from it. China and many other Asian countries have increased their exports. But in Latin America the reforms of the 1990s have resulted in instability. In many cases growth has been very limited and the benefits have gone disproportionately to the rich. (Stiglitz)

Stiglitz helped create a new branch of economics, "The Economics of Information, which explored the "consequences of information asymmetries" and "pioneering such pivotal concepts as adverse selection and moral hazard, which have now become standard tools not only of theorists, but of policy analysts." He has made major contributions to macroeconomics and monetary theory, to development economics and trade theory, to public and corporate finance, to the theories of industrial organization

and rural organization, and to the theories of welfare economics and of income and wealth distribution.

Joseph Stiglitz is against globalization as it is occurring in the world today. He supports globalization in theory, and accepts that it is inevitable, however he does not approve of the rate with which it is currently progressing, nor the way with which it is being dealt, by most countries, and international financial organizations such as the World Bank, IMF and WTO.

Joseph Stiglitz has made many enormous contributions to economics, and brought many new insights to globalization. He is regarded as the “hero of the anti-globalization movement and the nemesis of market fundamentalists”(Boukhari). While his opinions may be slightly controversial, he presents them in such a way that many of them have been made mainstream enough to have accredited him with a Nobel Prize in Economics.

Control and Power

Control is one of the largest issues in economics, as it is ever varying. Economics are never stable, nor stagnant; they are constantly changing. For this reason, control is a very fickle thing. Over the centuries it has moved through several different nations, some of it being pawned off, some being hoarded, other bits of it taken by corporations and global organizations. Today, the world's economic power is in the process of switching yet again. This section will detail exactly what is occurring with the control of the global economy today, and into the future.

When discussing the issue of control over the economy, it could be assumed that, as with most global issues, one is referring to various countries that exert power over others. This is not always the case when it comes to economics. Recently, large corporations have played an increasingly large role in international economics. Anti-globalization groups have even gone so far as to prove that the economies of certain large Multi-National Corporations (MNC's) are bigger than those of small countries. It was attested that "...among the hundred biggest 'economies' in the world 51 are corporations and only 49 are countries"(De Grauwe, Camerman qtd in Frost). This statistic attempts to prove that MNC's have more power than governments. It demonstrates that certain large corporations may, in the economic sense of the term, "rule the world". These corporations, while indeed exerting a huge amount of power, have yet to overtake the superpower countries, which continue, and will continue into the future, to hold true global economic control and power.

Which country, then, currently has this power? The United States has most of it. The United States covers only approximately six percent of the world's landmass and

approximately six percent of the world's population, however it represents 30 percent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP) (Gordon). The United States has been the world's largest superpower for many years. While some countries have threatened this with increased power before (Japan and Germany in the 1940's), the United States have come out of top since they began dominating at the beginning of the 20th century.

In his book An Empire of Wealth: The Epic History of American Economic Power, Gordon makes many statements regarding what makes the United States so powerful. He writes: "The ultimate power of the United States... lies not in its military - potent as that military is, to be sure - but in its wealth, the wide distribution of that wealth among its population, its capacity to create still more wealth, and its seemingly bottomless imagination in developing new ways to use that wealth productively." This statement is accurate in that the United States does indeed have an uncanny ability to produce wealth. It may not, however, be accurate in undermining the United States' military power. Renowned journalist, filmmaker, author and public speaker Gwynn Dyer, is of the opinion that militarism does in fact play one of the largest roles of influence on economic control and sway. He believes that the United States' enormous military power is one of the most important reasons it has remained the super-power of the global economy (Dyer).

In today's rapidly changing world, however, a strong military is no longer enough. There are nations ready to step up and overtake the United States' economy within the next half-century. China's economy has been expanding at a rate of almost nine percent per annum since the 1970's. This huge increase in its economy has been the result of an emerging middle class, and a mass-migration from rural areas into the city.

(Closely resembling what occurred in England several hundred years ago, as it rose in power.) India's economy is not far behind that of China's. It has been increasing at a rate of almost 8 percent per annum since the 1970s. Because of this recent economic explosion, experts project that China's economy will match that of the United States by the year 2040, and India's will over take it just ten years after that (Frost). To have such a major power shift occur so rapidly, and thus far, so peacefully, is unprecedented historically. Adding to this is the fact that the US dollar dropped twenty percent in value in just the past eighteen months and, predicts Dyer, "it could drop just as much in one month."

What, then, is the "ticket" to becoming a superpower in today's world? Largely, it depends on population of the country. The five most powerful nations coming into the next century have been forecasted as being the United States, China, India, Russia, and Brazil (Dyer). One thing that these nations have in common is that they all have over 200 million people living in them. The number of people in a country will go hand in hand with amount of power over the next century. This is a primary reason of why England is not on that list. The biggest global economic superpower for many hundreds of years, the English empire was overtaken economically by the United States. Currently, however, its economy is the fastest growing one in Europe. What is preventing England from re-becoming a superpower? Its continental area is much too small, allowing for a population of only sixty million. This is nowhere near a large enough amount to become one of today's superpowers. This is the case with most of continental Europe. It is for these reasons, they have joined in organizations such as the European Union.

A large shift in power will obviously have severe repercussions. Some countries may not react well to the imminent change. In modern times (for the past several hundred years), Christian, Caucasian-based countries have held most of the power and much of the wealth worldwide. In more recent times, English has become the dominant language for international trade and communication, (with 60 percent of students studying a foreign language taking English,) which has resulted in White, English-speaking Christians, dominating much of what has occurred globally. With this power and wealth, comes a people's feelings of safety and security, and resulting culture of superiority. The eventual shift in the power and wealth base in the world means that cultures, languages and religions that were once less powerful, and often oppressed by the cultures of the more powerful nations, will begin to prevail. This will inevitably shift the status and the resulting feelings of safety, security, and superiority of countries throughout the world.

One possible negative consequence of Asia gaining power is the United States disallowing this by beginning a war. While this would not be a strategic move, according to Dyer, the United States may put their enormous military to use in an attempt to overthrow China and India's takeover. Another negative corollary is that this shift (and the increase in power given to international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, and Multi National Corporations (MNC's)), if not managed properly, could mean a huge amount of wealth for a select few people, but a lowering of the world's general economic status. If the large corporations are not kept in check through regulations and restrictions, there is potential for there to simply be a widening of the wealth gap. The third world countries would suffer immensely, through

unfair pay, lack of employment, and exploitation, while the rich would continue to become richer.

Though there are negative consequences, there are likewise positive ones. If the world can successfully manage this shift, the outcome could mean better living standards for much of the impoverished world. If the MNC's are successfully restrained and manage in such a way that they benefit third world nations, all the while maintaining profit so they are happy, the results have the potential to be very good. We must attempt and achieve a balance here, so that a shift in power and control can be turned into a positive phenomenon, as opposed to a horrifically negative one.

Religious and Cultural Impacts on the Globalization of Economics

While religion may not seem to play a particularly important role in globalization or economics, in fact, it does. Religion is particularly relevant around the issue of the shift in balance of power in the world brought on by globalization. There have been long-standing religious conflicts between the Christian religion and the Muslim, Hindu, and other Eastern world religions.

In recent history, power and wealth in the world has been with predominantly Christian nations. The shift in power will probably be to countries of Eastern-based religions such as India (primarily Hindu), or atheist nations such as China. As nations feel threatened, there is a tendency for more strident religious groups and sentiments to become apparent. Often the conflict between nations is viewed then as religious conflict, when it is also very directly tied to countries concerned about loss of control. The bombing of the World Trade Center in the United States is an example of this. As a result of the bombing, religious tension has grown between the Eastern and Western religions.

The United States itself had a very strong, fundamentalist swing. Long-standing historical tension between religious groups around the world will make the globalization of the economy more likely to be fraught with acrimony and conflict.

International feelings of religious superiority and inferiority may also be relevant and are at the root of the concern that globalization will take further advantage of the already impoverished. With many of the Multi National Corporations (MNC's) being Christian-

based in their power, they may be less concerned about the humanitarian approach to countries with different religions.

Different international cultures are also relevant to the impacts and eventual outcomes of globalization. For example, the Eastern Cultures in countries like China are much more patient in their approach to life. They think and live their lives planning for several generations ahead. Their approach is more attuned to sustain the culture, and not the individual. Therefore their approach to building their economy and finding their way globally has a long-term emphasis (planning many decades ahead) (Schulich).

Western cultures, such as the United States, for example, are more immediate and individualized in their approach. Long-term strategies usually have a five to ten year time frame at most. Also, individuals living currently are planning and making decisions mostly with themselves, and potentially their own children, in mind. Therefore, they are far more immediate in their responses. These differences in cultural approaches will affect how nations interact with, and potentially clash with each other.

Case studies

Many countries forsook communism in the 1990's. While most countries that did this have yet to see any positive results from this shift in government, many of the few states that remain communist have seen an improved economic performance over the past several decades. Dani Rodrik of Harvard Magazine says "Most of the former socialist economies ended the decade at *lower* levels of per-capita income than they started it—and even in the rare successes, such as Poland, poverty rates remained higher than under communism". This leads up to a discussion as to the benefits of communism. In the following three studies, the results of being a communist country, in three different areas of the world, will be examined.

China

China has lived for many years in extreme poverty. They are faced with many social problems, such as overpopulation and various bacteria and viruses. It was assumed by many that China would react to globalization in the same manner as most other third world nations: with a further national debt, and increased poverty. However, just the opposite occurred. China's economic state has improved drastically with the recent spree of globalization, as opposed to most other poor nation's decrease. The only other country that had a comparable success is India, a country in a similar situation as China, with a population close to the same size, and a common border. China's economy has increased

steadily at a rate of eight percent per annum since the 1970's, and has recently even improved itself to over nine percent. India's has almost caught up to that, approaching a rate of eight percent annually. (Rodrik). Such a turnaround, and growth at this rate is unheard of, especially for a nation in such previous economic despair, and state of government.

Because of its astounding economic growth in modern times, China has started to be seen as a potential candidate as a leading, economically powerful nation in the near future. This power shift is the subject of much scrutiny by many different types of groups, both pro and anti-globalization, both Occidental and Oriental. The shift will lead to dramatically different means of dealing with international challenges, if not different challenges altogether. The world has only recently become aware of the vastness of this power shift. As James F. Hoge, Jr. states, "Many in the West are already aware of Asia's growing strength. This awareness, however, has not yet been translated into preparedness. And therein lies a danger: that Western countries will repeat their past mistakes."

China's growth is likely to continue for several decades, until its economy surpasses that of the United States in approximately 2040. Until the day when it does become the primary economic force, China will have many questions to answer regarding its power. The developed nations of the world are skeptical already as to how China will handle all the pressure of becoming a world leader. To the Chinese people, however, this is simply a cycle, which is repeating itself. In Ancient times, China had one of the largest empires in the world. At one point in time, this empire was, in fact the most powerful. To rise in power again was simply expected by much of the Chinese population. It is in

their culture, and religion, to be very patient, and to look very far ahead into the future. To be coming into power again is not surprising to the Chinese; it is seen to them as the natural order of things.

China has a communist government, in which everyone is ideally seen as equal. With globalization regarded as being such a capitalist phenomenon, it could be speculated that China could not arise and become the leading superpower. This clearly, however, is not the case. China is well on its way to having the most powerful economy in the world. Socialism has not impeded that in the slightest. It must be attested, then that though communism is viewed by many as an inferior form of governing, or as creating fascist societies, it works for the nations who have it implemented. China has been leading Asian countries to economic autonomy and prosperity. Not only China, but also Asia on a whole, is well on its way to becoming the world's next dominating economic force.

Angola

The situation in Angola is very different from both that of China and Cuba. China can be seen as a superpower on the rise. Cuba, though small, politically and economically isolated, and relatively unimportant on a global level, is quite independent. It will not allow other countries to interfere with its personal affairs. Angola is in neither of these two situations. Angola is a comparatively small, extremely poor, past Portuguese colony in Africa. It has been through much political turmoil. Angola's current state of government is arguably communist, though not in either the way Cuba, or China, is. Portugal granted Angola independence in 1975, after Angola underwent a democratic revolution. With its new independence, Angola, as well as Mozambique, opted for communist style governments. The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) was formed within this government, drawing on such countries as Cuba and the then-USSR to use as examples, and to be called upon for assistance. The MPLA implemented a state-centered economy. They showed a great disdain for racial and ethnic chauvinism, by outlawing all organizations founded on ethnic and racial identities. Today, Angola remains in a state of great political turmoil.

Angola is one of many weak, poor countries at risk of feeling the negative repercussions of Globalization. While other weaker nations may be the beneficiaries of new factories, which would then produce many jobs, Angola will likely not have any new factories constructed within it, because it is in such a state of political turmoil, that it would be a dangerous location and financially **unproductive** for investors. Due to the facts that Angola's people will not benefit from new factories, which would provide jobs

for some of its people, its economy would be in a state of further disrepair. If any MNC's do see a benefit in placing their factories in Angola, the workers will be treated so pitifully, that it will simply lead to further exploitation from the outside world.

In order to benefit at all from globalization, Angola needs to solve its internal conflicts, and demonstrate political stability. If this occurs, then certain MNC's may see a benefit to establishing themselves in Angola. In all likelihood, Angola will be able to solve this conflict on its own. It is a valid example of a case in need of Non Governmental Organization (NGO), or United Nations (UN), assistance. With some backing, Angola can perhaps be among the nations who will benefit from globalization at some point in the future.

Cuba

Cuba has a unique form of Communism. It is an established system that has been securely in place since the Cuban Revolution of 1959. Cuba's leader, Fidel Castro, has been very successful at guiding his country. University Professor Aqueil Ahmad describes Cuba's government by saying, "What is generally ignored is the fact that Cuba is a dynamic not a static or closed society. It is highly organized but not a totalitarian police state. Whether one likes Cuba or not, it has had one of the most visionary and longest lasting leadership anywhere in the world"(Ahmad).

Cuba is a very small nation. It never has been, and never will be, a driving economic force. In comparison with many of the other Latin American countries, however, Cuba is economically very well off. Part of the reason that Cuba is able to economically outperform some of the other Latin American nations is due to the fact that Castro has the Cuban people believe that the Cuban Revolution of 1959 is still ongoing. Ahmad states: "Cuba has been transforming its economy and society with a unique blend of freedoms and controls in the context of what may be described as "perpetual revolution" to overcome many odds, raise the standard of living of its people, and become fully integrated into the new global social and economic order." When people believe they are in a continual period of revolution, they are willing to make sacrifices. The Cubans seem collectively to be willing to sacrifice for the regime.

To implement a "perpetual revolution" was a very strategic move on the part of Castro. None of this strategy would have been possible had Cuba not been a communist state, meaning that, most likely, Cuba's state of economics would not be at the level it

currently is were it under another form of government. This proves that this particular system, while possibly ineffective for most nations, works well for Cuba.

Cuba has kept itself relatively isolated from the rest of the “globalizing” world for many years. This means that, while some countries have benefited from globalization and others have suffered, Cuba has done neither, and will most likely continue to do as such. The government will not allow large Multi National Corporations (MNC’s) to settle in Cuba, forcing low wages and poor working conditions. It also will not allow for advertising from these Corporations in the country. While globalization could potentially have had a negative effect on Cuba, had MNC’s been allowed in, this effect has been avoided to date by Cuba’s strong government, which has the best interests of its people at heart.

Another way in which Cuba will avoid the negative repercussions of globalization is through class structure. While in many countries, the rich will become richer and the poor will become poorer through globalization, this will not be the case in Cuba. Due to its Communist form of government, Cuba will continue to have one social class.

Since Cuba is an island, its isolation from other countries’ economies, and therefore globalization, has been made easier. To avoid trading with the United States, Cuba does the majority of its importing and exporting with Russia. While this complicates things from a perspective of distance, the two countries have an established trading partnership that has been ongoing for many years. Even before this trade partnership, Russia helped Cuba (and China) from 1960 to 1988 providing it with “capital, technology, and training in heavy doses.” When the Soviet services stopped in

1989, Cuba suffered a huge setback. It has since adjusted, and continues to have many trading affiliations with Russia today.

Although Cuba is not a wealthy country, its people are happy. They live humbly, but contentedly. Due to the Communist government in power, there is a base level of poverty, which no one falls below. Also, due to the Communist government, Cuba has a very low homelessness rate. Cuba must be applauded for this feat. Other Latin American countries are poor, and many of their people live in such stated squalor.

Indeed, Cuba is a unique and isolated case, with regard to its system of government, and its involvements with the Globalization of International Economics. It is a perfect example of a country which has kept itself as isolated from globalization as possible to the benefit of the country.

Canada's Prevalence to the Globalization of Economics

Canada is very involved in the Globalization of the modern world. Due to its close proximity to the most economically powerful nation, and its own relative weakness in comparison, Canada's economy naturally follows the general pattern of that of the United States'. Canada has had plenty of time to realize this, and has reacted accordingly. Canada has become aware of the fact that it would like to retain its independence as a nation. To avoid being grouped in with the United States, Canada has made several decisions to differentiate itself from its neighbour. Examples of this are both Canada's refusal to send troops to the war in Iraq, and its refusal to sign the Nuclear Defense Missiles agreement.

While many people forecast that when the United States further loses its power, Canada will soon follow suit, expert Gwynn Dyer sees things differently. He believes that Canada will be more comfortable when the United States is less powerful. He stated during a lecture at Innisdale Secondary School, that Canada had the third biggest industrial economy in the world in 1945, and while that economy was sure to decrease after that time, it did so more slowly than it could have. Canada's industrial economy was inevitably going to lose power as the other Western nations, after they had reconstructed what had been lost of their countries during the war, gained back their power. Canada simply played its "losing hand of cards as well as it could". It was "holding onto power with a diminishing power base"(Dyer).

It must also be stated that a small economy does not equal a poor country. Canada could, and did, maintain its status as a wealthy, powerful nation over those years.

This is exemplified by the fact that Canada remains a G7 country. Dyer believes, contrary to many other experts, that Canada will be better off when the United States is not the largest superpower. He believes that the world, and Canada, will be less militarized, and that because the United States will not have such a degree of power to exert, Canada will not be “dragged” into as many “global things”(Dyer). In all, the United States will become a more comfortable neighbour.

When Asia becomes the superpower, as it is currently predicted to become, Canada will be affected, like all the other nations of the world. It will have its own role to play when this switch happens. As China and India gain power, a middle class will emerge, and a great number of people will move from rural areas into the larger cities. These people will desire low-end, factory jobs. Because many of these people will be without education, and are will be so desperate to find work, they will be willing to work for very low wages, much lower than anything anyone would possibly accept in Canada. Factories that operate in Canada will then possibly move to Asia, or another growing economy in the world, resulting in a potential decline in wealth for Canada.

With all the new workers in Asia, and the resulting middle class, people over there will have a slightly higher expendable income. According to Dyer, this is where Canada must react quickly. He believes that Canada’s “best bet” at becoming involved in the Asian market will be in global affairs. He believes that Canadians will do well selling to people in Asia insurance policies, and other items that require more professional training to produce. In all, Dyer believes that if Canada is able to react quickly enough,

which it is generally competent at doing, it will do “fairly well” at finding its own place, and generating sufficient wealth, in this emerging society.

The other benefit that Canada has that should position it well in a more globally based economy is its relatively progressive approach to immigration. Compared to many western countries, Canada welcomes immigrants. It realizes that in order to maintain its population base, it must promote immigration. Canada has a head start on many nations, because of its ability to accept diverse religions and cultures into its society. In order to continue to make the most of this advantage, Canada must persist in improving its immigration policies, so that more, well-trained people will want to come from other nations. Trained individuals will not want to continue to come to Canada if they cannot practice their profession here. For example, many of the taxi drivers in Toronto, ON, are qualified professionals in their home countries. Once in Canada, however, their training is not recognized, and they are forced to take up posts not worthy of their schooling. Canada will have to address issues such as these in order to continue to position itself within the global economy.

World Organizations', and United Nations' Involvement with Global Economics

There are several “international financial organizations”(Ahamd) that are significantly involved with globalization and economics. The three listed below are those of most importance to global economics. All three deal precisely with this issue, each in its own way. The World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and World Trade Organization, are defined as by their websites (www.worldbank.org, www.imf.org, www.wto.org). Accompanying the website definitions is more specific information regarding the organization’s relevance to the issue, and whether or not it is supportive of it. The ways in which these three organizations are involved with the globalization of economics will be lightly touched upon, however, it is covered further in other sections of this report.

World Bank

The World Bank Group’s mission is to fight poverty and improve the living standards of people in the developing world. It is a development Bank which provides loans, policy advice, technical assistance and knowledge sharing services to low and middle income countries to reduce poverty. The Bank promotes growth to create jobs and to empower poor people to take advantage of these opportunities. In 2004 the World Bank provided \$20.1 billion for 245 projects in developing countries worldwide, with its finance and/or technical expertise aimed at helping those countries reduce poverty. The World Bank is not a “bank” in the common sense. It is one of the United Nations’ specialized agencies, and is made up of 184 member countries. (World Bank)

The World Bank is possibly the organization the most significantly involved with the Globalization of Economics. It was established for the purpose of dealing with money and funding from all around the world. The World Bank supports globalization,

but is aware of its drawbacks. It believes that Globalization must be “harnessed better to help the world’s poorest, most marginalized countries improve the lives of their citizens”(Globalization). Because it believes that in moderation, globalization improves poverty, it is supportive of this issue.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The IMF is an international organization of 184 member countries. It was established to promote international monetary cooperation, exchange stability, and orderly exchange arrangements; to foster economic growth and high levels of employment; and to provide temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease balance of payments adjustment. Since the IMF was established its purposes have remained unchanged but its operations -- which involve surveillance, financial assistance, and technical assistance -- have developed to meet the changing needs of its member countries in an evolving world economy.
(International Monetary Fund)

The IMF embraces Globalization. While realizing it has its negative aspects, most of its senior executive members are of the opinion that the Fund must “play an active part in the international effort to make globalization work for the benefit of all”(Challenges). It plays a key role in monitoring the growth rates of various economies, and handling monetary exchanges between nations, therefore it attempts to control the rate at which globalization is occurring, all the while encouraging it.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world’s trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. An important component of the WTO is the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The goal of the WTO is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business. Another goal is to improve the welfare of the peoples of the member countries. (World Trade Organization)

The WTO is very supportive of globalization, because it means easier trading between countries. A more globalized world has less tariffs, and less boundaries on exchanges and trades. For this reason, the WTO backs globalization fully, and has defended its cause on the international scale. It believes that globalization will help improve the economies of countries in need, and the lives of their people.

United Nations (UN)

The United Nations, while it is considered an international, or global organization, is slightly different than the previous three discussed. It approaches problems from a peacekeeping perspective, as opposed to an economic perspective. It is involved with the Globalization of Economics, but with a different standpoint.

The purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, (created in 1945 with representatives from the original 50 countries) are to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these ends. (United Nations)

While the United Nations (UN) is generally regarded as an organization dealing with peacekeeping, a vast majority of its resources and funding go into the economic development of nations in need. In fact, the UN has significantly shaped and affected many of the economic and social transformations that have taken place globally in the last five decades. As an internationally revered global center, the United Nations has set priorities and goals for international cooperation. Among these are to assist countries in their development efforts, and to promote a supportive global economic setting. The UN recognizes that in today's global economy, the repercussions of one nation's economical problems are immediately felt in its neighbouring countries, or those countries associated

with it. The UN helps deal with the issue in the country of need, and in doing so, is able to help its affiliates. In this way, the Global Economy is beneficial to the UN.

Currently, there are few Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), or Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO's) that are significantly involved with the globalization of economics. While some play a minor role in its development, and others deal with it as a secondary priority, no prominent NGO's have as their fundamental goal aiding the issue of global economics. The four organizations listed above play the largest role in the development of this topic. The lack of NGO and IGO involvement in itself may result in the globalization of economics having many negative effects. Hopefully in the near future, more of these types of organizations will adopt as part of their mandate the effective management of the Global Economy.

Globalization: the Problem or the Solution?

Although the Globalization of International Economics is indeed a “global issue”, many people do not regard it as a global “problem”. Because it is not considered a global problem, there can be no real “solution”. For this reason, there have been few attempts at solutions in the past. What there are, however, are attempts by different groups to either slow down the process of globalization, speed it up, or stop it altogether, (if one regards that as possible) depending on what one’s views are.

Globalization is something that must be examined from all angles in order to thoroughly understand its many facets. In an article debating the pros and cons of globalization, Keith Porter examines the many good features of this issue, as well as the bad. He states:

As thoughtful people concerned about world affairs, our job is to pick up "globalization," examine it from all sides, dissect it, figure out what makes it tick, and then nurture and promote the good parts and mitigate or slow down the bad parts. Globalization is much like fire. Fire itself is neither good nor bad. Used properly, it can cook food, sterilize equipment, form iron, and heat our homes. Used carelessly, fire can destroy lives, towns and forests in an instant...Globalization has dangers and an ugly dark side. But it can also bring tremendous opportunities and benefits. Just as capitalism requires a network of governing systems to keep it from devouring societies, globalization requires vigilance and the rule of law.

Porter continues in his debate by quoting Thomas Friedman in his book The Lexus and the Olive Tree:

Globalization is not a phenomenon. It is not just some passing trend. Today it is an overarching international system shaping the domestic politics and foreign relations of virtually every country, and we need to understand it as such..."[Globalization] can be incredibly empowering and incredibly coercive. It can democratize opportunity and democratize panic. It makes the whales bigger and the minnows stronger. It leaves you behind faster and faster, and it catches up to you faster and faster. While it is homogenizing cultures, it is also enabling people to share their unique individuality farther and wider.

These two writers are clearly aware of both sides of the grand debate that is globalization. Porter recognizes that, “Globalization will always have cheerleaders who are blind to the destruction globalization can cause. And it will always have strident opponents blind to the way globalization gives some people their first opportunity to fulfill basic aspirations.” The following paragraphs will outline these two groups of believers, and what they consider to be true of Globalization. One must recognize, upon examining this, that these are not the views shared by the majority of the general population. Across the planet, many view this issue as they view most others, not as something to “worship or demonize”(Porter), but instead as something to “mold, shape and manage for the betterment of everyone”. They will remain somewhere in the middle. Many people are perhaps confused by what they are being told. It is almost as though it is two different phenomena being presented to them:

Is the globe being knit together by the Nikes and Microsofts and Citigroups in a dynamic new system that will eventually lift the have-nots of the world up from medieval misery? Or are ordinary people now victims of ruthless corporate domination, as the Nikes and Microsofts and Citigroups roll over the poor in nation after nation in search of new profits? (Globalization)

Capitalists, business-oriented thinkers, and people with business interests, tend to believe that globalization is a good thing, and something that the economy will inevitably do, despite what attempts that may be made to stop it. They believe in encouraging it, as it promotes large businesses internationally. There exist many pro-globalization groups and organizations. Many of these groups are relatively new. According to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, globalization and Multi National Corporation’s (MNC’s)

power has only been the subject of increased media attention since 1995. From that time forward, however, it has encouraged many articles on its topic. Many people advocate globalization. They believe that it does everyone good:

Global free trade promotes global economic growth. It creates jobs, makes companies more competitive, and lowers prices for consumers. It also provides poor countries, through infusions of foreign capital and technology, with the chance to develop economically and, by spreading prosperity, creates the conditions in which democracy and respect for human rights may flourish. (Anti)

Many “capitalists”, and business people, see only the above to be true. They believe that globalization is for global good, and that little negative will result from it. While globalization has its positive aspects, these people must also become aware that negative ramifications do exist, and that some bad will inevitably result.

For every person who advocates the positive repercussions of globalization, there is one who is prepared to lecture on the negatives ones; more and more, activist groups are reacting to the rapid increase in globalization. “Meetings of international monetary, trade and environmental organizations, which in the past incited little or no protest interest, are now drawing the attention of thousands of anti-globalization activists”(Anti). Some argue that many anti-globalization activists have taken their arguments so far that they are no longer protesting against globalization; they are simply venting about MNC’s, and capitalism. “[The activists’] protests are extensions of their grievances against big business in general. So they seem to be protesting more against the "corporate" than the "globalization”(Porter). “The philosophy of capitalism...is under attack, facing charges that it is ignoring the social welfare of individuals, and destroying cultures and the ecology in the quest for growth and profit”(Anti). The idea of being “anti-globalization”

has been clumped in with being “anti-corporation”, “anti-capitalism”, and anti-everything occurring on an international scale promoting business to some degree.

While some activists who disagree with globalization are well informed and aware of what they are protesting against, the idea of being simply “anti” has become extremely popular in the past decade. Some lobbyists are simply looking for the destruction of global institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). People are unhappy with the level of power they have over globalization and the international trade. Many of the people attending activist rallies for anti-globalization may not realize exactly what they are campaigning for. This is not to say that all activists are ignorant regarding the issue at hand.

Joseph Stiglitz, a household name in economics, is an active Anti-Globalizationist. He supports globalization in theory, but is opposed to the way it exists in our world. He believes that it has the potential to be a force for good, however is being taken in the wrong direction, at too fast of a pace for the world to be able to manage it effectively. He thoroughly understands the issue, and he advocates the Stiglitz approach in a concise manner. This should be taken as an example for people unhappy with the way globalization is establishing itself. Instead of simply attending rallies, and venting, activists should become more informed on this topic, so they can be prepared to fight for what they stand for in an intelligent manner, and with concrete solutions.

One must thoroughly examine both sides of the issue, before deciding where one stands. Many will choose to remain in the middle, which, in this topic, is probably a good idea. Both the pro and anti-globalization groups are right and wrong. Globalization

is both, or neither, depending on how one looks at it. And while there is no solution to the entire issue, there are many things that can, and are being done to promote the possibility of globalization, while attempting to avoid the negative.

There must be a strong monitoring of MNC's to ensure that as they grow globally, they are humanitarian in their relations in the foreign countries where they have their factories and workers. Global organizations must ensure that these corporations do not take advantage of the poor countries in their desire to generate further wealth to themselves. The NGO's and IGO's could play a significant role in this by establishing rules and protocols from MNCs moving into developing countries.

The United Nations (UN) and other peacekeeping organizations must play a strong role in ensuring that as the balance of power shifts, it can maintain the rules and protocols for international order to prevent conflict and war as possible. The UN must step up, as opposed to step back, and make the world aware that it is at the forefront of the issue, and is actively performing its role of peacekeeping. Furthermore, other organizations such as Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's), and Inter Governmental Organizations (IGO's) must step up and play a larger role in globalization, helping out the UN with its enormous task of maintaining peace and order throughout this process.

Finally, countries throughout the world must continue to educate themselves on other cultures, religions, and countries, so that they can better work together in a mutually respectful, peaceful way. There is the need for more cooperative operation among countries in the globalized society, making it all the more important to have an awareness

of other peoples, and develop respect for other cultures. A prime example of a possible microcosm of what a more completely integrated, globalized society may look like can be found very close to home: Toronto, ON, is the most multicultural, diverse city in the world (Dyer). It exemplifies what a culturally integrated society can look like, and how successfully it can work together.

Globalization of Economics is a phenomenon that is occurring today at an alarming rate; there is no denying that it exists. The world must now figure out a way in which to make the best of it so that the poor can benefit from it, and the wealthy, as the power shifts, are able to retain peaceful relationships with one another while maintaining a relatively adequate standard of living. There must be strong monitoring of MNC's, a forward peacekeeping approach made by the UN, and an effort at increasing awareness and respect among people internationally of the different culture that will be involved in this integrated, global society. Globalization is a fact; it cannot be stopped. The communication technology we have developed cannot be reversed, nor can the population bases contributing to the shift in power be changed. The world must now embrace what is happening, and be forward thinking in this new, economically globalized world.

Creative Component—Monologue

Today has been the best day of my life! Let me explain myself to you. My name is Chung Lee, I am a 45 year old father of one son. I used to live in a small town called Lin Yang with my son and my wife. We were very happy there, the three of us. It was the village where my wife and I had both grown up. Lin Yang was a poor village, and we lived very humbly, but we were happy. I was the town's tailor. I worked out of my home, and all the people in the village came to me to have their clothes made and altered. I always knew what was going on in our town, because people like to talk as they are having their waists measured!

This was how I found out about all the new factories moving to Beijing. There is supposed to be much good work to be found in those factories. Hard, I am told, but of better pay than anything you could find in our small towns. That would not be hard for me. My customers, many of them do not have very much money. But they have been coming to me for so long! I cannot turn them away; they are my friends. So I allow them to pay me in produce from their garden, or any extra rice they may have after their family is finished eating. I have so much rice I do not think my wife could cook it all in one hundred years! So, as you can perhaps imagine, I was not making large amounts of money off my tailoring business. No matter, I thought, we will get by; we have lived before in tougher times than these.

That was until: My mother and father both took ill at the same time. They moved from their house into ours, so now we were very squished, because our house was not really big enough for three people to start! My wife took care of my parents all day every

day, but it was not helping! Finally, I could not stand to see my parents suffer in our tiny home like this, without any doctor to go see in our village. I said: “Come family, I have an idea!” I told them about what I had been told while tailoring a boy’s pants last week, about the factories in Beijing. I said, “I could get work there, and so could you, my son, you are now of a working age”. My wife, son, and parents—my whole family! Did not want to go at all. But I was firm. “We must go”, I said, “So I can find a better paying job, and, mother and father can see a doctor! Maybe with some extra money from my new job, they will give us medicine for you, mother! See how ill you look”.

So finally, my family agreed to move to Beijing. It was very hard to leave, I love my village dearly, but we all knew it had to be done. When we arrived after a hard trip, it seemed like everyone had the same idea I did! So many people, as I have never seen before in my life. After a few days, we managed to find an apartment at least three times smaller than our old house. I did not think that was possible! But we knew it would be hard at the start. “We must just wait until I get my job”, I thought to myself. “Then it will all get so much better.”

But it didn’t. Oh, it got much worse. My parents, they became so ill they could barely move, or eat! Which, I hate to say, was good for us because it meant more food for my wife, my son and I, even though I hated the fact that my parents could not eat. I feared dreadfully for their lives, even though my wife, she took care of them day in day out. My son and I, we went searching for jobs every day. Where were all these factories I had heard about?

Then finally, after what seemed like an eternity of looking, we got lucky. My son and I were eating our lunch one day- a small bowl of soup to share-, when we heard some men talking about a new job they had just gotten at a factory! I almost tipped the rice bowl over I was so excited, which would not have been good. I pinched my son in the shoulder and said “Shh! Listen!” And we did listen, harder than I’ve ever listened before in my life. Those men talked about everything we needed to know about the factory; where it was, who we should talk to for jobs once we got there, everything!

After that, my son and I gulped down the rest of the rice so fast I don’t even remember eating it, and ever since coming to Beijing, I remember *everything* I eat, because that is not much. We rushed right over to the factory, to get there before the office closed. When we arrived, we were so tired! But we barely even noticed. I looked my son over right before we walked in, and combed back his hair with my fingers, and thought to myself: “Yes, today is my day!”

And it was. They gave us a job right as soon as we walked in that door. They said it was perfect! They needed two more men who could work down in the basement along an assembly line, and we looked like we could be just the people. I have never been so happy in my whole entire life! I thanked that man so many times, and then my son and I just stood there grinning! Because we didn’t know what else we could do because we were so happy! Finally, I know my life will start getting better. Our hardships are ending. Life is very good to me right now. This is a happy day!

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Appendices

Acronym	Full Wording
EU	European Union
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IT	Information Technology
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MPLA	Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola
UN	United Nations
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWW	World Wide Web