

Globalization: The Future of Japan and the World

Bruce Stronach

グローバリゼーション：日本と世界の未来

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Preface

Our world is changing more rapidly than our ability to understand how it is changing, or to deal with those changes. Globalization is essentially about connectivity. The majority of people in the world are connected to each other through communications, trade, and travel, whether they like it or not. 5

Globalization is a result of the development of various technologies that have collectively brought the world closer together. Although government policy decisions still have an impact on globalization, in the long run the continual advancement of technology means globalization will continue to develop in the 10 future.

Transportation technologies (Chapter 9) allow both people and goods to move quickly and cheaply from one country to another. Communication technologies (Chapter 8) allow people all over the world to have the ability to cheaply interact directly 15 with one another. Information technologies give us the ability to process the data that supports the growth of the other technologies. Information technologies also create artificial intelligence (Chapter 10) which allows us to predict and anticipate human behavior. 20

Many of these changes work together in concert. Information technology creates algorithms that influence the way in which we use social media, and social media is becoming the most important way in which we communicate. Globalization brings us together, but are we ready to accept global 25

integration? Many people fear that global culture will overwhelm our national and local cultures (Chapter 6). This is forcing many governments to back away from the trend toward internationalization that has been happening for over 50 years
30 (Chapter 4).

All this means we must learn to focus on educating ourselves, from an early age, about globalization and how to live in a global world (Chapter 11).

This is especially important for Japan (Chapters 2 & 15).
35 This book is about globalization but it is specifically meant for a Japanese reader to understand how globalization is affecting Japan, as well as the broader world. Japan is a great case study in globalization : although it has a history of isolation, and a very homogeneous population and culture, it needs globalization to
40 continue to prosper and grow. Japan can be a model for how best to adapt to ever-increasing globalization.

It is my hope that after reading this book you will not only know some of the important elements of globalization, but also be able to understand them, and discuss them, in English. I have
45 attempted to use words and phrases that are not too difficult, but difficult enough to instruct and to increase the reader's English language ability.

Bruce Stronach

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Chapter 1

What is Globalization?



I want to explore with you what globalization really means. It is a word very popular around the world, but especially in Japan. For many years the goal of Japanese universities has been to “develop global human resources.” But what does globalization really mean? How does it manifest itself? What impact does it have on us as people, as well as on our institutions and systems? 5



1-2

In the early 1970s I studied at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, a graduate school of international relations. I studied with students from all over the world including Japan, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Norway, and Yugoslavia. We felt we 10



1-3

had a mission; we were excited to think that we were bringing the world together. ASEAN was founded in 1967. The European Union continued to merge its political, financial and cultural institutions through the 1970s and 80s. European integration was especially important because it showed countries that had fought horrible wars against each other could have peace if they worked together. We wanted to end barriers and open the world to each other.



The most important thing about globalization is that it means more than simply participating in the world outside your country. It is also about bringing the outside world into your country and understanding that the most important issues facing us as individuals can only be solved on a global level.



Globalization means most countries' borders are more open to foreigners. Flying to another country just 50 years ago was still an adventure. I will never forget my first flight to Japan. I grew up on a farm in rural Maine, and when I was a child no one would ever have thought I would go to Japan! I was so excited to be in Japan that the first night I could not sleep and just walked around Takanawa and Shinagawa at two o'clock in the morning. Now I fly back and forth to the U.S. four times a year. Nowadays, flying to another country is like taking a train to another city. I am sure you have heard about people who fly to Korea for the day, or the weekend, just to shop and eat Korean food.



Globalization has also led to a very different movement of people in creating a large number of refugees, who often risk their lives to find a better place to live. Some may take a small boat from Tunisia to Italy while others may walk thousands of kilometers from El Salvador to the U.S. border with Mexico. Why? One

reason is that the global economy has increased the gap between 40
richer and poorer countries. Even people who live in poor
countries have access to smart phones and computers so they can
see what life is like in richer countries. They want to go to those
places. Friends and family who have made the trip tell them they
can make money. Smart phones also help them on their journey. 45
Their phones put them in touch with people who may help them
travel to another country, connect them to family while they are
traveling, and help them connect to friends or family when they
arrive.

Communication technology brings outside ideas into your 50
country. Some countries, like China, have begun to limit access to
the internet and blocked social media sites like Instagram,
Facebook, and WhatsApp. On the other hand, India has banned
the Chinese apps WeChat, Baidu and TikTok. No matter how
hard any government tries, most people in the world are using 55
these applications. There is no filter to keep out “foreign” ideas.
Smart phones let you see what people are doing in other countries.
If it is something you are not allowed to do, maybe it will motivate
you to do it. If your culture or religion does not allow dancing,
seeing young people dancing on TikTok may make you want to 60
dance, too.

The oldest and most obvious result of globalization is in the
food we eat. In Maine, we have blueberries in the summer, we
make maple syrup from our sugar maple trees in March, but we
don't have persimmons. In Japan, I loved being so far away from 65
home and being in such a different culture, but I also missed
home. In the 1970s, I looked all around Tokyo for blueberries and
maple syrup, but they were hard or even impossible to find. Now



I can find them all year round in any supermarket. There are
70 blueberries from Chile, cherries from California, and maple syrup
from Canada. But I was really shocked when I found my favorite
Hachiya persimmons in the local supermarket in Maine.



1-9

We have been eating food from other countries, and using
products made in other countries, for centuries. The difference
75 that globalization has made is that now almost everything we
consume has some connection to international trade. Our choice
of foods is almost limitless.



1-10

There are problems. In a globalized world, multi-national
regulations and oversight are necessary. Many people push back
80 against globalization. The U.S. built walls against immigration.
The British didn't want to be regulated by a united Europe. Many
governments try to stop people from learning new things that are
not part of their traditional culture.



1-11

That is why it is necessary for us to understand globalization.
85 We must know how to manage globalization and the technologies
that drive it. We must use what is positive and change what is
negative.