Globalization has a very rich historical background: it is centuries long process, tracking the expansion of human population and the growth of civilization, that has accelerated dramatically in the past 50 years. Early forms of this process existed during the Roman Empire, the Parthian empire, and the Han Dynasty, when the Silk Road started in China, and reached the boundaries of the Parthian empire, while continuing onwards towards Rome. Globalisation is also typified in the Islamic Golden Age. During this period, Muslim traders and explorers established an early global economy across the Old World resulting in a globalization of crops, trade, knowledge and technology.

However, globalization in a wider context began shortly before the turn of the 16th century, with two Kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula – the Kingdom of Portugal and the Kingdom of Castile. Portugal’s global explorations in the 16th century, especially, linked continents, economies and cultures in an unprecedented dimension. In this sense, Portugal’s exploration and trade with most of the coast of Africa, Eastern South America, and Southern and Eastern Asia, could be seen as the first major trade based form of globalization; from where a wave of global trade, colonization, and enculturation reached all corners of the world.

Consequently, global integration continued through the expansion of European trade in the 16th and 17th centuries. In the 17th century especially, globalization virtually became a business phenomenon with the emergence of the British East India Company founded in 1600, which is often described as the first multinational corporation to ever exist in the world. This was followed by the establishment of the Dutch East India Company in 1602 alongside the Portuguese East India Company in 1628. Because of the high risks involved with international trade, the British East India Company became the first company in the world to share risk and enable joint ownership of companies through the issuance of shares of stock: an important driver of globalization.

Historical fact also points out that globalization was achieved by the British Empire due to its sheer size and power. British ideals and culture were imposed on other nations during this period. It was in the period often referred to as the "First Era of Globalization or the 19th Century, characterized by rapid growth on international trade and investment between the European imperial powers, their colonies, and, later, the United States. It was in this period that areas of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Island Pacific were incorporated into the world system. This era collapsed with the devastating effects of the First World War and the gold standard crisis in the late 1920s and early 1930s. From this period onward, globalization has taken a new dimension that is all-encompassing making it a nebulous term to define. This backdrop (as earlier alluded to) has brought about series of interpretations, conceptual themes, and scholarly controversy on the process and concept of globalization.
By globalization we simply mean the process of increasing interconnectedness between societies such that events in one part of the world more and more have effects on peoples and societies far away.

In this sense, a globalized world is one in which political, economic, cultural and social events become more and more interconnected, and also in which they have more impact (Smith and Baylis, 2000: 7). Globalization is the integration of national economies through trade and financial interactions thus making domestic economies to come under the influence of policies of other economies. It brings about the growth of economic activities spanning politically defined national and regional boundaries (Ajakaiye and Akinbinu 2000: 58). Globalization therefore, finds expression in the increased movement across boundaries of goods and services, via trade and investment, and often of people, via migration. It is driven by the actions of individual economic actors—firms, banks, people—usually in the pursuit of profit, and often spurred by the pressures of competition as goods and capital try to relocate to economies where returns are highest (Ajakaiye and Akinbinu, 2000: 58).

Rosenau in an attempt to clarify the concept in his article, “The Complexities and Contradictions of Globalization” (2005) posits that globalization fits among the many buzzwords that indicate something new in world affairs that is moving important activities and concerns beyond the national seats of power that have long served as the foundations of economic, political, and social life. Ajakaiye and Akinbinu (2000: 149) further buttress the position of Rosenau from the standpoint of “forces of change”:

Globalization refers to a situation where the whole world is viewed as a single market in the acquisition, utilisation and development of human resources. There are international standards that must be met for the labour force to compare and compete favourably in the said "international market" or make human resources meet the demands of development.

In the sense of the foregoing, the entire world is now virtually a global village as a consequence of liberalization policies on one hand, and technological changes and scientific advances on the other (Ajakaiye and Akinbinu 2000: 189). The resultant free flow of information, trade and networking are most likely to create access to best practices in most parts of the world. Through trade, networking and free flow of information, Nigerians are most likely to get to know of new housing designs, better use of new or traditional building materials and styles as well as new housing delivery systems.

All the above, may in turn, influence changes in taste and/or design of new construction methods, housing and modes of housing delivery.

With the approaching 21st century, the forces of economic, political and cultural globalization are binding new pressures to bear on existing social structures in developed and developing countries. Globalization is introducing new challenges to which societies must respond. This is taking place in an environment in which traditional development and growth paradigms no longer provide adequate guidance for the satisfaction of changing population needs and demands (Ajakaiye and Akinbinu, 2000: 220).

Exposing the Haws in this position, Stanley Hoffmann in his article titled “Clash of Globalizations” (2002) argued that considering the words of Raymond Aron, “the germ of a universal consciousness”: the liberal, pro-market norms that developed states have come to hold in common and also the words of Max Weber, “disenchantment of the world”, it is possible to maintain that:

Globalization is in fact only a sum of techniques (audio and video cassettes, the internet, instantaneous communications) that are at the disposal of states or private actors. Self-interest and ideology, not humanitarian reasons, are what drive these factors. Their behaviour is quite different from the vision of globalization as an Enlightenment-based utopia that is simultaneously scientific, rational, and universal (Hoffmann, 2002: 7-9).

It is therefore widely acknowledged that the phenomenon of globalization manifests in certain forces constituting the variants of globalization in economic, political, social and cultural forms.

In each case, the world seems to be ‘shrinking’, and people are increasingly aware of this. The World Wide Web is but the most graphic example of this, since it allows you to sit at home and have instant communication with web sites around the world (Smith and Baylis, 2000: 7). Electronic mail has also transformed communications in many ways. But these are only the most obvious examples. Others would include: worldwide television communications, global newspapers, international social movements such as Amnesty or Greenpeace, global franchises such as McDonalds; Coca Cola, and Pizza Hut. The important point to stress is that it is not just that the world has changed but that the changes are qualitative and not merely quantitative; a strong case can be made that a ‘new’ world political system has emerged as a result of globalization (Smith and Baylis, 2000: 7).

According to McLuhan, (1964) advances in electronic communications resulted in a world where we could see in real time events that were occurring in distant parts of the world. For McLuhan (1964), the main effects of this development were that time and space become compressed to such an extent that everything loses its traditional identity. As a result, the old groupings of political, economic, and social organization simply do not work anymore.

In the same vein, globalization theory has several points in common. With the argument of Francis Fukuyama (1992) about the ‘end of history’. Fukuyama’s main claim is that the power of the economic market is resulting in liberal democracy replacing all other types of government (Smith and Baylis, 2000: 8). Though, he recognizes that there are other types of political regimes to challenge liberal democracy, he does not think that any of the alternatives such as communism, fascism, or Islam will be able to deliver the economic goods in the way that liberal democracy can.
The economic market throughout the crises of gastronomically, the United States has t the effects of globalization -

- the diminishing or elimination of state-enforced restrictions on exchanges across borders and the increasingly integrated and complex global system of production and exchange that has emerged as a result.

Friedman ’examines the impact of the flattening of the globe”, and argues that globalized trade, outsourcing supply chaining, and political forces have changed the world permanently, for both better and worse. He further stressed that the pace of globalization is quickening and will continue to have a growing impact on business organization and practice (Friedman, 2008: 49).

On the other hand, Chomsky (2006) argues that the word globalization is also used in a doctrinal sense, to describe the neoliberal form of economic globalization. Sheila, 2004; and Bhagwati, 2004 sum up that what have been described under globalization only culminate in the combination of economic, technological, socio-cultural and political forces. Globalization is often used to refer to economic globalization, that is, integration of national economies into the international economy through trade, foreign direct investment, capital flows, migration and the spread of technology.

EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION

The effects of globalization are multifaceted and can only be explained under broad categories. In a better recognition of this fact, Rosenau (2005: 54) argue that “the core of world affairs today, thus consists of tensions between the dynamics of globalization and localization. Moreover, the two sets of dynamics are causally linked, almost as if every increment of globalization gives rise to an increment of localization, and vice versa”. It is obvious that the effects of globalization emerge from the two sets of dynamics inherent in the pervasive interactions between the fragmenting forces of localization and the integrative forces of globalization. In this wise, globalization has various aspects which affect the world in several different ways such as:

(a) **Industrial** – emergence of worldwide production markets and broader access to a range of foreign products for consumers and companies. Particularly movement of materials and goods between and within national boundaries.

(b) **Financial** – emergence of worldwide financial markets and better access to external financing for borrowers. As these worldwide structures grew more quickly than any transnational regulatory regime, the instability of the global financial infrastructure dramatically increased, as evidenced by the financial crises of the late 2008.

(c) **Economic** – realization of a global common market, based on the freedom of exchange of goods and capital. The interconnectedness of these markets, however meant that an economic collapse in any one given country could not be contained.

(d) **Political** – some use “globalization” to mean the creation of a world government, or cartels of governments (e.g. WTO, World Bank, and IMF) which regulate the relationships among governments and guarantees the rights arising from social and economic globalization. Politically, the United States has enjoyed a position of power among the world powers; in part because of its strong and wealthy economy. With the influence of globalization and with the help of the United States’ own economy, the People’s Republic of China has experienced some tremendous growth within the past decade. If China continues to grow at the rate projected by the trends, then it is very likely that in the next twenty years, there will be a major relocation of power among the world leaders.

(e) **Language** – the most popular language is English. About 75% of the world’s mail, telexes, and cables are in English. Approximately 60% of the world’s radio programs are English. About 90% of all Internet traffic uses English.

(f) **Cultural** – growth of cross-cultural contacts; advent of new categories of consciousness and identities which embodies cultural diffusion, the desire to increase one’s standard of living and enjoy foreign products and ideas, adopt new technology and practices, and participate in a “world culture”.

(g) **Social** – development of the system of non-governmental organisations as main agents of global public policy, including humanitarian aid and developmental efforts (Zaleski, 2006). This is now practically epitomized by the emergence of a global civil society.

It is also imperative at this juncture to examine in a systematic manner the varied and contradictory viewpoints on globalization in order to further situate the foregoing conceptualization in proper perspectives

PRO-GLOBALIZATION

Globalization advocates such as Jeffrey Sachs point to the average drop in poverty rates in countries, such as China, where globalization has taken a strong foothold, compared to areas less affected by globalization, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, where poverty rates have remained stagnant (Flew, 2008: 78).
The quotation above will serve as the rider to this section further rendering more valuable discuss on globalization. Supporters of free trade claim that it increases economic prosperity as well as opportunity, especially among developing nations, enhances civil liberties and leads to a more efficient allocation of resources. Economic theories of comparative advantage suggest that free trade leads to a more efficient allocation of resources, with all countries involved in the trade benefiting. In general this leads to low prices, more employment, higher output and a higher standard of living for those in developing countries (Sachs, 2005).

Globalism is a national geopolitical policy in which the entire world is regarded as the appropriate sphere for a state’s influence (The Free Dictionary, June 15, 2009). According to MSN Encarta (June 15, 2009), it is a global political view which advocate that political policies should take worldwide issues into account before focusing on national or state concerns. Proponents of laissez-faire capitalism, and some libertarians, say that higher degrees of political and economic freedom in the form of democracy and capitalism in the developed world are ends in themselves and also produce higher levels of material wealth. They see globalization as the beneficial spread of liberty and capitalism (Sachs, 2005). Supporters of democratic globalization are sometimes called pro-globalists. They believe that the first phase of globalization, which was market-oriented, should be followed by a phase of building global political institutions representing the will of world citizens. The difference between this perspective and other globalists is that it does not define in advance any ideology to orientate this will, but would leave it to the free choice of those citizens via a democratic process. Globalists argue that anti-globalization movement uses anecdotal evidence to support their protectionist view, whereas worldwide statistics strongly support globalization.

Although, critics of globalization complain of Westernization, a 2005 UNESCO report showed that cultural exchange is becoming mutual. In 2002, China was the third largest exporter of cultural goods, after the UK and US. Between 1994 and 2002, both North America’s and the European Union’s shares of cultural exports declined, while Asia’s cultural exports grew to surpass North America.

ANTI-GLOBALIZATION

The anti-globalization movement is critical of the globalization of capitalism. It is a term used to describe the political stance of people and groups who oppose the neoliberal version of globalization. They (anti-globalization activists) generally call for forms of global integration that better provide democratic representation, advancement of human rights and more egalitarian states (Morris, n.d.). This means that the vast majority of groups that participate in these protests draw on international networks of support, and they actually call for forms of globalization that enhance democratic representation, human rights and egalitarianism.

Stiglitz and Charlton (2005: 54) breaking on the stances of Morris writes:

The anti-globalization movement developed in opposition to the perceived negative aspects of globalization. The term anti-globalization is in many ways a misnomer, since the group represents a wide range of interests and issues and many of the people involved in the anti-globalization movement do support closer ties between the various peoples and cultures of the world through, for example, aid, assistance for refugees, and global environmental issues.

The view of Stiglitz and Carlton suggests that the supporters of anti-globalization promote protectionism and/or nationalism, which is not always the case. Some supporters of anti-globalization are staunch opponents of both nationalism and protectionism. Critiques of the current wave of economic globalization typically look at both the damage to the planet, in terms of the perceived unsustainable harm done to the biosphere, as well as the perceived human costs, such as poverty, inequality, miscegenation, injustice and the erosion of traditional culture which, the critics contend, all occur as a result of the economic transformations related to globalization. They challenge directly the metrics, such as GDP, used to measure progress promulgated by institutions such as the World Planet Index created by the New Economics Foundation. They point to a “multitude of interconnected fatal consequences – social disintegration, a breakdown of democracy, more rapid and extensive deterioration of the environment, the spread of new diseases, increasing poverty and alienation” (Capra, 2002).

Noam Chomsky (2002: 5) believes that the terms globalization and anti-globalization are used in many ways:

The term "globalization" has been appropriated by the powerful to refer to a specific form of international economic integration, one based on investor rights, with the interests of people incidental. That is why the business press, in its more honest moments, refers to the “free trade agreements”. Accordingly, advocates of other forms of globalization are described as “anti-globalization”; and some, unfortunately, even accept this term, though it is a term of propaganda that should be dismissed with ridicule. No support is offered to globalization, that is, international integration. Surely not the left and the workers movements, which were founded on the principle of international solidarity – that is, globalization in a form that attends to the rights of people, not private power systems.

"The dominant propaganda systems have appropriated the term “globalization” to refer to the specific version of international economic integration that they favour, which privileges the rights of investors and lenders, those of people being incidental. In accord with this usage, those who favour a different form of international integration, which privileges the rights of human beings, become “anti-globalists”. This is simply vulgar propaganda, like the term “anti-soviet” used by the most disgusting commissars to refer to dissidents.
CONCLUSION

It is evident that globalization describes the increasing integration of national political economies with that of the rest of the world. It is essentially coalescing of political economies into a global village. The process is defined by major and qualitative changes reflected in the main by a high rate of capital mobility, high rate of shifts in the structure of direct foreign investment, intense economic and technological changes driven particularly by information technology, all of which are creating a 'borderless world' (Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, 1997). The dynamics of contemporary world politics is such that for any people, nation and society to live up to expectations in this rapidly globalizing world, such a people, nation or society must institutionalise strategies for effective processing of the effects of globalization.

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