

# POVERTY, GLOBALIZATION AND JUSTICE– A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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*“Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime.” \_ Aristotle, Greek Philosopher*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Poverty in India is a very burning issue as it is growing daily and the effects of it are very severe. As the income gap between the rich and poor will increase, the society's development will get hampered causing an indirect harm to the economy, thereby its whole country. If the income gap keeps on broadening, the crimes will also increase, as there is no equal distribution of wealth. To aggravate poverty even more, Globalization took place in India in the early 1990's when India liberalized its economy. According to the researcher, there is a deep nexus between poverty and globalization. There are a lot of benefits of globalization, but an adverse effect of increasing poverty, makes this boon more like a curse. Under the guise of development, many agricultural lands, are taken from the farmers as a very low price, and then is sold to big investors for development of the same. Even if a there is consideration given to a farmer, due to lack of knowledge and education, many farmers dip into poverty.

Globalization began after the industrial revolution was in full force during the early nineteenth century. The companies which were restricted to their own nations transgressed its boundaries in the search of new markets for earning more money. The companies realized that if their goods or services are sold worldwide, that would give them an edge over their competitors. Many companies from all over the world started to globalize themselves opening their offices worldwide. As many Asian and African countries were colonies of the western world, they started to manufacture goods in Asia and Africa and sell them to western countries for a greater profit and that's how the main exploitation of the colonies started.

The British raided India during the late eighteenth century which increased the income gap between the countries and led to a massive revolt, eventually leading to overthrowing the Britishers. As the poverty increased in India, crime rate also increased as there was a difference in the society by “have not's “trying to get what the elite class of the society had. Post-independence when India had a lot of resources and now brains to exploit, land reforms were introduced so as to remove the huge income gap created by the British. The Zamindars were at the time of independence had thousands of acres of land which was never utilized to its full extent. Therefore land reforms were the first step to reduce poverty and reduce the economic gap between the societies.

After the Constitution of India, 1950 was enacted, many provisions pertaining to eradicating poverty was mentioned in the constitution. Though its effect remained a question to everyone at that point of time, the constitutional mandate and various Supreme Courts judgments give various right to the people living below the poverty line a ray of hope. Many state governments enacted laws for promotion of people below poverty line by giving reservations and thus enhancing their upliftment in the society. Many such laws were enacted by the Central Government and also amended the Constitution of India for the betterment of the society. One such amendment was the EWS (Economically Weaker Section) which further gave reservations to people with limited financial capacity for an all-round development.

## **STATEMENT OF PROBLEM**

As there has been increase in the globalization, there can be seen increase in poverty as well. The problem identified here is that the globalization and poverty is seemed to have a positive relationship which is to be considered as an ill- effect of globalization. Though globalization in Vietnam help the farmers come out of poverty, it is having a different impact on the other south-east nations<sup>1</sup>. As each country has a different outlook and different policies to deal with globalization, the impact of it is different on each nation. If globalization and poverty have some kind of a positive relationship, can some changes in the current policies, will help the help in curbing poverty while still increasing globalization? For those of us living in the South Asia region poverty is not a new issue. It has been the single largest outcome of two hundred years of colonial rule and therefore the most important issue that our countries have had to address right from the time that each of the countries in theregion gained their independence. As one thinker put it colonization ledto "the development of underdevelopment"<sup>2</sup> in all the colonizedcountries. This resulted in India having to opt for a mixed economyrather than a free and open market.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Arie M. Kacowicz, Globalization and Poverty: Possible Links, Different Explanations, 6 WHITEHEAD J. DIPL. &INT'I REL. 111 (2005).

<sup>2</sup>Bipan Chandra et al, Colonialism, stages of colonialism and the colonial state, JOURN\_AL OF CONTEMPORARY ASIA, Vol. 10, Issue 3, 1980.

<sup>3</sup>V.S. Elizabeth, Distributive Justice - Poverty and Economic Development, 28 PENN St. INT'I L. REV. 463 (2010).

## **RATIONALE BEHIND THE STUDY**

As it is seen by many researchers and academicians that as there is an increase in globalization, there is an increase in development. Therefore many are of the view that they two have a very deep-rooted relationship and the two have to go hand-in-hand. The present paper tries to examine the links and relationship between globalization and poverty, and suggest how justice can be done, in an Indian context specifically. The paper only deals with this issue relating to India and what effects have been there on India and what relationship does poverty and globalization have in India. There is a necessity of this kind of study of relationship between poverty and globalization so as to suggest some remedial counter measures. As India is in its developing phase, this problem can be dealt with or solved before grows so much that is impossible to curb it.

The researcher aims to find the kind of relationship between poverty and globalization and give suggestions for curbing the same.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The present research work is a work based completely on the doctrinal pattern of research. The topic of the research is a field which is relating to Poverty and Globalization and also deals with its issues and challenges for which various drastic steps are being taken by Government of India and also various State Governments. So the research is guided by the information obtained on the basis of various secondary sources like the documentaries, research articles, books etc. though the data consists of most of the information from the secondary sources, the use of various primary sources like International convention and various rules passed by the various State and Central governments are also referred for assistance. The researcher has also made utilization of the credential databases for collection of credible information so as to satisfy the demands of the research.

In the proposed research an analysis will be done on the basis of the statistical data provided by appropriate authority dealing with Poverty and Globalization under the Constitution of India and its mandate so as to understand the loopholes in the existing mechanism.

## **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

The research would be conducted so as to give suggestions for reforms in the various institutions or authorities under the various rules to reduce poverty of the people, increase the awareness about having a healthy, clean way of living. The Research objectives are as follows:

- To study the relation between Poverty and Globalization.
- To study the role of appropriate government to reduce poverty and give social justice.
- To discuss in detail how can poverty reduction policies be implemented effectively.

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

In the light of the of the above research objectives, the following are the broad research questions framed by the researcher. They are as follows:

1. What are the various factor and relations between Poverty and Globalization?
2. What is the role of Central and various State Governments in curbing Poverty?
3. How can Social Justice be granted to people living in poverty?

## **HYPOTHESIS**

There is a relationship between poverty and globalization either positive or negative and whether the Constitution of India, 1950 is granting justice to the people living below poverty line.

## **CHAPERIZATION**

### **Relationship between Poverty and Globalization**

By reducing time and space of social relations, economic globalization transcends territorial state, while not being accountable to elected political officials. The lack of accountability of global economic forces poses a serious political problem, for both states and individuals alike. Technological changes refer to information and communication technologies that have shrunk the globe, shifting from goods to services. Final, cultural changes involve trends

toward a harmonization of taste and standards, epitomized by a universal world culture that transcends the nation and state. Globalization and poverty are terms that garner as much misunderstanding as they do attention. Following the Cold War, the understanding of the established "new world order" generated a tremendous amount of confusion in the rhetorical usage of the term globalization. Globalization is a concept that envelopes a number of interrelated changes manifested through, intensified global correctness. In general, globalization is further defined here as the cognitive recognition of such changes, in which a qualitative shift exists denoting a consolidated marketplace. In fact, globalization is a short form of a cluster of interrelated changes: economic, ideological, technological, political, and cultural.

Poverty involves a series of concepts that are distinct in nature but interrelated nonetheless. It is important to note there is a broad body of literature with detailed and elaborate definitions of poverty. With borrowing from these definitions, this article can only briefly define it. Poverty is the deprivation of goods, needs, and entitlements without which an individual or group cannot survive. Further, poverty can also denote a deficiency in proper living on social and economic terms. In this case, poverty is culturally relative and simply means the extent to which certain conditions are acceptable or deplorable. As such, it is an exercise to distinguish between poverty and inequality.

Economy has the most direct impact on the poverty and globalization which can be seen as a big link between the two facets. Economy is benefitted from the policies of globalization but does it in turn help the poor people is the biggest question to be answered by scholars. To link globalization and poverty it is necessary to set forth the potential causal mechanisms of globalization and its effects on poverty in the world, examining the deteriorating terms of trade in the economic relationship between developed and developing countries.

It is becoming increasingly evident, both in rhetorical terms and in the actual practice of states and international institutions, that there are tangible and substantial links between globalization and poverty. For instance, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) suggests that countries should link their poverty-relief programs not only to their national policies but also to their international economic and financial policies. Thus, in a world of increasing economic integration and globalization, those links can be crucial. For instance, since the global recession in the 1980, it has become evident that there is a direct relationship between external

debt and poverty.<sup>4</sup> At the same time, it remains ambiguous about character and direction of these possible links, ultimately interpreted according to divergent paradigms of international political economy and disparate normative views, such as realist, liberal and radical views. For instance, global economic relations can be beneficial, based on mutual and complex relations and interdependence, regards, international economic relations between developed and developing countries in liberal views and in contrast, where the global economic relations between north and south are asymmetrical and approximately a type of zero-sum relationship, which will result in increased poverty if globalization increases. In liberal views, the forces of globalization will eventually stimulate the economic growth in the developing nations, thus reducing the even eradicating poverty.

All the lessons that will be stated by the researcher will try to establish a link between poverty and globalization in different aspects of economics, social structure etc. They are as follows:

- **Abundance of unskilled labour in poor countries does not necessarily benefit from trade reforms:** It is derived from one of the most famous theorems is Stolper-Samuelson theorem from the Heckscher-Ohlin model in international trade. The theorem suggests that the abundance of labor might see an increase in its real income when the country's economy is opened for trade. The theorem further suggests that if the labour that is available in abundance is unskilled, they have the most to gain from it. Many scholars, academicians have argued that the trade-reforms should be pro-poor as these countries will have a capacity to produce goods in a large scale and at a cheaper price.

Some other scholars like Don Davis and Prachi Mishra<sup>5</sup> have challenged the theorem on the basis that this theorem has a very narrow interpretation and the curve demonstrated by the HO model is faulty as shown by the studies conducted in India and Poland. These scholars argue that, this type of theory suggestion for an increase in liberalization is very dangerous for the third world countries as the wages do not increase even though the economy thrives. This is one of the main reasons why poor people will not benefit from the globalization, for trade reforms. If many assumptions made by the

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<sup>4</sup> UNDP poverty Report, 2000, 10.

<sup>5</sup> Davis D., Mishra P.: Stolper-Samuelson is dead and other crimes of both theory and data, Chicago, IL (2006).

theorem are relaxed, then it might make sense. Trade Reforms usually protect unskilled labour or poor people less. Instead, the globalization works on their shoulders, thus widening the gap between rich and the poor.

- **If the policies are pro-poor, the poor might share the gains of globalization:** if the trade-reforms introduced are pro-poor i.e. the poor citizens should have access to governmental policies and subsidies, the technical know-how, and many other input that will complement their business or skillset, then the poor people will get the gains of globalization. These assumptions are backed by the studies conducted in India<sup>6</sup> and Colombia<sup>7</sup>
- **Growth in export and Foreign Investment can reduce poverty:** It can be seen that due to globalization and development in technology, there is an increase in competition in the market which makes that market, consumers market and thus the prices of all good fall so as to increase their sale. Thus the poor is benefitted from the globalization process as it also brings employment opportunities, but India has also seen cases of exploitation of these poor people by these big or multinational corporations. India has seen many farmers who export various fruits like mango etc. and spices have seen increase in their income levels thus reducing poverty. These exports were increased due to trade reforms made by in India in early 1990's.
- **Poor people suffer the most during Financial instability:**The poor people will have the worst effect due to instability. The recent example in India can be said during the Covid lockdowns, many migrant workers suffered as they has to walk to their home town as there was to place to work during these times. If the financial instability increases in a country, the prices of the goods also increase which the poor people will not be able to afford. These will have the worst effect on these people as there is no income source for these people and the prices of the essentials keep on rising.
- **Difference in approach towards globalization may lead to different outcomes:** The variety of outcomes that may come from globalizations mainly depends on how the globalization was dealt with. Even with two companies, how did each company exported its good, took government subsidies may differ and due to this the effect of globalization

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<sup>6</sup> Goldberg P., Pavcnik H.: Inequality and poverty: What do we do next? Evidence from recent trade liberalization episodes in developing countries, NBER Working Paper No.: 10593.

<sup>7</sup>Topalva P.: Trade liberalization, poverty and inequality. Evidence from Indian Districts, Chicago IL (2006).



changes on case-to-case basis. If some countries have good trade reform policies which are implemented well, the effects of globalization are positive and this will create a negative relationship between poverty and globalization, but if the policies are not drafted well or there is lack of implementation of these policies, the results may be catastrophic.

The arguments made above mostly give establish a negative relationship between poverty and globalization but there are also some bad side effects of globalization which the researcher wants to throw some light on. Some of them are as follows:

- **No capital, no economic gain:** any person to obtain gains from globalization has to invest something and for those who also don't have anything to invest which will lead to zero gains in globalization era. Many poor people work on daily wages and through those daily wages, their only necessities are been fulfilled, and they cannot save any money for investing. Even they are able to save some money, they send it to their homes in their hometowns to their parents etc. Therefore it can be established that mostly the people living in poverty or below the poverty line cannot get any benefit of globalization until and unless there is some investment put forth by these people.
- **Development to be uneven:** mainly due to different outcomes of globalization on any given aspect as different places and at different times, there is no fixed outcome which will help to reap gains. There might be situations where there is a huge loss to the individual which might be sustained by him alone and no benefits reach to him by the governments or local authorities. These uneven development, are also caused by lack of knowledge or lack of access to knowledge which might have led to the loss occurred. This uneven development also causes an increase in the difference between the rich and the poor which in turn will increase many problem for the concerned nation.
- **Exploitation by developed countries:** There is one more aspect to the side effects of globalization. They are that many companies established in foreign countries and because of that they have a huge capital to invest and due to this they obtain a lot of power to exploit the poor people by denying them basic minimum wages, sanitary

work places, etc. many companies bribe the high officials of the policy making to tilt the policies in their favour which will lead to further exploitation of the poor people.

- **Reduction in small scale businesses:** As these companies have large pool of resources, they naturally gain the power to exploit poor people who start small scale business. These foreign companies have an established client base by through advertising and marketing strategies, which the small scale business lack and therefore there is a very less business on small scale industries. This in return does a lot of benefit for the globalization to flourish in third world countries.

As the above stated arguments established a positive relationship between poverty and globalization, there is one more aspect to the link between the poverty and globalization. Therefore it can be said that there is no link between poverty and globalization. It is as follows:

- **NO link between poverty and globalization:** In the third view which can be said to be a realistic view, there cannot be seen any clear or established links between poverty and globalization. Many problems that are said to be caused by globalization have many other important factors which change its due course, which are not part and parcel of the problems. If we take a minimalistic view of globalization, it can be concluded that globalization and poverty does not have positive relationship, nor do they have a negative relationship.

## **Justice to the people living below poverty line**

As the people living below poverty line do not have access to the judiciary very easily, the Supreme Court of India have passed various judgments in favour of these poor people restoring the faith of justice in the Indian judiciary. The provisions of the Constitution of India, 1950 are interpreted liberally by the Supreme Court to give justice to many poor people suffering from various problems throughout the country. Some of them will be discussed and also the provisions of the Constitution of India which helped poor people get justice.

Firstly, if want to talk about justice we should know what is justice, how can it be gained in these contemporary times. Meaning of justice keeps on changing from place to place, time to time and even from person to person. At any given situation, different people will have a

different opinion about justice, at different times the same person will have a different perspective of justice. Justice is keeps on changing its paradigm.

Arguments about the social consequences of globalization cannot be reduced to a simple dichotomy in which globalization is viewed either as having disastrous consequences of otherwise as bringing untold benefits. The issues are far more complex. While employment opportunities and incomes have indeed increased for many people in low income countries that have adopted export led industrialization strategies, improvements in incomes and standards of living have come at a cost for many of these countries. Rapid urbanization, congestion, heightened inequalities, the decline of traditional values, emotional stress and other negative manifestations of prosperity now characterize many newly industrializing developing countries. On the other hand, rapid advances in communication technologies and more the frequent exchanges between people of different cultures through these technologies and travel have produced results that cosmopolitans view as highly desirable. As these examples suggest, a proper analysis of the impact of globalization requires a nuanced understanding of the complexities and paradoxes of the globalization process. Globalization has also fostered the diffusion of Western cultural beliefs and practices to other parts of the world which many traditionalists abhor. This has resulted in the resurgence of fundamentalist religious and cultural movements that have in some cases used violence to resist the spread of secularism, individualism and consumerism.

However the researcher has limited its scope of the paper within India so mostly Indian stand on globalization and its initiatives to curb poverty has been dealt with in this paper. The important legal provisions under the Constitution of India, 1950 concerning poverty can be seen in the Preamble of the Constitution, Fundamental Rights contained in part III of the constitution of India and Directive Principles of State Policy contained in part IV. The relevant provisions are as follows:

- JUSTICE, social, economic and political; ... " are included. Therefore the makers of our Constitution had in mind to not only give social and political justice but also economic justice.
- "EQUALITY of status and opportunity." are also included. The Constitution aims to grant equality also for the under privileged to bring a balance in the society.

- Article 38<sup>8</sup>
- Article 43<sup>9</sup>
- Article 47<sup>10</sup>
- Article 21<sup>11</sup>

These were the various provision envisaged in the Constitution of India which safeguard the people or citizens of India which are living below the poverty line. The percentage of population below the poverty line in India in 1993-94 was 36%.<sup>6</sup> It is said that in 2003-04 it had declined to around 8%.<sup>7</sup><sup>12</sup>. This last claim has been much disputed by various nongovernmental organizations and others. When this is converted into actual numbers, it is arguably one-third of the total Indian population, or over three hundred million people, who are estimated to be living in poverty.<sup>13</sup> India, thus, since its independence has had to deal with the issue of poverty-the needs and interests of these millions of Indian citizens had necessarily to be addressed.

After the Constitution of India was enacted, many judgements are given the Supreme court of India in their Judicial activism to aid the people of India in many ways.

The Supreme Court of India in “Hussanara Khatoun v. State of Bihar<sup>14</sup>” first time held that the principle of locus standi should be liberalized for the public spirited person to avail judicial right for the marginally low income group people. In this case, a writ petition filed by an advocate was

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<sup>8</sup>**Article 38: State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people**

(1) The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life

(2) The State shall, in particular, strive to minimize the inequalities in income, and endeavor to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations

<sup>9</sup>**Article 43 :Living wage, etc, for workers** The State shall endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas

<sup>10</sup>**Article 47:** Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health

<sup>11</sup>**Article 21. Protection of life and personal liberty:** No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law

<sup>12</sup>Data are taken from the website of the Indian Ministry of Finance.<http://indiabudget.nic.in>

<sup>13</sup>Census of India, 2001, <http://www.censusindia.gov.in>

<sup>14</sup>1979 AIR 1369

entertained by the court on the basis that public interest was involved in the matter. Hence laying down the foundation of PIL justice system.

The Supreme Court of India In *Chandra Bhavan v. State of Mysore*<sup>15</sup>, went on to say that,

*"The fixing of minimum wage is just the first step in that direction. Freedom of trade does not mean freedom to exploit. The provisions of the Constitution are not erected as barriers to progress. They provide a plan for orderly progress towards the social order contemplated by the preamble to the Constitution." "While rights conferred under Part III are fundamental, the directives given under Part IV are fundamental in the governance of the country. We see no conflict on the whole, between the provisions contained in Part III and Part IV. They are complimentary and supplementary to each other."*

The Supreme Court of India in *State of Kerala v. N.M Thomas*, the respondent<sup>16</sup> the court upheld the appeal, the Court observed,

*"Today, the political theory which acknowledges the obligation of government under Part IV of the Constitution to provide jobs, medical care, old age pension, etc., extends to human rights and imposes an affirmative obligation to promote equality and liberty. The force of the idea of a state with obligation to help the weaker sections of its members seems to have increasing influence in Constitutional law.... Today, the sense that government has affirmative responsibility for elimination of inequalities, social, economic or otherwise, is one of the dominant forces in Constitutional law." Another judge of the same bench observed, "In view of the principles adumbrated by this Court it is clear that the directive principles form the fundamental feature and the social conscience of the Constitution and the Constitution enjoins upon the State to implement these directive principles. The directives thus provide the policy, the guidelines and the end of socio-economic freedom and Articles 14 and 16 are the means to implement the policy to achieve the ends sought to be promoted by the directive principles. So far as the Courts are concerned where there is no apparent inconsistency between the directive principles contained in Part IV and the fundamental rights mentioned in Part III, which in fact supplement each other, there is no difficulty in putting a harmonious construction which advances the object of the Constitution. Once this basic fact is kept in mind, the interpretation of Articles 14 and 16 and*

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<sup>15</sup>1970 AIR 2042

<sup>16</sup>1976 AIR 490

*their scope and ambit become as clear as day." In this case it was Article 46 of the Constitution that guided the basis on which the rules for promotion of the SC and ST communities had been framed."*

The Supreme Court in "Bandhua Mukti Morcha vs. Union of India<sup>17</sup>" while criticizing bonded and forced labour of poor people said that,

*"The State Government's protest with regards to the viability of the writ request under Article 32 of the Constitution by the solicitors is indefensible. On the off chance that any of the resident brings under the steady gaze of the Court an objection that countless laborers or laborers are reinforced serfs or are being oppressed to exploitation by a couple of mine renters or temporary workers or managers or are being precluded the advantages from claiming social welfare laws, the State Government, which is, under our protected plan, accused of the strategic achieving another financial request where there will be social and monetary equity for everybody correspondence of status and open door for all, would respect a request by the court, so that in the event that it is discovered that there are in truth fortified workers or regardless of whether the laborers are not reinforced in the severe feeling of the term as characterized in the Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act 1976 yet they are made to give forced labor or are relegated to an existence of absolute hardship and corruption, such a circumstance can be fixed by the State Government. Regardless of whether the State Government is on its own inquiry fulfilled that the laborers are not reinforced and are not constrained to give constrained work and are living and working in better than average conditions with all the essential necessities of life gave to them, the State Government ought not to shy away from a request by the court when a protest is brought by a resident, yet it ought to be on edge to fulfill the court and through the court, the individuals of the nation, that it is releasing its established commitment decently and enough and the laborers are being guaranteed social and financial equity."*

Thereby, the provisions under the Indian Constitution and the cases in which the Supreme Court has criticized and even put a stop to forced labour has been discussed.

## **CONCLUSION:**

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Thus by the above stated arguments, it can be said that there are various various in which poverty is affected by globalization as there are a number of other factors in place. Globalization can affect each country in a different way depending upon their policies and their implementation. Globalization in the form of increased integration through trade and investment is an important reason why much progress has been made in reducing poverty and global inequality over recent decades. But it is not the only reason for this often unrecognized progress, national policies, sound institutions and political stability matters. Though globalization has many advantages but it carries many fears in the current scenario. The first major concern is that globalization leads to a more unequal distribution of income among countries and within countries. The second fear is that globalization leads to loss of national sovereignty and those countries are finding it increasingly difficult to follow independent domestic policies. These issues have to be addressed theoretically and empirically. Globalization has an economic as well as a moral aspect.

Further, it is argued that globalization has at least two implications that are important for a discussion about justice. First, globalization implies that there are new powerful actors besides nations on the global scene. These actors often elude political control and accountability. Secondly, globalization implies global interdependence, which challenges the “methodological territorialism” of many theories of justice. Although not comparable to the highest point reached by political mobilization for global justice around the turn of the century, with large citizen protests and alternative summits, an important aspect that should be retained is that organizations of civil society committed to global justice do much more than talking about it. Visibly, their interest in well-articulated narratives is a function of political mobilization. Some of their actions have been successful, like the campaign for debt cancellation, but the fact is that global justice has not attained widespread use in ordinary discourse. Inequality problems raise a host of issues that have long been studied by a variety of disciplines, and addressed through a range of institutions, laws and policy strategies at local, international and now “global” levels. One common denominator has been that institutions matter, both global institution (for their own policy efforts and for their impact on national policy efforts) and domestic institutions themselves. We are in danger of reaching levels of inequality not seen since before World War II, with serious consequences for all levels of society. Addressing inequality effectively today means a new understanding of how our efforts to work through global and domestic institutions,

and in particular international economic law, are part of an integrated and comprehensive approach to promoting opportunity and fairness in a global market society.

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