

**International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy 2010**

# **Culture, Globalization, and International Relations.**

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As more nations, people, and cultures adapt to the ever changing international community, diplomats, politicians, and representatives must meet and deal with accordingly to the needs and wants of nations. Diplomacy can be exerted in many forms; through peace talks, written constitutions, field experiences, etc. Culture is a familiar term and remains unchanged by definition. However, globalization and international relations have constantly altered culture both positively and negatively. Globalization increases worldwide technology, and the readability of fast, effective communication and consumption of popular products. Globalization links cultures and international relations on a variety of levels; economics, politically, socially, etc. International relations have used globalization to reach its goal: of understanding cultures. International relations focus on how countries, people and organizations interact and globalization is making a profound effect on International relations. Understanding culture, globalization, and international relations is critical for the future of not only governments, people, and businesses, but for the survival of the human race.

Culture is considered the full range of learned human behavior patterns (Human Culture). Over time, cultures have clashed and created better, stable cultures. Cultures are always adapting to the situations and issues it is presented with. Through various levels, culture can take on different meanings and contexts in areas such as biology, arts, mathematics, etc. Cultures always adapt to the better, thriving culture. When dealing with globalization, understanding cultures is becoming easier, but in some instances, is threatened by the popularity of existing cultures. Languages, foods, arts, and ethics are being passed from one culture to another, making indigenous cultures extinct. International relations have to remain current, up to date with the culture of its home country. That's what makes international relations constantly struggling for peace; the demands and needs of culture change. Long standing traditions and customs are becoming discredited and new customs are enforced. Even though globalization makes diplomacy easier, the problems and issues of the world still exist and remain unsolved.

Globalization is defined as a process of increasing the connectivity and interdependence of the world's markets and businesses (Investor Words), however, many people and governments interpret globalization differently. Depending on the status of a country or nation, globalization can have a positive or negative effect on the international relations and the host culture. Highly developed countries such as the United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, and France, just to name a few, have experienced an overall satisfaction of globalization. Internet, telecommunications, a variety of products and services, has contributed to stable economies, governments, and households. Easy, fast, effective communications make it easier for people to travel, communicate, and do business on an international scale. Negatively, globalization has demonstrated that certain people, governments, and nations are exploited for resources (usually by the highly developed countries) and experience competitive pressure with other nations or people. It clearly is a double-edge sword; one side benefits, one side suffers. Culturally, globalization may connect some cultures or people, but it often pressures or ignores culture boundaries. For instance, the “English” or “western” culture beliefs and lifestyle is being forced on to many different parts of the world, and shows little or no acknowledgement of less common, sometimes rare cultures. Smaller cultures share a “differential knowledge” than the Western world in many areas (Culture Relations). Globalization draws attention to the economic and technological aspects of life, and the change of culture or identity (Associated Content). Globalization emphasizes capitalism and corporations, rather than small businesses and socialistic (or according to western cultures, communism) ideals. Globalization favors the rich, powerful, and influential while ignoring the needs and demands of whom the successful depend. It is a balance between the developed and the poor, and does not create equality or harmony for all.

International Relations are concerned with the study foreign affairs and relations of countries (The Free dictionary). It has many different complexes such as economic, social, and cultural relations and all are crucial in diplomacy. Diplomats and representatives aim to preserve national communities and heritage in various ways, from issuing passports to drafting peace talks. Globalization has demonstrated the importance of interdependent governments and economies. Alliances such as the

European Union, NAFTA, WTO, etc have made international relations stronger and powerful. Even though globalization has benefited strong countries and cultures, it can make it difficult for other nations and countries to compete globally. Foreign policy is becoming more aware of how globalization affects its government and people. Diplomats still compromise and support their home countries views and actions, and aim to find a cultural “medium”. Overall, diplomacy seems to have benefited from globalization, in terms of communication and accessibility. Culturally, diplomats have always represented their governments and their people, and this makes for a stronger, international community.

Culture, Globalization, and International relations are becoming increasingly interdependent of each other; mastering all three enables a country or people to be powerful and influential. While rare cultures are becoming increasingly diminished, certain cultures and traditions are being preserved. The popular cultures are used to benefit the majority and create solutions to various issues. Globalization has been desired by many, but has benefited very few. A nations’ resources (whether its people or raw materials) become the key to its future and survival of its “culture”. International relations depend on what a country has to offer and continue the constant struggle for harmony and prosperity. Our conference faces many challenges of the century; all of the three topics are critical for diplomacy. With various knowledge and ideals from every corner of this earth, we can collaborate and make informed, consented decisions to ensure harmony and equality for all.

## Works Cited

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