SOME FEATURES OF GLOBALIZATION, YOUTH EDUCATION, AND THE FORMATION OF IDEOLOGICAL IMMUNITY

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Abstract: This article examines globalization, highlighting both its positive and negative aspects. It analyzes the challenges emerging as a result of globalization and the rapid spread of processes affecting the economic, socio-political, cultural, and ecological dimensions of nations and societies. Particular attention is given to threats posed to national identity and spiritual values, including a diminishing sense of responsibility towards work and family, and the deliberate promotion of consumerist attitudes, especially among young people. Furthermore, the article addresses the growing dangers of terrorism, extremism, transnational and cybercrime, human trafficking, and drug trafficking, offering insights into possible preventive measures.

Keywords: globalization, characteristics of globalization, positive and negative aspects of globalization, socio-political problems, youth upbringing, national values, national identity, youth problems, family problems, terrorism, extremism, human trafficking, spirituality, resilience.

Globalization is a process of universalization that involves the formation of structures, connections, and relationships that are common across the entire planet in various spheres of social life. It is also characterized by the interconnectedness of global space, the emergence of a unified world economy, shared ecological interdependence, global communications, and similar phenomena.

The global challenges of the modern era constitute a dynamic, unified, and open system that constantly evolves over time. New problems of universal significance may emerge within this system, while previous issues may fade away depending on how they are addressed. Aurelio Peccei, the founder and first president of the Club of Rome, highlighted this phenomenon by noting that most of the challenges facing humanity "have become tightly intertwined, like the tentacles of a giant octopus encircling the entire planet... the number of unresolved problems is increasing, they are growing more complex, their interconnections are becoming more entangled, and their 'grip' on our planet is tightening ever more."[1]

Globalization is rapidly encompassing processes related to the economic, socio-political, cultural, and ecological spheres of states and societies, imparting new characteristics and qualities to the relationships among them within the broader context of civilizational development.

At the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st centuries, the intensification and deepening of integration in economic, socio-political, cultural, and international relations among all nations and peoples have gained increasing importance. This includes the emergence of conditions for the free movement of capital, goods, and labor; the accelerated dissemination of scientific and technological advancements; the convergence of national and universal values; and the evolution of international and interstate relations to a new stage of development.

Today, the interaction and mutual influence among countries around the world are steadily increasing, making it virtually impossible to remain outside the process of globalization.

However, the impact of globalization on the socio-economic life of different countries varies considerably. Its influence is shaped by the socio-economic, political, cultural, and spiritual contexts of specific nations and peoples, as well as by the functioning of their information and communication systems. It is essential to develop a deep understanding of the positive and negative effects and the underlying nature of globalization processes occurring within the global community. Studying their specific manifestations and drawing appropriate conclusions is crucial for navigating their implications effectively. In this regard, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, emphasized: "...Globalization offers vast opportunities for humanity; however, like a coin with two sides, it also has its negative aspects. It is evident to all of us that the world today is dominated by fierce competition and confrontation. Conflicts of interest are intensifying across the globe. Alongside unprecedented opportunities, the processes of globalization are also giving rise to unforeseen challenges. Threats and dangers to national identity and spiritual values are growing stronger. Vices such as selfishness, indifference toward life, work, and family, and a herd mentality are being subtly and skillfully instilled in people's consciousness—especially among the youth, who are often not yet able to clearly distinguish right from wrong."

These words accurately reflect the true nature of the problem." [2]
The positive and negative impacts of globalization on the economic, social, political, cultural, and spiritual life of countries are reflected in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of India's independence: "I cannot always firmly lock the gates and doors of my house, because fresh air must enter my house. At the same time, I don't want a storm coming through my open doors and windows to turn my house upside down and throw me down."

The potential positive and negative effects of globalization on the economic, social, political, cultural, and spiritual life of nations are well illustrated by the words of Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of India's independence movement: "I do not want to shut the doors and windows of my house and sit inside in fear. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any."

The processes of globalization, on the one hand, strengthen the rapprochement and economic integration between countries and peoples, contribute to their development and economic prosperity, accelerate socio-political processes, and facilitate the mutual exchange of achievements in modern technology, science, and culture.
On the other hand, it is important to recognize that globalization also carries the risk of promoting the lifestyle of the developed and economically powerful Western world—a lifestyle that may be spiritually and morally deficient—and spreading ideologies that serve one-sided interests.
In this context, on January 19, 2021, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a videoconference was held to address the radical improvement of the spiritual and educational system and to strengthen collaboration between governmental and public organizations in this field.
At the meeting, it was emphasized that "the processes of globalization, while offering humanity unprecedented new opportunities, are also giving rise to unforeseen challenges. Threats and risks to national identity and spiritual values are steadily increasing.
Attitudes of selfishness, indifference toward work and family, and a consumerist mindset are being subtly and skillfully implanted in the minds of people—particularly the youth—through various channels.
The dangers posed by terrorism, extremism, transnational and cybercrime, human trafficking, and drug trafficking are growing. In some regions, instability is being deliberately fomented, and sentiments of dissatisfaction are being fueled.
In the face of such alarming developments, it is crucial to remain vigilant and aware, and to live with a deep sense of responsibility for the peace of our people and the interests of our nation." [3]

In the present era, the processes of globalization are steadily expanding to new territories, countries, and regions, affecting their policies and all spheres of human activity. Some developed industrial nations, through instruments of information dissemination and ideological influence, are systematically attempting to embed negative aspects intrinsic to their own culture, ideology, and social behavior into the lives, lifestyles, worldviews, and consciousness of other peoples—particularly the youth.

Such trends pose a serious threat to the national identity, cultural values, traditions, and spiritual foundations of nations that have only recently gained independence and embarked on a path of sovereign development. The cultural and ideological pressure exerted in this way can lead to the erosion of the moral and spiritual integrity of their younger generations.

As a result of globalization, it has become increasingly evident that certain political and ideological centers are deliberately exploiting emerging opportunities to promote spiritual alienation, distort a nation's history, religion, centuries-old values, national mindset, and traditional way of life. These efforts pose serious threats to moral integrity, family institutions, and ultimately the stability of society. Such dangers are, in essence, direct threats to national spirituality. In due time, the President of Uzbekistan addressed recent events and the emerging threats to peace and stability. Against the backdrop of current challenges, the Head of State clearly articulated the vital importance of nurturing spirituality, strengthening patriotism, and maintaining vigilance in the face of growing risks.

"We are all witnessing that the powerful global centers, which previously protected their interests and objectives primarily through diplomacy and political means, have now openly resorted to exerting pressure, fueling confrontations, and provoking conflicts. Unfortunately, the influence of such large-scale and deeply contradictory developments has not bypassed the Central Asian region, including our country, which is an integral part of it. In such an extremely complex and perilous context, identifying the right course of action that aligns with Uzbekistan's national interests is undoubtedly a highly challenging task." [4] — the President emphasized.

A spiritual threat, by undermining the ideological immunity of the population—particularly the youth—is essentially directed at violating human freedom, subjecting individuals to ideological dependency, and destabilizing their inner and moral world. Under the guise of grandiose slogans such as "promoting freedom and democracy," it strikes at the roots of religious and national values, aims to capture the hearts and minds of the younger generation, and implants destructive ideas into their worldview. Ultimately, such threats endanger national security and interests, pushing society toward a state of crisis. A nation that is spiritually weakened and whose ideological immunity has been compromised—especially its most dynamic segment, the youth—becomes defenseless even in the face of the most basic dangers and threats. In the era of globalization, various forces seeking to pursue their own objectives and interests skillfully exploit seemingly harmless tools portrayed as "modern, fascinating, alluring, and appealing." These include the Internet, mobile phones, radio, television, and mass media content that depict attractive imagery and scenes—such as beauty, romantic and often morally questionable love stories, the pursuit of wealth, and displays of strength and dominance. These means are deliberately utilized as effective instruments to penetrate the minds and hearts of the younger generation, shaping their worldview, diverting them from the right path, and ultimately manipulating them to serve insidious and self-serving agendas.

The negative impact of globalization on human spirituality and the moral upbringing of youth is evident in several key aspects:

Firstly, the rapid development of mass media — including the Internet, mobile phones, television, and radio communications — has facilitated the widespread dissemination of diverse, and often foreign, information into societies.

Secondly, exposure to such media has led some young individuals to become increasingly detached from their national and historical values, making them more susceptible to the influence of various Western social vices.

Thirdly, the growing dominance of different manifestations of so-called "mass culture" among youth has significantly influenced their attitudes toward national traditions and cultural heritage, often fostering indifference or even rejection.

Fourthly, there is a noticeable superficiality in the aesthetic and emotional expression of some young people, as reflected in their clothing styles, personal interests, leisure habits, hairstyles, tattoos, and similar trends.

Fifthly, the internalization of alien cultural values by some young people is reflected in the growing prevalence of Western individualism, egocentrism, nihilism, indecency, shamelessness, violence, and a disregard for social interests.

Sixthly, there is a noticeable tendency among youth to imitate and blindly follow foreign ideals without critical reflection.

Seventhly, moral and spiritual behavioral norms that are widespread in Western societies are increasingly influencing the minds of young people through various films, fashion trends, and advertisements.

Eighthly, there is a rising tendency among young people to spend more time on computer games rather than engaging in intellectually enriching activities such as reading books.

"In the Western world, values such as personal freedom, individual rights, and the liberty to express oneself are regarded as priorities. In contrast, Eastern culture places greater emphasis on collective interests, the honor and sanctity of the family, social traditions and order, and respect for elders. These fundamental differences in perceptions of the individual and society are at the root of inter-civilizational tensions, which are expected to deepen in the coming years. Within the framework of globalization, intercultural integration must primarily be founded on spiritual, moral, and educational principles, and built upon universal human values." [5]

According to a strategist, military historian, and professor at the University of Jerusalem, the nature of conflicts has undergone significant changes by the 21st century. While inter-state armed confrontations have declined globally, internal conflicts related to people's spirituality, culture, and ideology have sharply increased [6]. Therefore, it is no coincidence that addressing and preventing the aforementioned challenges has become one of the most urgent issues of our time. In today's complex and dynamic environment, there is a pressing need to intensify efforts aimed at protecting the younger generation from the adverse effects of globalization on their upbringing. To achieve this:

a) Achieving harmony between national and universal values by strengthening efforts to promote respect for parents, preserve the sanctity of the family, and cultivate virtues such as duty, mutual compassion, chastity, honor, modesty, and conscience.

b) Effectively utilizing global best practices in shaping youth consciousness, fostering respect for other nations, and promoting appreciation and recognition of their culture and national values.

c) Adopting a systematic approach in organizing and conducting spiritual, educational, and upbringing activities, including the development and implementation of a coordinated action plan involving all relevant stakeholders.

d) Taking into account the interests and preferences of young people in spiritual and educational

activities, avoiding coercive and forceful methods, and addressing the areas of life, work, and social engagement that are relevant to their lives.

d) Ensuring the effective dissemination in the mass media of materials, broadcasts, and programs that reflect national, historical, and religious values.

e) Publishing explanatory content that objectively analyzes the intent, purpose, and underlying messages of materials presented in foreign mass media, while increasing attention to exposing their hidden agendas through discussions, interviews, and public lectures.

f) Integrating education, upbringing, customs, traditions, and cultural values into the worldview of young people in harmony with universal human values, with the aim of fostering their national and scientific intellectual potential.

z) Carrying out well-targeted initiatives aimed at enhancing the political, legal, moral, and aesthetic culture of youth, fostering their ability to prioritize the interests of society and the state above personal interests, and promoting a deep understanding of civic and human responsibilities.

i) Organizing and implementing consistent spiritual and educational efforts aimed at developing ideological immunity among young people, further improving the promotion of the national idea, and ensuring its practical effectiveness.

In general, it should be emphasized that spiritual and educational efforts, as well as the process of education and upbringing, focus on activities that capture the attention of young people and foster a sense of national pride. Special attention is given to highlighting the achievements of Uzbekistan in the socio-economic, political, cultural, and spiritual spheres during the years of independence—achievements that have been recognized by the international community. Efforts are also directed toward the physical and moral development of youth, including the reform of the education system, the creation of favorable conditions for young people, the promotion of physical education and sports, and the nurturing of well-rounded individuals. These efforts aim to develop their talents and abilities, and to instill in them loyalty to the homeland and a sense of devotion to their people as noble virtues.

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