



## **Glossary: Global Interactions**

**Accessibility** a measure of the ease with which an individual can reach features in the wider environment; the degree to which a location is accessible to as many people as possible.

**Agro-industrialisation** the form of modern farming that refers to the industrialised production of livestock, poultry, fish and crops. It is typically large scale and capital intensive.

**Airline hub** an airport that an airline uses as a transfer point to get passengers to their intended destinations.

**Anti-capitalism** a broad term which can cover any challenge to capitalism as the best or only way to organise the world. It was given media prominence during the 1999 WTO summit in Seattle where a wide range of organisations protested against the workings of the international economic system.

**Anti-globalisation movements** organisations and other groupings of people calling for reform of the global economic system to make it more equitable and democratic.

**Assimilation** the process of becoming integrated into mainstream society.

**Back office industry** offices of a company handling high-volume communications by telephone, electronic transaction or letter. Such low- to medium-level functions are relatively footloose and have been increasingly decentralised to locations where space, labour and other costs are relatively low.

**Bilingual country** a country in which two languages are commonly spoken.

**Brand** a distinguishing name and/or symbol intended to identify a product or producer.

**Brand identity** image and values associated with a brand.

**Brand image** the totality of consumer perceptions about the brand.

**Bulk cargo** a commodity that is transported unpackaged in large quantities.



**Capitalism** the social and economic system that relies on the market mechanism to distribute the factors of production (land, labour and capital) in the most efficient way.

**Central business district (CBD)** the major commercial centre of an urban area, usually centrally located at the point of maximum accessibility.

**Chokepoint** a point at which traffic or other movement can easily become blocked.

**Communications systems** the ways in which information is transmitted from place to place in the form of ideas, instructions and images.

**Consumer culture** the equation of personal happiness with consumption and the purchase of material possessions.

**Core–periphery** the concept of a developed core surrounded by an undeveloped periphery. The concept can be applied at various scales.

**Corporate social responsibility** a concept whereby organisations take responsibility for their impact on society and the environment.

**Counterurbanisation** the process of population decentralisation as people move from large urban areas to smaller urban settlements and rural areas.

**Cultural commodification** when the objects, ideas and traits of a culture become part of the capitalist system of exchange and are bought and sold.

**Cultural diffusion** the process of the spreading of cultural traits from one place to another.

**Cultural hearth** an area that is or has been a rich source of cultural traits.

**Cultural hybridity** the extent to which cultures are intermixed.

**Cultural imperialism** the practice of promoting the culture or language of one nation in another. It is usually the case that the former is a large, powerful nation and the latter is a smaller, less affluent one.

**Cultural or creative industries** industries that involve the spreading or creating of culture.

**Cultural traits** individual components of a cultural complex which may be divided into three categories: sociological, ideological and technological.



**Culture** the total of the inherited ideas, beliefs, values and knowledge which constitute the shared basis of social action.

**Customs** the established patterns of behaviour that are commonplace within a particular country, region or social setting.

**Cyberspace** the virtual shared universe of the world's computer networks; it has come to describe the global information space.

**Cycle of urbanisation** the stages of urban change from the growth of a city to counterurbanisation through to reurbanisation.

**Debt** money owed by a country to another country, to private creditors (e.g. commercial banks) or to international agencies such as the World Bank or IMF.

**Deindustrialisation** the long-term absolute decline of employment in manufacturing.

**Deregulation** the lifting of government controls over an industry, which usually results in greater competition and lower prices for consumers.

**Diaspora** the scattering of a culture from its homeland.

**Diffusion** the spread of a phenomenon over time and space.

**Digital divide** refers to the gap between people with effective access to digital and information technology and those with very limited access to it, or none at all.

**Distance decay** the reduction in the amount of movement or spatial interaction between two places the greater the distance they are apart.

**Economic core** the global economic core consists of the most advanced countries in the world, which exhibit very high levels of investment in infrastructure and other economic and social activities. The populations of these countries enjoy the highest living standards in the world.



**Economic periphery** the global economic periphery is made up of countries with a much lower level of infrastructure and economic activity than the core. Per capita incomes in these countries are considerably lower than in the core countries.

**Economies of scale** the reduction in unit cost as the scale of an operation increases.

**Emerging markets** developing countries that are experiencing the fastest rate of growth in the global economy.

**Energy pathways** supply routes between energy producers and consumers; they may be pipelines, shipping routes or electricity cables.

**Equity** the state, quality or ideal of being just, impartial and fair.

**Ethnicity** the identification of individuals within particular ethnic groups.

**Ethnographic** an ethnography is a type of case study that focuses upon the cultural patterns that develop within a group.

**Externality** the side-effects, positive and negative, of an economic activity that are experienced beyond its site.

**Externality field** the geographical area within which externalities are experienced.

**Fair trade** a movement that aims to create direct long-term trading links with producers in developing countries and ensure they receive a guaranteed price for their product on favourable financial terms.

**Food miles** the distance food travels from the farm where it is produced to the plate of the final consumer.

**Foreign direct investment (FDI)** overseas investments in physical capital by transnational corporations.

**Franchises** businesses that are based upon the name, logos and trading methods of an existing organisation.



**Free trade** a hypothetical situation whereby producers have free and unhindered access to markets everywhere.

**Friction of distance** as the distance from a place increases, the interactions with that place decrease, usually because the time and costs involved increase with distance.

**Generic drug** a drug that is exactly the same as a brand-name drug and which may be manufactured and marketed after the brand-name drug's patent expires.

**Global city** a global city is one that is judged to be an important nodal point in the global economic system.

**Global civil society** all movements, associations or individual citizens, independent from the state, whose aim is to transform policies, standards or social structures through communal efforts at a national or international level.

**Global shift** the large-scale filter-down of economic activity from developed countries to NICs and developing countries.

**Globalisation** the growing interdependence of countries worldwide through the increasing volume and variety of cross-border transactions in goods and services and of international capital flows, and through the more rapid and widespread diffusion of technology.

**Glocalisation** where the global and the local interact to produce hybridised outcomes.

**Gradient of homogenisation** the thesis that homogenisation is at its most intense at the core of an urban area and declines towards the periphery.

**Green data centres** data centres that are much more efficient at cooling computers compared with traditional data centres.

**Green Revolution** the introduction of high-yielding seeds and modern agricultural techniques in developing countries.



**Guest worker** a foreigner who is permitted to work in a country on a temporary basis, for example a farm labourer.

**Halal** an Arabic term that can be applied to any item or action that is acceptable to use or participate in; usually used in relation to food preparation (especially of meat).

**Homogeneity** a situation in which there is a lack of variation.

**Homogenisation of landscapes** the process whereby different landscapes in a country increasingly resemble those found in other countries because similar processes of change are at work.

**Immigration** the migration of people into a country from other countries.

**Immobility of labour** the effect of barriers to the movement of workers between jobs and geographical regions.

**Incidental pollution** a one-off pollution incident.

**Indigenous people** any ethnic group that inhabits a geographical region with which they have the earliest known historical connection.

**Infant mortality rate** the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1000 live births.

**Integrationist communities** communities where a variety of ethnic groups intermix spatially and socially.

**Intermodal transportation** transporting freight by using two or more transportation modes. This is made possible by transportation terminals linking different modes of transport.

**Internationalisation** the extension of economic activities across national boundaries. It is essentially a quantitative process which leads to a more extensive geographical pattern of economic activity. It is the phase preceding globalisation.

**Internet** a global system of interconnected computer networks.



**Internet penetration rate** the percentage of the population in a country or world region with access to the Internet.

**Intervening obstacles** the difficulties encountered by a migrant or potential migrant in the movement from origin to destination.

**Investment** expenditure on a project in the expectation of financial (or social) returns.

**Isomorphism** a scientific term which means replication of the same form yet separated from the main source.

**Kuznets curve** a graph with measures of increased economic development on the horizontal axis, and measures of income inequality on the vertical axis. Hypothesised by Kuznets in 1955, it has an inverted U-shape. The environmental Kuznets curve shows the rate of environmental degradation on the vertical axis.

**Labour migration** migration from one country to another when the primary purpose is to seek employment.

**Life cycle (of food)** aggregate of emissions, waste and the resource use from soil to kitchen per unit of different food items.

**Loan** money borrowed that is usually repaid with interest.

**Localisation** confined or restricted to a particular location.

**Logistics** the management of the flow of goods, information and other resources, including energy and people, between the point of origin and the point of consumption in order to meet the requirements of consumers.



**Maquiladoras** assembly plants in Mexico, especially along the border between the USA and Mexico, to which foreign materials and parts are shipped and from which the finished products are returned to the original market.

**Marketing** the commercial processes involved in promoting, selling and distributing a product or service.

**Mass media** a section of the media specifically designed to reach a large audience. The term was coined in the 1920s with the advent of nationwide radio networks, and mass-circulation newspapers and magazines.

**Mass migration** the migration of a large group of people from one geographical area to another.

**Maternal mortality rate** annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes per 100 000 live births.

**Microcredit** tiny loans and financial services to help the poor – mostly women – start businesses and escape poverty.

**Migrant culture** the attitudes and values of a particular society to the process of migration.

**Nation-state** an independent state inhabited by all the people of one nation only.

**New international division of labour (NIDL)** this divides production into different skills and tasks that are spread across regions and countries rather than within a single country.

**Newly industrialised countries (NICs)** nations that have undergone rapid and successful industrialisation since the 1960s.

**North–South divide** the simple division set out in 1980 between developed countries (mainly in the North) and developing countries (mainly in the South).

**Official development assistance (ODA)** aid given by governments and other agencies to support the economic, social and political development of developing countries.





**Official language** the language of a country, region or institution that is embedded in law.

**Organic farming** the process of producing food naturally, avoiding the use of synthetic chemical fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides and genetically modified organisms to influence the growth of crops.

**Outsourcing** the concept of taking internal company functions and paying an outside firm to handle them.

**Outsourcing city clusters** the spread of outsourcing from the main city in a region to neighbouring urban areas linked by high-level transport and communications systems.

**Pedestrianised precincts** urban areas where vehicles are totally banned or very strictly controlled to allow total access to people on foot.

**Planning regulations** the conditions that govern existing and new building.

**Pollution** contamination of the environment. It can take many forms – air, water, soil, noise, visual and others.

**Primary product dependent** countries that depend on one or a small number of raw materials for the majority of their export earnings.

**Privatisation** the transfer of businesses from the state to the private sector.

**Product life cycle** the pattern of sales in the life of a product usually divided into four stages: early, growth, maturity and decline.

**Profit repatriation** returning foreign-earned profits or financial assets back to the company's home country.

**Protectionism** the institution of policies (tariffs, quotas, regulations) that protect a country's industries against competition from cheaper imports.

**Racial assimilation** the gradual process of integration into the mainstream community. This process has three main strands which are broadly in chronological order: economic, social and political.



**Religious fundamentalism** movements favouring strict observance of religious teaching (Islam, Christianity, Hinduism etc.).

**Remittance** a transfer of money by a foreign worker to his/her home country.

**Resource nationalisation** when a country decides to take part, or all, of one or a number of natural resources under state ownership.

**Retail park** a grouping of retail functions requiring large floorspaces and offering many parking spaces, usually without charge. Usually located on major roads.

**Reurbanisation** when, after a clear period of decline, the population of a city, in particular the inner area, begins to increase again.

**Rural–urban fringe** the boundary zone where urban and non-urban land meet, and an area of transition from agriculture and other rural activities to urban use.

**Secularism** a view that rejects religion and religious considerations.

**Separatist movements** political parties or other organisations which believe that their region should separate from its current country to form a new country.

**Social business** forms of business that seek to profit from investments that generate social improvements and serve a broader human development purpose.

**Sovereignty** the exclusive right to exercise, within a specific territory, the functions of a nation-state and be answerable to no higher authority.

**Stereotype** a standardised mental picture that is held in common by members of a group and that represents an oversimplified opinion, prejudiced attitude or uncritical judgement.

**Supply chain** the movement of products from a manufacturer to a distributor to a retailer and any points in between.

**Supply chain management (SCM)** the control of materials, information and finances as they move in a process from supplier to manufacturer to wholesaler to retailer to consumer.



**Sustainability** meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Sustained pollution** pollution that occurs over a significant period of time.

**Terms of trade** the price of a country's exports relative to the price of its imports, and the changes that take place over time.

**Tiger economy** an economy that grows very rapidly in a short period of time.

**Time–space convergence** this process concerns the changing relationship between time and space, and notably the impacts of transportation improvements on such a relationship. It is closely related to the concept of speed, which indicates how much space can be travelled over a specific amount of time.

**Time–space distanciation** the stretching of social systems across space and time.

**Time–space divergence** when the journey time between places increases due to congestion, lower speed limits or other limiting factors.

**Total fertility rate** the number of children an average woman would have, assuming that she lives her full reproductive lifetime.

**Toxicity** a measure of the degree to which something is poisonous. It is often expressed as a dose–response relationship.

**Trade bloc** a group of countries that share trade agreements between each other.

**Trade deficit** when the value of a country's exports is less than the value of its imports.

**Trade union** an organisation of workers who have banded together to achieve common goals, such as better pay and working conditions.

**Transnational corporation (TNC)** a firm that owns or controls productive operations in more than one country through foreign direct investment.



**Transport systems** the means by which materials, products and people are transferred from place to place.

**Triple bottom line accounting** involves not just economic accounting but also social and environmental accounting.

**Underemployment** a situation where people are working less than they would like to and need to in order to earn a reasonable living.

**Urban mosaic** the complex pattern of different residential areas within a city reflecting variations in socio-economic status which are mainly attributable to income and ethnicity.

**Urbanisation of poverty** the increase in the proportion of people in poverty in a country who live in urban areas.

**Wealth** the total amount of economically relevant private and public assets including physical (natural), financial, human and 'social' capital.

**Westernisation** a particular form of modernisation in which the methods and values of Western industrial capitalism are the basis of the changes that are occurring.

**World-systems theory** an approach based on the history of the capitalist world economy since its formation in the 16th century. Countries fall into three economic levels – core, semi-periphery and periphery – and can move from one level to another if their contribution to the world economy changes.