

# HL IB Geography



Your notes

## 5.3 Local Responses to Global Interactions

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### 5.3.1 Resistance to Globalisation

## Rejection of Globalised Production

- There are a range of individuals, pressure groups and governments that all have some concern over the impacts of globalisation
- Countries have reacted in different ways, from resisting almost all change (e.g., North Korea) to being more selective over how much change is accepted, for example:
  - China prevents internet users from using BBC or Facebook and has a strict quota of 34 foreign films a year; however, Christmas is now celebrated by many Chinese people
  - France is very protective of its culture, with the government encouraging work filmed in French through subsidies and 40% of television must consist of French productions under local content law
- There have been many movements where groups of people have taken a stand against globalisation, for example:
  - **Occupy Wall Street** Movement: a 59-day extended protest against economic inequality
  - **Global Justice Movement** promotes the equal distribution of resources and access to advances in technology
- Others include:
  - Creating a level playing field for developing countries
  - Supporting free access to information
  - Making global civil society more accountable and transparent
  - Developing new relationships with global institutions
- Globalised production involves 3 industrial sectors of interconnection
  - Extraction
  - Production
  - Design and marketing
- Within these, there are hidden injustices that civil society groups actively campaign to expose to the world
- However, it must be recognised that globalised production has many advantages and disadvantages and that views vary between stakeholders



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	<b>Globalised Production</b>	<b>Localised Production</b>
<b>Advantages to producers</b>	<p>Producers benefit from economies-of scale by producing on a large scale</p> <p>Producers can source materials from the cheapest locations</p>	<p>Reduced transportation costs as products are purchased and sold locally</p> <p>Can operate 'just-in-time' production, which is easier as suppliers and customers are closer</p>
<b>Disadvantages to producers</b>	<p>Higher costs transporting raw materials and finished products</p> <p>Changes in demand is difficult to meet</p> <p>Many customers are now demanding local products</p> <p>It is harder to ensure quality when production is outsourced or offshored</p>	<p>There can be problems sourcing local raw materials</p> <p>Local workers may not have the required levels of skill or education</p> <p>Restaurants and food producers will have to change their menus or products according to the seasons</p>
<b>Advantages to consumers</b>	<p>There is a wider choice of products, all year round</p> <p>Mass production can lower prices</p>	<p>Perishable products (food) will be fresh and in season</p> <p>Products should meet local customs</p> <p>Should be more suited to personal tastes and traditions</p>
<b>Disadvantages to consumers</b>	<p>There is less choice and products are homogenised/standardised</p> <p>Prices may actually increase if a monopoly exists</p> <p>It is harder to source and know the quality of products being bought</p> <p>Perishable goods may have been grown using chemicals and picked unripe so have less flavour</p> <p>They may suffer from pollution caused by large-scale production and transportation</p>	<p>Perishable products are not available all season</p> <p>Some products maybe more expensive because they are produced on a smaller scale</p> <p>There may actually be less choice because there are few local companies</p>



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<b>Advantages to local economy</b>	<p>Some local companies may become suppliers to global chains</p> <p>Local businesses may benefit from improved levels of technology</p> <p>Global companies will train staff with new skills</p> <p>Improved trading relations with other regions and countries</p>	<p>Local employment and local taxes</p> <p>There is less economic leakage</p> <p>Local workers learn new skills which can be passed on to other manufacturers</p> <p>Positive multiplier effect as suppliers, etc. benefit from increased custom</p>
<b>Disadvantages to local economy</b>	<p>Local producers may not be able to compete on price and be forced to close</p> <p>Many managerial positions may be filled by expatriates (foreigners)</p> <p>There is often economic leakage from the area (profits repatriated)</p>	<p>Small local companies pay less tax</p> <p>Small companies employ fewer people and buy fewer products</p> <p>Local companies may be exploited for low prices</p> <p>Local companies take risks and may incur debt</p>

## Anti-Immigration Movements

- Anti-immigration movements are on the rise and is partly in response to globalisation
- There are several factors against immigration, and these include:
  - Economic fears
  - Cultural and identity concerns
  - Security concerns
  - Environmental concerns, especially in LICs and NICs, as a result of rapid population growth
- In the past, it has had a huge impact on both donor and receiving nations
- In terms of the receiving countries, the consequences have generally been beneficial
- But today, few countries support or want a large influx of outsiders, for a variety of reasons
  - Immigrants will vote for parties' centre or left and not to the right, as these tend to be against migration
  - Immigrants will head for economic core regions and to inner city regions, which can impact on voting patterns

- When immigrant groups reach a certain size and standing, they begin to develop their own politicians instead of people from the host society
- Environmental issues are based on the notion that migrants put excessive strain on environmental systems, but others feel this is a way of curtailing immigration
- Several countries, such as New Zealand and Australia, operate a **points-based system**, which admits those that have the skill set that the country's economy currently requires
- Other countries limit travel opportunities for their population, for example, North Korea and China
- Globalisation and its pervasive nature have increased the sense of **nationalism**, with many countries attempting to reassert a national identity and sever the interconnectedness of countries
  - Brexit was a nationalist movement for the UK to leave the EU
  - Political parties refer to 'taking back control' over the flow of laws, people, goods, etc.
  - Building of the US/Mexico border wall to reduce migration
  - In 2017, President Trump prevented migrants from 7, mainly Muslim, countries from entering the USA, although his decision was overturned by a number of US courts



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### Examiner Tips and Tricks

When discussing the rise of anti immigration movements, remember to refer to recent elections and their results. Don't get bogged down on political views here, this is not the place to discuss politics or the rights and wrongs of political parties. Stay geographical in your responses.



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## 5.3.2 Geopolitical Constraints

# National Controls

## What is freedom?

- Personal freedom can be thought as being free from **constraints or punishments**, so long as it does not **impact** the freedom of others
- **Personal freedom** plays a role in a country's **economic development** by recognising the dignity of individuals and **democracy**
- Personal freedoms can be **affected** by **government (state) or militia (non-state) controls**
- The **restriction** of people's **freedom** to participate in global interactions **include** but are **not limited to**:
  - Right to vote
  - Free flow of ideas
  - Freedom of movement and assembly
  - The right to equality before the law
  - Freedom to trade internationally
  - Freedom of speech and expression
  - Freedom of the press
- **Human Freedom Index (HFI)** measures the level of political rights and civil liberties in countries around the world on a scale of 0 to 100, where 100 represents more freedom
- Countries are then categorised as:
  - **Free**
  - **Partly Free**
  - **Not Free**
- **Government controls** on personal freedoms are justified under the premise of:
  - **National security** due to an increase in international terrorism and cyber threats
  - **Cultural or religious security** in order to uphold perceived traditional, cultural, or religious values and norms
  - **Political security** so that totalitarian and authoritarian regimes can continue their reigns

- **Government controls** can include:
  - **Censoring** or altering content deemed inappropriate or threatening
  - **Political repression** to reduce opposition and general dissent
  - **Restricting** women's rights in the name of tradition or religious interpretation



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## Case Study

- **Eritrea** is a northeast African country in the Horn of Africa
- Eritrea is a militarised authoritarian state with a HFI of 3/100
- There have been no national elections since 1993, after gaining independence from Ethiopia
- The only political party is the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ), headed by President Isaias Afwerki
- **Random arrests** are common
- **National service** is **compulsory** for men and women and is often open-ended
  - Students completing secondary school are obliged to complete the year in military service
  - Anyone trying to avoid military service or escape the country have been fired on by soldiers
- All **independent media** was **shut down** by the government in 2001
- There are **strict rules on religion**, with Eritrea recognising only 4 faiths
  - The two major religions in Eritrea are Sunni Islam and Eritrean Orthodox Christianity
  - Evangelical Lutheranism
  - Catholicism
  - Followers of other faiths can be arrested, imprisoned and have their property confiscated
- **Education** is heavily regulated
  - Course content is censored
  - Research is limited
  - Universities are closed in favour of small colleges and technical schools
- Freedom of **speech, expression and private discussion** are limited for fear of being informed to the government
- Authorities regularly **block** access to **social media and internet**
  - Only 6% of the population own a mobile phone
  - Just 1% of the population have access to the internet via internet cafes
- **Public gatherings** of more than seven people require a permit or face imprisonment or forced removal
- Same-sex relationships are a criminal offence and LGBT+ people have no legal protection from discrimination
- Many Eritreans have **fled** the country to get away from state control, although they are still subject to government surveillance and harassment



## Case Study

### China's Great Firewall

- China's is an **authoritarian regime** with an HFI of 9/100
- The ruling **Chinese Communist Party (CCP)** keeps tight control over all aspects of life and governance and includes:
  - State bureaucracy
  - The media
  - Internet and social media
  - Religious practice
  - Universities
  - Businesses
- The extent of CCP's general secretary Xi Jinping's personal power has not been seen in China for decades
- There are no direct or competitive elections for national leaders
- The **CCP** is the **only political party**
  - Citizens who have tried to establish independent political parties are nearly all in prison, under house arrest or in exile
  - The CCP is not accountable to voters and denies the public any meaningful participation in political affairs
- The **political system** is **dominated** by ethnic **Han Chinese men**
  - Women, ethnic and religious minorities and LGBTQ+ people have no real political representation
- China has one of the world's most **sophisticated system of censorship**, particularly online
- State management of **communications infrastructure** allows them to **block websites**, restrict and remove domestic apps from smartphones, delete social media posts and ban user accounts
- **Thousands of websites** have been blocked, including:
  - Major news outlets such as the New York Times, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC),
  - Social media hubs: YouTube, X, and Facebook
- **Journalists** and **bloggers** have been detained, disappeared or criminally charged
  - Fang Bin, who shared information about the COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan was detained
  - Long prison terms for critical or satirical social media posts against Xi or the CCP
- As well as criminal punishment, internet users face account deletions, job dismissals, random detention, and police interrogation over such posts
- Facial-recognition software surveillance cameras are installed in public areas and transport
- Companies have to store Chinese users' data under China's Cybersecurity Law



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- Communication companies have to get facial scans of new internet or mobile phone users as part of the real-name registration process
- Offline monitoring is done through neighbourhood party committees and 'public security volunteers, who are visible during large events
- The Counterespionage Law 2023 restricts the spread of information related to national security
- However, the details of what are and are not part of national security are not clearly defined
  - It also allows authorities to inspect electronic equipment and data
  - Citizens are encouraged to engage in counterespionage activities against their fellow citizens
  - Individuals are restricted from leaving and entering China
- **Academic freedom** is heavily restricted
  - Classroom discussions are monitored at every stage of education and includes:
    - Surveillance cameras in some classrooms
    - Large-scale recruitment of student informants
    - Special departments to supervise the political thinking of teaching staff

## Militia controls on personal freedoms

- Militias, distinct from regular armed forces, exert control over personal freedoms, usually by coercion, force, or leverage
- The main reasons for militia control are usually:
  - **Control of territory** through imposing their own set of rules and regulations on the local population
  - **Ideological beliefs**, particularly those of religious or political beliefs, enforce controls that are aligned with their ideology
  - **Economic interests**, particularly illegal trade such as smuggling or drug trafficking, are maintained through controlling personal freedoms

## National Trade Restrictions

- To protect national interests, some governments introduce national trade restrictions, which control or modify international trade
- **Protectionism** is an economic policy where governments impose selective trade barriers on international trade to protect domestic industries from overseas competition
- These barriers include:
  - **Tariffs** are imposed on imports, which increases the price of foreign goods, makes the domestic product more competitive
  - **Quotas** on the number of imported products ensures that local products maintain a market share

- **Non-tariff barriers** range from strict product standards, complicated licencing procedures, and difficult regulations for foreign companies

Impacts include:

- **Trade wars**, such as those imposed by President Trump on Chinese imports, resulted in China imposing import tariffs on 106 US goods
- **Consumer price increase** because of limited competition
- **Growth of local industry** from limited foreign competition



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## Resource nationalism

- Resource nationalism is when governments decide to take all or some of their natural resources under state ownership, allowing the country to benefit exclusively from the nation's resources



### Case Study

- **Bolivia** has the second-largest gas reserves in Latin America but produces only a small amount of oil for domestic use
- Concerned over US economic power in the region and the exploitative actions of TNCs in general
- Foreign energy companies were told they had **6 months** to sign new operating contracts or leave the country
- All signed, and this resulted in higher revenues for the government
- All foreign energy companies have to deliver all their production to the state-run Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos (YPFB) for distribution and processing
- Overall, Bolivia has taken control of 82% of the oil and gas in the country, leaving the remainder to foreign companies
- Bolivia is adopting a socialist model of regional commerce and cooperation as opposed to what it sees as 'US-backed free trade'
- The government is trying to attract foreign direct investment while also giving the state a larger role in managing the economy
- Bolivia has been successful, despite the IMF and World Bank warnings, and there is now impressive poverty alleviation and faster economic growth because of the control of Bolivia's natural resources within the country



### Examiner Tips and Tricks

Just because a country has nationalised its resources, it doesn't mean it has complete control. As in the case of Bolivia, there is some reliance on TNCs to provide expertise and equipment to develop these resources. There is, therefore, a dependency on each other.



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### 5.3.3 Civil Society & International Mindedness

## Defining Civil Society

- A civil society has the power to promote international-mindedness and the participation of citizens in global interactions
- **Civil societies** are **not-for-profit, voluntary community-based groups**, including **non-governmental organisations (NGOs), faith-based organisations, academic institutions and trade unions**
- They negotiate issues of public concern between the private sector, the state, and households
- They cover a wide range of interests, including:
  - Environmental issues
  - Equal human rights
  - Humanitarian issues
  - International peace
- Civil societies play an important role in **pushing for new laws, programmes, policies, or strategies**

## Civil society and spread of information

- The increasing ease of accessing the internet, social media and mobile phone technology has given individuals the power to act as **virtual** citizens
- The size of social networks and the speed of at which information is exchanged have changed how people engage and express their views
- This forces industry, government and international organisations to respond to the **multitude of online voices**
  - Some governments have already responded by using **online public consultation**
  - Both Egypt and Iceland used online engagement to 'crowd-source' feedback on new or proposed national policies
- The **spread of online information** has, therefore, **changed** the way local people expect to be treated and given them the power to bring about a global change
- **Global Action Networks (GANs)** are local multi-stakeholder networks that are organised around specific issues and spread information about global issues such as climate change, poverty, health, education, and human rights and security

## Social Media & Internet Freedoms



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- Although more than 5 billion people use the internet, online freedom depends on location
- Government and its agencies can monitor personal videos and messages, track locations, control data and information or block access to the Internet
- AI could be manipulated to provide censored answers or 'fake' information, making the spread of disinformation easier, faster, cheaper and more effective
- Digital platforms can be forced to remove information that isn't favourable to those in power
- In response, civil societies are working to strengthened policies for global internet freedom to address both new and long-standing threats to privacy, free expression and access to information
- **Freedom on the Net** monitors and produce a report that ranks country-by-country on the level of online freedom that their citizens have
  - The authoritarian regimes of Myanmar and Iran, executed people convicted of online expression crimes
  - Belarus and Nicaragua gave hard prison sentences to people for anti-government online speech
  - Philippines president Duterte, blocked news sites critical of his administration using an anti-terrorism law
- **Activists and civil societies** use the information to **draw attention** to their **government's online policies** and to **call for positive change**, for instance:
  - In Nigeria, the 2014 Bill of Digital Rights and Freedom was drafted by civil society
  - NGOs in Pakistan used the project to press their government on their internet freedom record
- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** is the United Nations (UN) specialised agency for digital technology and established in 1865 to manage the first international telegraph networks
  - Every three to four years the World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) are held to review, and, if necessary, revise the international treaty on Radio Regulations
- The **Global Internet Freedom Project** established in 2011, researches and informs policymakers on issues relating to online content regulation, data protection, harmful speech and disinformation, privacy rights, industry self-regulation and fair usage
- **Greater Internet Freedom (GIF)** supports local groups to build digital rights and security around the world
  - For example the majority of countries in West Africa do not have laws to govern or regulate online activity
  - Many Arab countries maintain government approaches to setting internet policy over civil society engagement

- **Social media** is proven in mobilising attention and accountability to women's rights along with challenging discrimination and stereotypes around the world
  - **Social media** can increase access to technology
  - It **increases** representation in the media, public and working life
  - Social media brings gender equality issues to the fore in policy making
  - Examples include
    - # activism
    - Tackling violence against women
    - Public accountability towards gender equality



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## 5.3.4 Civil Society Challenges

# Democracy & the Arab Spring

- The **Arab Spring** was a series of **pro–democracy uprisings** in several mostly Muslim countries, including Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Bahrain
- It began with the **Jasmine Revolution** in December 2010, when a Tunisian street vendor set himself on fire in protest of the seizing of his vegetable stand by police over failure to obtain a permit
- **Street protests** in the capital, Tunis, resulted in the hard-line authoritarian President Ben Ali abdicating and fleeing to Saudi Arabia
- The widespread **flow of information** on the country's **first democratic** parliamentary election, held in October 2011, **inspired activists** in other countries to protest against their own authoritarian governments
- These grassroots movements wanted increased **social freedoms** and **participation** in the **political process**
- However, some of these protests became **full-scale civil wars**, such as in Libya, Syria and Yemen, with continued restrictions
- The only country to maintain a form of democracy is Tunisia

## Evaluation

- Countries with a strong, vocal society are more likely to gain political change than those with a limited middle class
  - **Tunisia has a strong civil society** and was able to transform and maintain political change
- **Widespread media coverage** results in less mass violence
  - In Egypt, the BBC and Al Jazeera reduced violence by the government and military
  - But, in Syria, restricted news coverage caused greater violence
- Countries with **good access to social media** usually gain support for protests
  - In Egypt and Tunisia, the military supported protesters in removing the government, but in Syria, where media is limited, the military contributed to the civil war

## Political Change in Myanmar

- **Myanmar**, formerly **Burma**, is a majority **Buddhist** (90%) country with a population of **55.9 million** as of Dec 2023



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- Myanmar is **ethnically diverse**, with 135 recognised ethnic groups divided into **8 national groups**, with **Bamar or Burman** being the dominant at 70%
  - The other 7 major groups are Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan
- Many of the ethnic minority groups have faced systematic racism, a lack of representation in government, and abuses by the military

## Military rule

- Under British rule, divisions were created among ethnic groups
- After independence in 1948, a mostly democratic Burmese State was formed
- This lasted until 1962, when General Ne Win and his Revolutionary Council led a military coup and held power for the next 26 years under **single-party military rule**
- After a nationwide popular uprising in **1988**, a new junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), was formed
- Under this regime **Burma became Myanmar**, and decades of military suppression and human rights abuses followed with severe restrictions to movement, work, education, marriage and home ownership
- Aung San Suu Kyi led the **National League for Democracy (NLD)** opposition party, which rose to prominence
- Under the pretence of safety, she spent more than fifteen years under house arrest until 2010
- In 1991, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Suu Kyi while she was still under house arrest

## Political change

- In 2007, many **anti-government** protests broke out
- Under international pressure, the junta began to loosen its control
- In 2008, a new constitution gave the military widespread powers, even under civilian rule
- The **military junta** officially **dissolved** in **2011** and established a military-dominated civilian parliament
- Some reforms began, including:
  - **Amnesty** for **political prisoners**
  - **Less media censorship**
  - Policies to **encourage foreign investment**
- In **2015**, **Suu Kyi** became **Myanmar's leader** after a **nationwide multiparty election**
- But the **military** still **held control** over much of the government



- After suffering a major defeat during the 2020 elections, the military launched **another coup** In **February 2021**
- They then cracked down on protests
- The opposition formed a **shadow government** and a fighting force
- This had led to another civil war and humanitarian crisis that could spill over Myanmar's border
- Once again, **Suu Kyi was detained** and charged with corruption and other crimes against the country
- Various officials and activists were placed under house arrest
- **Peaceful** protests erupted nationwide, with people refusing to go to work until the elected government returned to power
- The ousted groups established a **parallel government** known as the **National Unity Government (NUG)**
- They also formed an armed division known as the **People's Defence Force**

## Evaluation

- It has brought groups opposed to the junta together and has:
  - Encouraged greater unity among ethnic groups
  - Created an agenda for a post-junta Myanmar
  - Encouraged support from foreign governments
- The **armed resistance** groups have **united**
- But the country's society and economy are still devastated by the civil war



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