



“Mind Well”

A Series of Multidisciplinary Collaborations

Meredith Alford’s IB SL Global Politics: Selected Class Responses

To orient yourself to the responses below, it may be helpful to view [Peter Alfandary’s TedTalk “The Myth of Globalization.”](#)

Hannah Davis ’21

“We are not as globalized a society as we tend to think. In his TedTalk, Peter Alfandary talks about the Twenty-first century paradox, which I think perfectly explains our global state. There are two parts of the paradox, the first being that most of everyone everywhere in this modern day speaks a little bit of English, the other part being how easy it is for everyone to communicate digitally now. So because we speak the same language and can text and email each other so effortlessly, we think we understand each other, but we do not.

We think as a society that because we have an organization like the United Nations that we are more globally oriented, but the truth is until we start teaching different cultures and their mannerisms in schools, until we start learning about each other, deeper than just each other's languages, we will not be that globalized at all. I agree with Peter Alfandary: we need to teach culture identity and as a community we need to increase social tolerance. That is how we become globalized as a society.”

Anjali Kunnatha ’21

“The idea of globalization seems very nice, as it’s often associated with images of community, harmony, and global togetherness, but the reality of it, in our world, is far more brutal. Globalization seems to, in reality, serve as a vehicle for Westernization. When we look at the colonial histories of the world, we see a lack of ‘cultural intelligence’, as Alfandary put it, and a desire to erase indigenous cultures by ‘civilizing’ the populations. Today, globalization between the West and the Global South often manifests in the form of development initiatives, endeavors that seem favorable, but often replicate a colonialist framework and create cycles of dependency. We can also see the current implications of colonial globalization in countries like the Congo, whose struggles are arguably a result of the Belgian systems and structures left behind after independence. Globalization is often characterized by an increase in the general

interconnectedness of the world, but the benefits of these connections are often extremely one-sided. The West continues to benefit from a history of colonial exploitation, while the Global South continues to suffer the ramifications of globalization lacking in cultural intelligence.”

Bella Storie '21

“I believe that our world is progressively getting more globalized. However, as much as we might like to think of ourselves as culturally intelligent people, we still have a long way to go before we can truly understand other people’s way of life. Peter Alfandary’s Ted Talk mentioned the role that technology and the Internet play in our relationship with other cultures. He talks about how technology is making communication more difficult because people are more likely to text or email each other than to meet face-to-face. Alfandary thinks that if emotions and facial expressions are not involved in conversations, then we will misinterpret other people’s messages. Although this may be true, I would argue that the Internet and advancing technology have been the driving force that makes the world more globally aware.

This awareness phenomenon can be seen throughout the Syrian Civil War. People in Libya, Tunisia, and Egypt were angered by the decisions made by their government. However, several uprisings probably would not have taken place if it were not for the spread of information through the Internet and social media. Sharing one’s experience and perspective through the Internet is one of our most efficient and influential means of communication. I believe that if the world continues to utilize its various means of communication, a genuinely more globalized world may become possible.”

David Xi '21

“To some extent, the world we live in is incredibly globalized. While there are tremendous benefits to multiculturalism as immigration and intercultural contacts can effectively combat bigotry, we must be skeptical of this notion of a singular global village. It is perfectly possible for people, as members of different villages, to live in harmony and peace. So why are people pushing for one village? The truth is, globalization (and the push behind it) has never been about cultural diversity or tolerance. It has been all about the profits and bottom line of the top one percent of the world.

Simply put, corporations have profited at the expense of the working class in both developed and developing countries. In America, for example, hundreds of thousands of workers have lost their good paying jobs to workers in China and Vietnam. And in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, local workers are essentially held hostage by Western corporations, working long hours in horrible conditions for little wages. We don't need global competition to drive the wage down; instead, we need to provide a living wage to all working people regardless of where they are.

Corporations have no loyalty to their nations and their people, and it is time for people to wake up and realize that aspects of globalization have been and will always be a hoax perpetuated by those who stand to profit in this interconnected economy.”