

CUET · POLITICAL SCIENCE · CLASS XII · CODE 323

Globalisation

CUET unit: Contemporary World Politics

By UniDrill · NCERT-grounded study material

WWW.UNIDRILL.IN

The logo for UniDrill, featuring the word "UniDrill" in a sans-serif font. "Uni" is in a light blue color and "Drill" is in a light orange color. The logo is centered on a white background with a subtle shadow effect.

Snapshot

- This is the concluding chapter of "Contemporary World Politics" and establishes globalisation as a **multi-dimensional concept** dealing with **flows of ideas, capital, commodities and people** that create "worldwide interconnectedness".
- It distinguishes the **political, economic and cultural** dimensions of globalisation, the role of **technology** as a critical cause, and the **uneven impact** across societies.
- It analyses India's transition from **colonial export economy** → **post-1947 protectionism** → **1991 economic reforms**, and the **resistance** movements (left and right) including WSF and anti-WTO protests.
- CUET frequently tests: definition of globalisation, causes (technology), political consequences (welfare state → minimalist state), cultural homogenisation vs heterogenisation, McDonaldisation, soft power of US hegemony, 1991 reforms, WSF and Seattle 1999.

Detailed Notes

2.1 Core concepts

Three vignettes from contemporary India make different faces of globalisation concrete. **Janardhan** works the night shift at a Bangalore call centre, speaking to clients halfway across the globe in an American accent; he illustrates the **globalisation of services**, an industry barely two decades old in India. **Ramdhari** rides a cycle made in China and notices that his daughter wants a Barbie doll manufactured in the United States — both examples of the worldwide **movement of commodities** that has brought brand-name goods to a small-town household. **Sarika**, a first-generation learner, accepts a job that her grandmother considers unwomanly: she stands at the centre of a **conflict of values** that globalisation has produced for women, and the new opportunities it has also opened for them (NCERT §The Concept of Globalisation, pp. 100–101). A parallel set of **darker illustrations** — farmers' suicides over the price of MNC seeds, Indian firms buying European rivals, retail shopkeepers fearing international chains, "lifted" Hollywood storylines, and militant threats to girls wearing western clothes — shows that globalisation is **not always positive** and **not only economic** (NCERT pp. 100–101).

The definition that follows is therefore deliberately cautious: globalisation **as a concept fundamentally deals with flows** — of ideas, capital, commodities and people across

borders. The "crucial element," NCERT insists, "is the 'worldwide interconnectedness' that is created and sustained as a consequence of these constant flows" (NCERT §The Concept of Globalisation, p. 101). Three corollaries are immediately attached. First, globalisation is **multi-dimensional**; it has **political, economic and cultural manifestations** that must be distinguished — it is neither purely economic nor purely cultural. Second, its impact is **vastly uneven** across societies and within them. Third, "globalisation" is not the same as "westernisation" or "Americanisation" — although the soft power of US hegemony makes them empirically overlap (NCERT p. 102).

What causes contemporary globalisation? The four flows — ideas, capital, commodities, people — have been part of human history for centuries; merchant ships, religious missions and migrations are old phenomena. What is **distinct about contemporary globalisation is the scale and speed** of these flows (NCERT §Causes of Globalisation, p. 102). The single most important enabler is **technology**: the invention of the **telegraph, telephone and microchip** revolutionised communication, just as printing once laid the basis for modern nationalism. But technology alone is not enough — people must also **recognise their interconnections** with the rest of the world. Bird flu spreads regardless of borders; the 2004 tsunami struck multiple national coastlines; a financial crisis in one country sets off panic in another (NCERT p. 103).

The **consequences** of globalisation fall into three buckets. **Political consequences** form a **three-aspect framework** (NCERT §Political Consequences, pp. 103–104). First, globalisation has **eroded state capacity**: the old **welfare state** — directed at the economic and social well-being of its citizens — has, in much of the world, given way to a more **minimalist state** that performs only core functions such as maintenance of law, order, and security; the market has become the prime determinant of economic and social priorities, and **MNCs** have reduced governments' decision-making capacity. Second, the **primacy of the state continues** — the state remains the unchallenged basis of political community; old jealousies and rivalries between states persist; states continue to discharge essential functions. Third, in some respects state capacity has actually **received a boost** because enhanced technology enables states to collect more information about their citizens and to rule them better. Erosion and boost are **simultaneous** truths, not alternatives.

Economic consequences centre on the role of the **IMF and WTO** but extend far wider — globalisation is "about who gains and who loses" (NCERT §Economic Consequences, pp. 104–105). It has produced **greater trade in commodities** (reduced import restrictions), **reduced restrictions on capital flow** (investors from rich countries invest abroad for higher returns), and a vast **spread of ideas** via the internet. But NCERT flags one critical asymmetry: **movement of people remains restricted**, because developed countries "have carefully guarded their borders with visa policies" — capital and commodities cross borders faster than people. The debate has two sides. Critics (often on the left) argue that state withdrawal benefits only a small section; they call for **social safety nets** for those dependent on welfare, or even a halt to forced globalisation, describing it as **re-colonisation**. Advocates argue that

de-regulation produces greater growth, that **comparative trade** benefits all, and that globalisation is **inevitable** — the best response is to engage it intelligently rather than resist (NCERT pp. 105–106).

Cultural consequences are presented as the simultaneous interplay of two opposite tendencies. **Cultural homogenisation** is the rise of a uniform global culture, which in practice has been the **imposition of Western (specifically American) culture** on the rest of the world — the "**soft power of US hegemony**". **McDonaldisation** is the term it uses for the process by which cultures "seek to buy into the dominant American dream", with the rich diversity of global cultural heritage shrinking as a result; the burger and blue jeans are the emblematic images (NCERT §Cultural Consequences, pp. 106–107). But NCERT immediately presents the opposite tendency: **cultural heterogenisation**. Cultures are not static; external influences sometimes simply **enlarge our choices**. The burger does not displace the masala dosa; the khadi kurta is worn with blue jeans; **each culture becomes more different and distinctive** after contact (NCERT pp. 107–108). The point is that cultural exchange is rarely one-way, and homogenisation and heterogenisation are happening simultaneously.

The section on **India and Globalisation** (NCERT p. 108) traces a three-phase history. During the **colonial period**, India became an exporter of primary goods and raw materials and a consumer of finished imports — globalised, but as a subordinate. **Post-independence India** chose **protectionism** to nurture domestic industry; critical sectors (health, housing, primary education) suffered, growth was sluggish, and import-substitution failed to keep up with the world. **In 1991**, responding to a **financial crisis and the desire for higher rates of economic growth**, India launched economic reforms that **de-regulated trade and foreign investment** — opening the way to today's globalised Indian economy.

Resistance to globalisation comes from both left and right (NCERT §Resistance, p. 109). Left-wing critics see contemporary globalisation as a phase of global capitalism making the rich richer and the poor poorer, and weakening the state's ability to redistribute. Right-wing critics fear the cultural erosion of national tradition, demand self-reliance, and want a return to protectionism. Both, paradoxically, use **global networks** of activists. The **1999 Seattle WTO protests**, which alleged unfair trade practices by powerful states, and the **World Social Forum (WSF)** — a global platform bringing together human rights activists, environmentalists, labour, youth and women's groups against neo-liberal globalisation. The **first WSF met at Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 2001**; the **fourth WSF met at Mumbai in 2004**; the **latest WSF was held in Nepal in February 2024** (NCERT p. 111). In India, resistance has come from Left parties and the Indian Social Forum, from trade unions and farmers' organisations protesting MNC entry, and from outrage over the **patenting of Indian plants (Neem)** by American and European firms. Right-wing resistance focuses on cultural influences — foreign television channels, Valentine's Day, and the westernisation of women's dress.

2.2 Definitions to memorise

Term	Definition	Page
Globalisation	A multi-dimensional concept dealing with flows of ideas, capital, commodities and people, creating worldwide interconnectedness	101
Worldwide interconnectedness	The crucial element of globalisation, created and sustained by constant flows	101
Welfare state	The older form of state directed at economic and social well-being of citizens	103
Minimalist state	State that performs only core functions like law and order and security of citizens	103
Social safety nets	Institutional safeguards to minimise negative effects of globalisation on the economically weak	106
Re-colonisation	Description by some economists of forced economic globalisation that leads to economic ruin for weaker countries	106
Cultural homogenisation	Rise of a uniform culture worldwide; actually the imposition of Western (US) culture on the rest of the world	106
Soft power of US hegemony	The phenomenon by which the politically and economically dominant US imprints its culture on less powerful societies	107
McDonaldisation	Cultures buying into the dominant American dream; shrinking of global cultural heritage	107
Cultural heterogenisation	The opposite effect, where each culture becomes more different and distinctive after interaction	108
Protectionism	Post-independence Indian policy of not allowing imports so domestic producers could learn to make things	108
World Social Forum (WSF)	Global platform of activists opposed to neo-liberal globalisation; first met at Porto Alegre, Brazil, 2001	111
Four flows of globalisation	Ideas, capital, commodities, people — across borders	101
IMF & WTO	Multilateral institutions central to the architecture of economic globalisation	104
Comparative trade	Liberal argument that trade between countries benefits all	106
De-regulation	Removal of state controls over economic activity, a key tool of economic globalisation	106
MNCs (Multinational Corporations)	Firms operating across multiple countries; reduce governments' decision-making capacity	103
Telegraph–telephone–microchip	The three technologies that drive contemporary globalisation	102

Term	Definition	Page
Seattle 1999 WTO protests	Mass demonstrations against alleged unfair trade practices by powerful states	111
Porto Alegre 2001 (1st WSF)	First meeting of the World Social Forum	111
Mumbai 2004 (4th WSF)	Fourth meeting of the WSF	111
Neem patenting	Case cited by NCERT of Indian biological patrimony patented by US/European firms	111
1991 Indian economic reforms	Response to a financial crisis and desire for higher growth — opened India's economy	108
Visa controls / movement of people	The one globalisation flow developed countries continue to restrict	105
Indian Social Forum	Indian counterpart of the WSF	111

2.3 Diagrams / processes to remember

- **Three opening character vignettes** (pp. 100–101): Janardhan (services), Ramdhari (commodities), Sarika (values) — each illustrates one face of globalisation.
- **Cartoons** in the NCERT text (pp. 102, 104, 106): "Digital Economy", "Invading new markets", "Gosh, an Indian again!" — used as visual anchors for the political/economic/cultural dimensions.
- **Three-aspect framework for political consequences** (pp. 103–104): (i) erosion of state capacity, (ii) primacy of state continues, (iii) state capacity boosted by technology.
- **Four flows of globalisation** (p. 101): ideas, capital, commodities, people — note that movement of people is the slowest because of visa controls (p. 105).
- **WSF timeline** (p. 111): 1st — Porto Alegre 2001; 4th — Mumbai 2004; latest — Nepal February 2024.
- **Process map** — Concept (§Concept) → Causes (§Causes) → Political consequences (§Political) → Economic consequences (§Economic) → Cultural consequences (§Cultural) → India and Globalisation (§India) → Resistance (§Resistance) → India and Resistance (§India and Resistance).

2.5 Key Articles / Treaties / Events

Reference	Source / Subject	NCERT cite
1991 Indian economic reforms	Response to financial crisis; opened the Indian economy	p. 108
1999 Seattle WTO protests	Mass demonstration against unfair trade practices	p. 111

Reference	Source / Subject	NCERT cite
2001 World Social Forum, Porto Alegre	First WSF meeting	p. 111
2004 Fourth WSF, Mumbai	India hosted the fourth WSF	p. 111
February 2024 WSF, Nepal	Latest WSF cited in NCERT	p. 111
Colonial-era India	India as exporter of primary goods, consumer of finished imports	p. 108
Telegraph (19th century)	First technology that revolutionised communication	p. 102
Telephone	Second technology revolutionising communication	p. 102
Microchip	Contemporary technology enabling digital globalisation	p. 102
Bird flu / tsunami	Examples of cross-border phenomena that drive global recognition	p. 103
Neem patent controversy	Patenting of Indian plants by American/ European firms	p. 111
IMF & WTO	Multilateral economic institutions central to globalisation	p. 104
Welfare state → Minimalist state shift	Political consequence of globalisation	p. 103
McDonaldisation	American cultural dominance image	p. 107
Indian Social Forum	Domestic counterpart of WSF	p. 111

2.4 Common confusions / NTA trap points

- **Globalisation ≠ Westernisation ≠ Imperialism.** NCERT explicitly says globalisation is multi-dimensional, not purely economic, and not the same as westernisation.
- **Welfare state vs Minimalist state:** Globalisation does not abolish the state — it shifts state from welfare functions to core functions of law/order/security (p. 103). NTA loves the trap that "globalisation = end of state".
- **State capacity has both decreased AND increased:** The same chapter says it is reduced (MNC entry) AND boosted (technology-aided information). Both are correct — don't pick only one.
- **Cultural homogenisation vs heterogenisation:** Both are simultaneously consequences of globalisation. Homogenisation = imposition of Western culture; heterogenisation = each culture becoming more distinctive.

- **India's 1991 reforms** were a response to a **financial crisis** AND a desire for higher growth — not just one cause.
- **First WSF was in Porto Alegre, Brazil (2001), not Mumbai.** Mumbai hosted the 4th WSF in 2004. The Seattle protests of 1999 were against the **WTO**, not the WSF.
- **Movement of people is restricted** — capital and commodities move freely, but visa controls remain. Trap items assume all four flows are equally free.
- **Technology drivers** named are telegraph, telephone, microchip — NOT the steam engine or the printing press (printing is mentioned only as a historical comparison).
- **Janardhan/Ramdhari/Sarika** — each maps to one face (services/commodities/values). Trap items shuffle the mapping.
- **McDonaldisation ≠ fast-food industry growth** — it refers to cultural assimilation into the American dream, not the literal spread of fast-food chains.

Practice MCQs

PYQ Alignment

This chapter is a high-frequency CUET source: roughly 8–10 MCQs per year across recent CUET Political Science papers. Questions typically test (a) the definition of globalisation as worldwide interconnectedness, (b) the welfare-state vs minimalist-state shift, (c) cultural homogenisation/heterogenisation and McDonaldisation, (d) the 1991 Indian economic reforms, and (e) factual recall on the WSF (Porto Alegre 2001, Mumbai 2004) and the Seattle 1999 WTO protests.

CUET 2023 — Actual PYQs from this chapter

Q.38 (CUET 2023) Which one of the following statements is incorrect regarding globalisation?

- A) Globalisation has political, economic and cultural manifestations B) Globalisation is not a multidimensional concept C) Globalisation deals with the flow of ideas D) Impact of globalisation may or may not always be positive **Tests:** Globalisation **Answer:** Not in extracted key

Q.39 (CUET 2023) Match List I with List II (Concept – Globalisation consequences) A. Erosion of state capacity B. Increasing role of IMF and WTO C. Internet D. Heterogenisation I. Economic consequences II. Technological consequences III. Political consequences IV. Cultural consequences Options:

- A) A-IV, B-III, C-I, D-II B) A-I, B-II, C-III, D-IV C) A-II, B-IV, C-I, D-III D) A-III, B-I, C-II, D-IV **Tests:** Globalisation **Answer:** Not in extracted key

CUET 2024 — Actual PYQs from this chapter

Q.38 (CUET 2024) Which global platform brings together activists opposed to neo-liberal globalization?

- A) World Economic Forum B) World Social Forum C) World Cultural Forum D) G-20

Tests: Globalisation Answer: Not in extracted key

Q.39 (CUET 2024) Which statement about globalization is true?

- A) Purely economic phenomenon B) Purely cultural phenomenon C) Multi-dimensional phenomenon D) Universal impact on all states
- Tests: Globalisation Answer: Not in extracted key

CUET 2025 — Actual PYQs from this chapter

Q.32 (CUET 2025) The WTO was set up in 1995 as the successor to:

- A) GATT B) League of Nations C) United Nations D) Amnesty International

Tests: Globalisation Answer: Not in extracted key

Q.38 (CUET 2025) Which international institution determines economic policies worldwide?

- A) IMF B) IAEA C) Amnesty International D) Human Rights Watch

Tests: Globalisation Answer: Not in extracted key

Q.39 (CUET 2025) Which statements about globalisation are correct? (A) Globalisation erodes state capacity (B) It weakens government control (C) Welfare state is replaced by minimalist state (D) Market becomes primary determinant Options:

- A) (A), (B) and (C) B) (A), (B) and (D) C) (B) and (D) only D) (C) and (D) only

Tests: Globalisation Answer: Not in extracted key

Q.40 (CUET 2025) McDonaldisation is the result of which process?

- A) Political consequence of globalisation B) Economic consequence of globalisation C) Cultural consequence of globalisation D) Resistance to globalisation

Tests: Globalisation Answer: Not in extracted key