

# ***A Study of the Inner Connections Between Globalization, Modernization, and Integration Through the 19th Century***

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**Abstract:** In the 19th century, Western countries opened the borders of countries that had been closed over a long period of time and connected them to a new global commodity market. In this context, the study of this paper focuses on three parts. The first part explains the reasons for the emergence of globalization in the 19th century from both material and social aspects; the second part continues to explain the fundamental reasons for the prosperity of the modernization movement from the impact of globalization; the third part studies the changes in the process of integration from the results of globalization and modernization. As the evidence shows, globalization, modernization, and integration are strongly bonded together, and they serve for world development conspicuously. These three parts are connected to each other to form a complete logical chain, which is expected to inspire today's researchers to interpret future developments in terms of globalization.

**Keywords:** globalization, modernization, integration, 19th century, world history

## **1. Introduction**

Countries are like humans. They both need to play roles in a group. The theme of the world is peace and development, but some parts of the world intend to reverse globalization, close down the commodity channel, or use it to against others unfairly. This causes an economic downturn in some areas and makes people re-examine the process of modern development and discuss the consequences of globalization. Before that, globalization is a gradual historical process, which brings about close ties between countries through trade, information, and cultural exchanges. Similarly, integration is the process in which countries create common goals and work together to regulate international trade and conflict. By conducting an in-depth analysis of the rise of globalization, the seeds of modernization, and the appearance of integration, this paper mainly discusses how globalization shaped human society and laid the foundation for modernization and integration, so as to give enlightenment to the future research of world development from the perspective of globalization.

## **2. The Rise of Globalization**

The 19th century has been marked as a bloody time for good reasons. According to statistics, the total number of wars in the 19th century was 292, and they blossomed brutally in every corner of the world [1]. These wars could be seen as interactions between countries. For example, during the

Western conquest of Asia, China and Japan were forced into the real world. As known as the Opium War in China in 1840, the British easily defeated the weak Qing government and forced Peking to sign the Treaty of Nanking, which opened China's long-closed doors of five ports. Foreign goods entered the ancient country for the first time and quickly took over a large market. China soon became an important member of the capitalized world. Similar things happened in Japan, where the US army or Black Ship invaded in 1854. After that, most European countries landed in succession, which not only ended lock-down policies but also terminated the rule of the shogun.

Such unfair wars happened a lot in the 19th century. These conquerors forced nations into their trading system, which, though brutal, did connect the world in a way related to trade benefits. Steamships were well developed during this period, meaning that a large number of goods were transported by sea to all parts of the world, for instance, Europe dumped industrial goods in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and obtained more raw materials. Europe, which had mastered the core technology of industry, largely controlled the global circulation of commodities and established the dominance of capitalism in the world [2]. Since goods were moving around the globe, a stronger impact was also made between countries.

### 3. A Global Corporate Modernization

In the process of the rise of globalization, commodities circulated around the world, and a trade network was gradually established, which means that there might be direct or indirect transmission of goods between countries, and the seeds of modernization traveled as well. Specifically, depending on backward slavery, the United States had been the lifeblood of European imports of cotton. With a long history of development in industry, commerce, finance, and manufacturing, the Northern region dominated the Northern market with a total output value of nearly \$2 billion, and slavery disappeared in the North, while on the same continent, the Southern region remained in slave society to maintain the plantation economy, with a total output value of only \$360 million [3]. In contrast, the economy of the North is about six times the size of the South, while the population of the North is only twice that of the South [4]. The backwardness of the South dragged the development of capitalism in the United States as a whole because the plantation system in the South resulted in the exclusion of the North industry in the South. Eventually, the conflict rose to a war, which seemed to be an internal struggle, but from the perspective of globalization, it was a revolution with a great influence on the world.

To make matters worse, the ports of the Northern coast were the main windows of foreign trade for the United States. In order to defeat the South, the Northern government blocked the ports and prohibited the export of Southern cotton [5]. According to statistics, during the American Civil War, the textile exports of the United States to Britain fell by 40%. Moreover, after the Civil War, the emancipation of slaves put the burden of cotton cultivation on a small number of plantation owners, who had to reduce cotton cultivation in a large area, and the textile industry was nearly paralyzed compared with what it was before the Civil War. This pressure was handed to the Europeans, and the European textile industry was greatly affected. The lack of commodity supply led to economic inflation and regression, which not only made the capitalists increase the exploitation of workers, indirectly stimulated the development of the international labor movement [6], but also caused the European colonial countries to shift their focus on cotton import to the colonies. After the American Civil War, Britain used a large amount of land in British India for cotton cultivation, and the most significant feature was the great change of rural population in India to cotton cultivation population during this period [7,8]. As a result, The people of India are also being exploited more cruelly. In 1857, two years after the end of the American Civil War, a national independence movement broke out in India as a strong response to colonialism. At the same time, Europe's dependence on the

Indian market increased: between 1860 and 1862, India's cotton contribution to Britain increased from 16% to 75% [9]. There is no doubt that India's commodity economy has greatly improved, prompting the emergence of the domestic bourgeoisie. In 1885, the Indian National Congress Party, led by the Indian bourgeoisie, was founded in Bombay, a major trading city, and it later became a fighting force for Indian independence.

It is not hard to see that the American Civil War lit a fuse that, along the path of the globalized commodity trade, ignited the British labor movement and the national independence of India. Pull the sight back to the east, the Opium War ended without doubt, but it caused a great psychological shock to the Chinese people, and some progressives realized that China had fallen off the track of the world, and the way to save China was to bring it back on track, not further away. China continued to learn advanced technology from the West and introduced a large number of mainstream Western political, economic, and social factors in the following period of time. For example, modern factories were introduced to China in this period, and as the basis of the Westernization Movement, more than 20 military factories were built in major cities. The number did not include foreign factories. A fact that needs to be highlighted is that the movement had to make progress in order to obtain the rule of Qing. The opening of the port means that the natural economy of the country will continue to collapse under the impact of foreign investors, and the government based on this economy will be shaken. Improving domestic productivity can maintain the natural economy or the government's dominance of the economy, while in the face of developed Europe, China is an inexperienced beginner, the most basic way to learn is to imitate. It is said that national salvation is spontaneous, but in fact, it is more under the pressure of globalization. The economic problem will also put pressure on people in agriculture.

China has been a big country in cotton cultivation since ancient times, and China's status as one of the world's cotton cultivation centers has continued until now [10]. One of the cotton-producing areas called the Yangtze River Delta was cruelly destroyed during the Taiping Rebellion. The result is predictable: China lost the competition with India in cotton export to Europe, as it was mentioned before. To summarize, countries influenced each other by trading culture and commodities, and this process forced them to choose between a modernized revolution and giving up. It should be considered that this development has gradually taken on the characteristics of regional integration.

#### **4. The Appearance of Integration**

Integration became particularly prominent at the end of the 19th century when the price of agricultural products and metals in Western countries fell significantly. For instance, the price gap between British and American copper was narrowed, falling from 32.7% to -0.1%, which was an unprecedented development result. Over the same period, the price gap between Europe and Asia was also narrowed. For instance, the price gap of rice spread in London and Yangon fell from 93% to 26% and cotton spread in Liverpool and Mumbai fell from 57% to 20%. This change largely depends on the wide application of steamships [2]. In the context of globalization, major countries in the world have experienced the process of modernization, and transportation technology and production technology have made great developments, making foreign trade close to equality in technology. In particular, a large-scale application of steamships reduced transport costs, making long-distance trade more frequent and bringing opportunities for the integration of the world. Under the background of globalization, countries have developed trade with regional advantages in combination with their own resource base and enhanced international trade. In Asia, China and Myanmar have experienced the westernization of productive forces, modernization, and the introduction of more advanced textile equipment. The productivity of silk weaving in Yunnan and Myanmar reached a balance in the 1890s, which directly led to the long-term stability of the prices of silk weaving products in the two countries [11]. Productivity was increased and a new division

system of cities and countries was formed. Shanghai opened to foreign capital after the war and became one of the most highly developed cities in China. The modern industry developed rapidly here, including cotton textile, silk, flour, and oil pressing industries. The great progress in productivity greatly increased the density of Shanghai's industry and gradually began to spread to surrounding cities, forming a number of small and medium-sized industrial cities. An integration area can reach complementation. Part of the light industry was dispersed to other parts of the city circle to assist the trade of Shanghai port and gradually formed the Yangtze River Delta city circle with Shanghai as the center, which is like a large interdependent whole [12]. Needless to say, the process of integration between countries and cities highly depended on the capacity of modernization. The impetus came from the expansion of capital after it was improved, and this was based on a mature globe-trade system.

## 5. Conclusion

Globalization is a key to modernization. It gives a country an opportunity to jump out of the border and improve itself. Due to a boom in corporate modernization, there is a chance for countries around the world to be fully developed. To conclude, globalization, corporate modernization, and regional integration are closely connected with each other, and all of them serve humankind's development eventually. In other words, without communication with other civilizations, one may stop improving and end in self-destruction. Now, more than a hundred years after the great 19th century, the world still runs in the same way. No country can develop completely on its own, and that is why historians warn people not to attempt to reverse the trend of globalization or separate themselves from the world. In future studies, researchers can focus more on the inner connections between globalization, corporate modernization, and regional integration. An in-depth and detailed study can be conducted to figure out better development models based on the specific conditions of different countries, thus promoting world peace and development.

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