Teaching Materials・教材

Global Order in Flux:

Globalization, Regionalization, and the Evolution of Global Governance

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変動する世界秩序：
グローバリゼーション、地域主義、およびグローバルガバナンスの進化

　この論文は、現代の国際社会について学ぶ学生の学習補助として意図されたもので、国際秩序の複雑さを調査し、グローバリゼーション、地域主義、およびグローバルガバナンスの相互作用に焦点を当てています。国際システムが国家中心から非国家のアクターからの重要な貢献を含むより分散的なネットワークへと進化した過程を探ります。以下のテキストでは、グローバリゼーションが経済、技術、文化の絡み合いに与える影響を見ていき、地域主義をこれらのグローバルな変化に対する協力的な対応として位置づけます。また、国際秩序を維持するためのグローバルガバナンスの役割にも深入りします。これらのダイナミクスを評価することで、この短い分析は国際関係の現在と将来の景観に対する洞察を提供します。

キーワード：国際秩序、グローバリゼーション、地域主義、グローバルガバナンス、非国家アクター

I. Introduction

One of the key questions in the academic study of International Relations（IR）is how the international society is organized and managed as a whole. IR scholars aim to better understand how international order is established and maintained in the context of dispersed authority. The international system is characterized by multiple centers of authority, and issues related to conflict management, stability, and rulemaking are central to debates and research in the IR field.[1]

International order can be understood as a specific pattern of relations among key international actors, for example states, that is stable and helps sustain the provision of basic goals among its members. However, a modern globalized world order as we know it today, has emerged only over the past century.[2] The global order is a more complex order and is sustained, regulated, and modified through a system of global governance that includes the international community of states, a system of international multilateral institutions centered

around the United Nations, and global civil society composed of NGOs, transnational groups, international social movements, and influential private individuals.[3] Additionally, the current global order is significantly influenced by two competing forces: globalization and regionalization.

Globalization can be described as an increased level of global interdependence that encompasses technology, culture, politics, and economics and shapes how states and non-state institutions interact with one another.[4] Regionalization, on the other hand, is a process of intensified local cooperation and institution-building within a specific geographical region.[5] One of the main motivators for intensified regional cooperation is to address the challenges arising from globalization. Regionalization has been most pronounced in Europe, and the European Union（EU）is currently the most advanced form of regional cooperation.

This expose, which is meant to be a study supplement for students learning about contemporary international society, examines the complexities of the global international order, focusing on the interplay between globalization, regionalization, and global governance. It explores how the international system has evolved from being state-centric to a more decentralized network that includes significant contributions from non-state actors. In the following text we will see the impact of globalization on the intertwining economies, technologies, and cultures while framing regionalization as a cooperative response to these global changes. We also delve into the role of global governance in maintaining the international order. By evaluating these dynamics, this short analysis provides insights into the current and future landscapes of international relations.

The first section of the text explains the concept of international order and the role of states in the governance of the international society. The second section explains global governance and its basic components – the system of states, multilateral institutions, global civil society, and international social movements. The last two sections describe globalization and regionalization. Finally, the EU is presented as an example of recent regional integration, followed by concluding remarks.

II. International order

In the history of humankind, we can discern many different types of international orders. Generally, we can define international order as a regular and relatively stable pattern of political, economic, and cultural exchange among groups of people organized in political communities. These communities can be states, city states, empires, feudal units, colonies, or other types of groupings. People have not always lived in states, and for the largest part of human history, the most common way of organizing political life has been the empire. The

earliest prototypes of international orders can thus already be located during the time of early civilizations such as Sumer (modern-day Iraq).[6] As people settled down and established urban communities, rituals and customs regulating exchanges among them developed as well. These regional orders, local patterns, and practices regulating commerce, war, diplomacy, and law can also be found in the history of all regions worldwide.[7]

The modern international political order, as we know today, is based on nation-states and began emerging only through the end of the 16th century in Europe. It was finally consolidated as a result of a Thirty Year' War that was concluded with a set of treaties called the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. This has ended European religious wars and has been set as the birthday of the modern system of states that over the past two centuries became global in scale and deeply interconnected politically, economically, and culturally. In other words, the Westphalian political order represented the bedrock of the modern international political order, which expanded through European colonialism, imperialism, and industrialization.[8]

As mentioned at the beginning the idea of international order has been at the heart of theoretical debates about international politics, and in the modern period, it has centered almost exclusively on the concept of the system of sovereign states. Traditional theoretical approaches like realism and liberalism, describe the modern system of nation-states as the kernel of the international order and a crucial element influencing international stability under the conditions of anarchy.[9]

Hedley Bull, a representative of the English School of International Relations and one of the most influential philosophers of international political order, distinguished between a rudimentary system of states, in which regular interactions prompt states to observe and calculate the behavior of other states, and a society of states that is characterized by development of common interests, norms and values that motivate the development of rules (international law) and institutions (multilateral organizations) which promote order and justice.[10] In modern times, the system of states has gradually evolved from a system of loosely connected, regionally based nations to an interconnected community of states built on shared interests and a complex network of multilateral institutions regulating their mutual relations. When we understand states as forming a social community, as Hedley Bull does, we see why the promotion of international order and stability is one of the central imperatives to the sustained reproduction of this community.

However, how is the international order established, and by whom? According to Bull, the responsibility for the promotion and maintenance of political order and stability in international relations is (or should be) in the hands of great powers. Great powers are large and influential enough to upset and/or even change the structure and dynamics of

international order. However, Bull's statement does not necessarily reflect what great powers do. As we can see in history books, great powers do not always act responsibly for the sake of promoting international public goods. They often disregard the needs of the international community and become a source of international disorder and tragedy.[11] In the past century, this happened at least twice, and on both occasions, the First World War (1914-1918) and the Second World War (1939-1945), the foundations of international relations were seriously shaken.

The idea behind great power responsibility for maintaining order and stability can be discerned from the realist notion of order as a balance-of-power system. The concept of balance is synonymous with equilibrium and is used in other social sciences such as economics. In International Relations, the balance of power is part of realist theory and holds that nations of approximately equal strength will seek to maintain the status quo (keep the current order unchanged) by preventing any nation or group of nations from gaining superiority over others.[12] In a balance-of-power system, participating nations often form alliances and frequently resort to military force and economic pressure to resolve disputes, seize territory, and gain international prestige. The idea of order as a social system in equilibrium is based on the assumption that balancing is necessary to preserve and maintain a specific system in order. Because the ultimate goal is the stability and preservation of the system itself, the balancing process prevents any state or group of states from dominating others.[13]

For example, after the end of the Cold War, Russia resisted the expansion of the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) into Eastern Europe, partly because strong and united Western Europe could be perceived as a potential threat to Russia's integrity and security. According to the balance of power theorem, it is possible to presume that Russia has been attempting to rebalance power distribution in Europe and its contingent regions by disrupting the European integration process through espionage, use of force, cyber warfare, and alliances with like-minded states. Similarly, China's rise in Asia has led Japan to increase its defense spending and armaments, expand its security alliances, and more actively defend the central values and principles underlying the liberal world order, which has contributed to its economic development and reintegration into the international community since World War II.

However, the emerging international political order does not seem to exhibit a clear global balance of power configuration and is marked by several contradictory trends epitomized by integration movements transcending national borders and a simultaneous rise of terrorism and religious-ethnic particularisms within nations. The shape of the world to come is still not clear, but most probably, it will not be dominated by a single state.

In addition to the shifting balance of power, the international order also faces new uncertainties. Today's profound challenges, including global warming, water and air pollution, deforestation, and the like, as well as maniac depletion of natural resources, nuclear proliferation, overpopulation, and shocking inequalities in international wealth distribution, are global and require a global response. States cannot solve these issues on their own. As the ability and effectiveness of states to solve the central issues of our time have come under question, alternative forms of international governance, including a wider network of international organizations and various actors from global civil society, have emerged. This newly expanded system of managing and organizing the international order is known as the global governance system.

Ⅲ. Global governance and non-state (transnational) actors

Global governance is a decentralized multilevel governance system that joins state and non-state (including transnational) actors in the management of the international order and searches for solutions to central global problems. Global governance is closely related to the emergence of new international problems and the proliferation of non-state actors after the end of the Cold War.[14]

Managing international order has traditionally focused on interactions between states conducted through intergovernmental exchange. However, over time, especially as the bipolar international order ended and globalization intensified, the international community expanded, and the role and influence of non-state actors strengthened as well. The category of non-state actors has a wide meaning and includes any organization other than the state with a role in international relations. In the most general sense, there are two main types of non-state actors: intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs).[15]

IGOs are non-state actors with governments as members. INGOs include organizations that were not established by an intergovernmental agreement. INGOs are essentially private organizations that operate at an international level. In domestic politics, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are often represented by interest groups or non-profit organizations (NPOs) that operate independently from governments and promote citizen interests in a specific issue area.

IGOs are recognized as subjects of international law, with separate standing from their member states. IGOs serve various functions, including collecting information and monitoring trends, delivering assistance and aid, providing forums for intergovernmental-diplomatic intercourse, and providing good offices for the settling of disputes. According to liberal

theories of international relations, IGOs are instrumental to the development of international cooperation.

States join IGOs for various reasons but mostly for the benefits and advantages that membership and cooperation bestow on them.[16] These include information gathering, resource sharing, influencing international debate on important issues, and participation in rule-making. IGOs are an important part of global governance because besides creating opportunities and benefits for member states, they also exercise influence and impose checks and balances on state policies and actions. IGOs affect member states by setting international standards and forcing governments to hold positions on international issues. They also influence global order by facilitating the creation of norms and rules of behavior with which states must align their policies if they wish to benefit from reciprocity.

Among the numerous IGOs operating worldwide, the United Nations (UN) functions as the central pillar of the global governance ecosystem. It is the only IGO with a global reach and almost universal membership, whose agenda encompasses the broadest range of global issues. The UN is a complex organization that can create new IGOs within its system of semi-autonomous institutions. The UN is also a central diplomatic stage for addressing questions of international peace, order, and justice. For example, the UN represents the core of the global security system and is the primary legitimizer of actions initiated to deal with military threats and aggression. Under Article 24 of the UN Charter, the UN Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and the authority to act on behalf of all member states of the UN. No other IGO in the world today has such moral authority and legitimacy. As a center of global diplomacy, the UN is an important forum for global policy formulation and dissemination. It also acts as an intermediary between member states and global civil society. The UN has a strong network of relations with all the most important INGOs that have developed a strong collective presence in various UN forums. Here, they are given the opportunity to access intergovernmental events and meetings, and influence debates and discussions relevant to international issues. In this sense, the UN represents a central bridge to dialogue between the international community of states and global civil society.[17]

INGOs (excluding transnational groups) are private and voluntary associations whose members are individuals or localized groups that join to achieve a common purpose. Some INGOs advocate a particular cause, such as human rights (Amnesty International), environmental protection (Greenpeace), and the protection of endangered species (Oceana). Although the majority of INGOs work independently from governments, they can sometimes be established or promoted through government assistance. These are the so-called government-organized non-governmental organizations or GONGOs. Examples of GONGOs

include the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Nashi, a Russian youth group; Saudi Arabia's International Islamic Relief Organization; and Chongryon, the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan.

INGOs of all forms and sizes are active at different levels of international relations. Some operate in specific local communities, whereas others are national-based NGOs that work through local networks (ex. ABC Nepal). Many famous INGOs evolved into transnational coalitions. Coalitions may take the form of umbrella INGOs, networks, or caucuses.

In days when the main form of communication was by mail and even transnational telephone conversations were expensive and time-consuming to arrange, multinational coalitions generally took the form of institutional structures. Many international women's organizations, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, and the World Conservation Union are examples of this era. They are referred to as umbrella organizations to signify the presence under the single umbrella of a variety of different NGOs that do not share a common identity.

A variant of the global network is a global caucus.[18] This arises when a group of NGOs comes together as lobbyists at an international diplomatic event, such as a UN agenda-setting conference or a UN forum for negotiating the formulation or implementation of a treaty. The caucus will be highly focused on achieving specific outcomes from the diplomatic processes. When we consider something loose and transient as a caucus, it is perhaps inappropriate to call it an organization. Nevertheless, structured umbrella coalitions, networks, and caucuses are handled in the same manner by governments. In the UN system, all transnational actors have to accept the label "NGO," to participate.[19] They may be present under the label of a coalition or its constituents or through both routes. The Red Cross, Oxfam, Doctors Without Borders, and Transparency International are just a few of the most famous and influential INGOs.

Various transnational groups are a separate category of non-state actors that have considerable influence on states and global order.[20] In the academic study of international relations, the term "transnational" was adopted to refer to any relationship across country boundaries, in which at least one of the actors was not a government. It was adopted to deny the assumption that international relations were the same as inter-state relations or, more precisely, intergovernmental relations. It came into currency in the 1970s as a result of economic and environmental questions being recognized as a high priority for the global agenda. It is apparent that the academic concept of a transnational actor is different from that of an INGO. First, it excludes all INGO activities confined to a single country. Second, it includes all other non-governmental actors who have been defined as being outside the world of NGOs. It is commonly used to address the international agency of transnational companies,

criminal organizations, guerrillas, and terrorist groups. [21] In global politics, it is rare for any reference to be made to transnational NGOs, presumably because an NGO's involvement in global politics ipso facto makes it transnational.

Multinational corporations (MNCs) are especially influential transnational organizations in international relations. MNCs operate in more than one region or country. For example, the largest MNCs surpass the assets and revenue of most developing countries.[22] The largest corporations, such as Apple, Exxon, Amazon, and Pfizer, have combined revenues that cannot be matched by the majority of world countries. MNCs have an impressive influence on global economic systems and financial relations. Corporations' interests and profits often influence government policies and decisions. For example, some of the largest oil companies (like BP and ExxonMobil) are known to lobby against the conclusion of the anti-global warming regime. Furthermore, during the COVID-19 pandemic, governments have not been able to deal efficiently by curbing the spread of infections and are leaning heavily on the largest multinational pharmaceutical corporations, such as Pfizer, to develop vaccination drugs and the final solution to the global health crisis. As actors in global governance, MNCs profoundly alter the structure and function of the global economy. By choosing where to invest, MNCs influence the development opportunities of individual nations and regions. By relocating their operations from one country to another or even making decisions to (not) build new production lines, MNC activities can significantly impact national budgets and the well-being of local communities.

In addition to non-governmental and transnational actors, global civil society is shaped by various international social movements.[23] Although the logic behind social movements is complex, it often starts as a critical stance on a specific issue concerning official governmental policy and then evolves into an open challenge to government actions through protests and campaigning on the international stage. Progressive social movements with local bases and global support networks that have a considerable impact on global governance include the environmental movement, human rights movement, women's movement, peace movement, pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong, and anti-globalization movement. Social movements are often linked to specific NGOs or transnational groups such as Greenpeace within environmental movements. There are, however, various religious and political social movements, such as Islamic fundamentalism in the Muslim World, Christian fundamentalism in the US, and the neo-Nazi movements in Europe, which are examples of disruptive and non-progressive social movements that resort to violence in their activities.

Many social movements have emerged in specific countries and eventually spread to other states and regions. One example is the Arab Spring movement (or revolution), which began in Tunisia in 2010, with the self-immolation of the Tunisian fruit vendor Mohamed Bouazizi

decrying corruption.[24] His act prompted protests in Tunisia and then across the Middle East and North Africa, which forced longtime authoritarian leaders in Tunisia, Egypt, and Yemen to step down. In Syria inspired by these previously unthinkable events, fifteen boys in the southwestern city of Deraa spray-painted on a school wall: "The people want the fall of the regime." Subsequently, they were arrested and tortured. Demonstrators who rallied behind them clashed with the police, and protests spread. Eventually, Syria fell into a protracted civil war that destabilized the Middle East and sparked a massive exodus of refugees to Europe.[25]

The Arab Spring is also indicative of the powerful role that private individuals can play in the dynamics of change in international relations. Mohamed Bouazizi started a chain of events that changed the political face of a region. After the video of his self-immolation was posted on the Internet, longstanding authoritarian regimes in the Middle East fell one after the other, and a window for democratization was opened. There are other examples of individuals' influence on the global ordering of international politics. For example, Mahatma Gandhi by personal example influenced the non-violent resistance movement and inspired decolonization and a broader debate on economic and political rights around former European colonies. Martin Luther King the American Baptist minister inspired by Gandhi started the civil rights movement in the US while still further promoting the concept of civil disobedience as a tool for the emancipation of the oppressed. Among women, Aung San Suu Kyi is an example of personal sacrifice in the fight against oppressive regimes. She faced opposition from the repressive military government of Myanmar. In her country, defying a ban on political gatherings, she spoke to large groups of people and demanded a democratic government. She advocated non-violence and civil disobedience, and in 1989, the government placed her under house arrest, where she stayed for more than 20 years. In 1991, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and became an international symbol for civil opposition and political change. However, Suu Kyi's reputation and international fame has been later tarnished by her failure to condone Myanmar's military operation and genocide of the Rohingya in 2017.[26]

Issues championed by NGOs, social movements, and famous individuals have progressively acquired a transnational character. The core nature of international relations has changed over the past three decades. At the center of this change, fulfilling many of the above-mentioned events and shaping key global trends, we find two antagonistic forces: globalization and regionalization.

IV. Globalization

In the past 30 years, globalization has had a significant impact on international relations, acting as a driving force that continues to shape the global order. The effects of globalization can be observed almost daily, particularly in global markets and international relations as a

whole. Simply put, globalization refers to the growing economic interconnectedness of the world, which extends beyond economic relations and encompasses technological, political, and cultural connections between states and non-state institutions.[27]

The 1970s saw the emergence of trends towards increasing global interdependence, as scholars in international relations observed the effects of oil shocks on interstate relations. By the end of the 1980s, with the conclusion of international ideological confrontation and the rapid spread of democracy and capitalism into Eastern Europe, it became increasingly clear that the rate and extent of growth in international interdependence was unprecedented. Since the 1990s, international relations have become more intense, deepened, and expanded to almost all areas of human social relations. Globalization, the driving force behind international exchange, has enabled us to travel faster, further, and cheaply than ever before. Globalization has also been a major factor in the proliferation of global social movements, terrorist networks, drug cartels, pandemics, and global investment funds. In short, globalization has affected everyone.

Owing to its omnipresence and large-scale influence, it is also a highly contested and debated phenomenon. The idea of globalization has, for example, challenged the core foundations of traditional theories of international relations, most notably realist and neo-realist theories, especially regarding their claims that nation-states are the primary movers of international relations. As we saw in the explanation of global governance, the state is not the only 'sheriff in town' (no longer), and it has been consistently and pervasively challenged by multiple actors at the same time, including multinational corporations, terrorist networks, global social movements, and even private individuals.[28]

Globalization has posed a serious challenge to modern states, and some have not been able to face this challenge. Although there are now more states than ever, we see a growing number of failed states – states where governments have just collapsed. Since the early 2000s, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Kongo, Liberia, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, and Syria have stopped functioning as normal states and have become sources of international instability and human tragedy. In the most general sense, failing/failed states have not been able to respond and adapt to the technological changes and challenges posed by globalization, which has made them vulnerable to social problems and foreign exploitation.

The failing state phenomenon also means that globalization has disrupted the fundamental state's ability to provide basic social needs – security, freedom, order, justice, and welfare.[29] As we saw in the previous section, states are no longer the only governing unit of world order, which means that many important decisions are made elsewhere. In some cases, international organizations, global financial institutions, transnational groups, and corporations can provide

public goods much more efficiently than can states. Through the Internet, smartphones, and computer technology, globalization has equipped various sub-state groups and individuals with more information, knowledge, and political options. Consequently, loyalties and group identities have been shifting away from states, and in many corners of the world, have refueled ethnic religious divisions, weakened local communities, and propelled mass migrations. States have countered this process through intensified regionalization by seeking more cooperation and integration at the regional level. At the most general level, regionalization can be understood as a counter-reaction of states to the challenges posed by globalization.

For these and other reasons, globalization has turned into a source of intense scholarly and political debate at both the domestic and international levels. Protest against globalization have become common around the world. One of the strongest international social movements contesting globalization has been the anti-globalization movement.[30] It is a conglomerate of issues and causes spanning from fair trade, international debt, global warming, women's rights, disarmament, and labor standards, which point to the shortcomings of globalization. Globalization in its current form is seen as a 'devilish' force that has led to increased global oppression, exploitation, and injustices. Additionally, at the core of the movement, we find a general belief that globalization is neither fair nor just and that some parts of the world get more out of it than the rest of the world. In this sense, globalization is often equated with Americanization and/or Westernization.

On the other hand, supporters of globalization argue against the accusations of anti-globalists by saying that globalization is a multidimensional phenomenon that has many benefits.[31] They say that globalization is not a single process of economic exploitation; rather, it is a multidimensional process that has benefited social life, culture, science, and education.[32] Globalization impacts us on much deeper levels than we might think, not just on our consumption of commodities. This is reflected in our daily lives through how we learn, work, feel, and think about ourselves and others. Globalists are aware of economic injustices and other issues about globalization; however, they point out that we should be more systematic in judging the actual costs and benefits of globalization.

V. Regionalization

Globalization has pushed for more regional cooperation among states. As globalization began challenging states' primacy in international relations, they reacted by seeking alternative ways to manage risks and strengthen their governance positions in the global order. The term regionalization is commonly associated with intensified cooperation within a geographical region. More precisely, however, we can define regionalization as a form of cooperation among states that share geographical proximity, which often leads to the formation of regional

organizations.[33] Many regions around the world host multiple regional organizations whose membership overlaps. For example, Europe is one of the regions with the most densely developed network of regional organizations, with the European Union（EU）standing at its center.

When discussing regionalization another important distinction must be made between regional cooperation and regional integration. Regional cooperation can be established in specific areas of mutual interests for a specific purpose, like the management of river regimes（ex. the Danube River Commissions）. However, this does not constitute any obligation for coordinated action among states in other policy areas. Political cooperation goes a step further and diversifies mutual support, cooperation, and joint action in different policy areas. For example, Visegrad states（Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic）often coordinate diplomatic initiatives in the UN and the EU.

Regional integration is the ultimate form of strengthening regional cooperation. It is a much deeper form of cooperation that combines resources and creates a set of institutions and rules for the regulation of mutual relationships. For example, economic integration tends to follow the preset stages of cooperation, which include a free trade area, a customs union, a common market, and finally an economic and monetary union. Currently, the EU represents the most advanced form of economic and political integration in the modern history of international relations.

EU as an example of advanced regional integration

The European Union（EU）is a unique international regional organization that was built out of a specific historical and geographical context of European animosities and has evolved into a model of closer economic and political cooperation.[34] It now represents the standard model for measuring political and economic integration in other regions of the world.

The EU comprises 27 European states and governs their economic, social, and security policies. Historically, the EU began with limited economic cooperation among Western Europe after the conclusion of World War II. In 1957, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany signed the Treaty of Rome, which created the European Economic Community（EEC）and established a customs union. Their cooperation gradually intensified, and their membership expanded to several other European states. The EU was formally created after the fall of the Eastern Bloc by the Maastricht Treaty, which came into force in 1993. The Treaty became the legal foundation for political and economic integration that eventually led to the inclusion of several East European countries since 2004.[35]

The EU has also introduced a common currency, the Euro, a unified foreign and security

policy, and common citizenship rights. In terms of regional governance, the EU encompasses aspects of both supranationalism and intergovernmentalism. It has involved both the widening of membership and the deepening of ties among member states, integrating their economies and societies more closely and greatly expanding the authority of community institutions over member states (the supranational dimension).

The European Union (EU) has contributed to more than half a century of peace and higher standards of living in Western Europe by fostering a single market that promotes free movement of goods, services, money, and people among member states. The EU's political governance is based on the principle of representative democracy, with citizens directly represented at the union level in the European Parliament and member states represented in the European Council and Council of Europe. The EU is also an important actor in the global governance system, being the world's largest trading bloc, exporter of manufactured goods and services, and one of the largest import markets. Additionally, the EU is one of the leading donors of humanitarian aid and has considerable influence on global norms and rule setting in major forums and institutions, such as the UN, G7, and the WTO. The EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012, in recognition of its efforts to promote peace and democracy.[36]

VI. Conclusion

The contemporary international order is a dynamic and multifaceted entity shaped by the interplay of globalization, regionalism, and global governance. It evolved from a predominantly state-centric system to a more decentralized network, where both state and non-state actors exert significant influence. Globalization has fundamentally altered the landscape of international relations, creating a web of economic, technological, and cultural interdependencies that transcends traditional national boundaries. This global interconnectedness demands new collaborative approaches to governance and international cooperation.

Regionalization has gained prominence as a response to globalization, with countries recognizing the advantages and necessities of stronger regional ties and opting for cooperation and integration. The European Union serves as a prime illustration of this development, showcasing regional entities' capacity to shape regional politics and economics. Effective global governance, with its diverse range of actors, is crucial for preserving and managing the international system. Moreover, in this framework, global challenges are tackled, cooperation is promoted, and dialogue among various stakeholders is facilitated.

Navigating this complex environment requires a delicate balance between the forces of global integration and the preservation of regional identities. It is a continuous process of finding the

right equilibrium to promote global stability, peace, and prosperity, respecting the nuances of both collective interests and individual sovereignty. Finally, we should consider the potential trajectories of international relations if the current trends persist or intensify. Which new forms of cooperation and governance might emerge to address the evolving challenges of our deeply interconnected, yet diversely opinionated world? How will the roles and responsibilities of both state and non-state actors adapt to these shifting dynamics? Exploring these and other similar questions is crucial, as the answers will undoubtedly shape the future of the global community.

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