Related issues in Political Economy:

Globalisation and its Consequences
Critical Globalisation Studies

- ‘Globalisation is a highly contested domain, and there are no absolute lines for demarcating it’ (Mittelman p.27)
A view on globalisation

The intensification of the world-wide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice-versa (Giddens 1991)
A Definition

‘Globalisation: A process (or set of processes) which embodies a transformation in the spatial organisation of social relations and transactions – assessed in terms of their extensity, intensity, velocity and impact– generating transcontinental or interregional flows and networks of activity, interaction, and the exercise of power’. (Anthony McGrew: Sustainable Globalization. In: Allen & Thomas (eds.): Poverty and development into the 21st century, 2000, p. 348.)
Globalisation, History

In the pre-1500 period, globalisation was a gradual, uneven and highly contested process that did not, for the most part, penetrate deep into societies and cultures (Kennedy & Roudometof, p.9)

"Something akin to ‘globalisation’ has a long presence within the history of capitalism. Certainly from 1492 onwards and even before, the internationalisation of trade was well under way. (Harvey, p. 54)

Historicism incorporates the time dimension in globalisation studies. It corrects the ahistorical approaches to globalisation. (Mittelman, p.24)
‘A sense of the shrinking of distances through the dramatic reduction in the time taken, either physically (for instance via air travel) or representationally (via the transmission of electronically mediated information and images), to cross them.’

(Tomlinson, J.: Globalization and Culture, 1999, p.3)
Held & McGrew: The Global Transformations Reader

Three perspectives on globalisation:

- Sceptics: State still important
- Hyper Globalists: markets most important (not state)
- Transormalists: Multi-layered phenomenon, also social.
'Sceptics'

‘People are less mobile than goods, money or ideas; in a sense they remain *nationalised*, dependent on passports, visas, and residence qualifications’.

(P. Hirst & G. Thompson (1997): Globalisation in Question, p.171)
Hyper Globalists

‘Economic globalisation is constructing new forms of social organisation that are supplanting, or will eventually supplant the traditional states as the principal economical and political units of world society’

(Held, D. & A. McGrew (2000): Global Transformation…. p.3)
Transformalists

‘Globalisation is perceived as a powerful transformative force, which is responsible for a massive shake-out of societies, economies, institutions of governance and world order’

(Held & Mc.Grew, p. 7)
Belonging

Located in place (p.2).

In the course of individual histories, feelings of belonging will begin to disengage themselves from this level of unreflected immediacy as people move away from the sources of belonging (p.3)

‘Globalisation: Weakening the sovereign, autonomous nation-state and by means of transnational processes that create or facilitate porous open borders, multiple forms of identity and belonging or even borderless, virtual forms of belonging are emerging.’ (Hedetoft, p.4)
Globalisation

‘Globalization the outcome of a geopolitical crusade waged largely by the Unites States.

Globalization as a process has since 1945 been US centred.

So the answer to ‘who put globalisation on the agenda?’ is, therefore, capitalist class interests operating through the agency of the US foreign, military, and commercial policy. (supported by interests in other parts of the world) (Harvey p. 68-69)
Globalisation: another definition

‘Globalisation represents at least a partial qualitative break with past social experiences and social realities.’

‘Globalisation, rather than a single process, is the cumulative interaction of a number of analytically distinct, but utterly interrelated, developments’. (Jenkins p. 66)
‘Is global more an imaginative, ideological, or marketing expression than a spatial reality? In economic terms, there seems to be little doubt that, rather than increasing and expanding global interdependence and connectedness, what is in fact happening is the steady deepening and widening of the gulf between core and periphery’. (Jenkins p. 73)
Migration

‘Labour migration is probably the most important human transfer between core and periphery – establishment of transnational communities linking core and periphery.’” (Jenkins p. 74)
Globalisation for all?

Although it appears that economic, political, and interpersonal relationships among the affluent 25 percent of the world’s population are becoming ever more dense, multiplex, and shared, the same is not true for the other 75 percent, or between the richer and the poorer ends of the global spectrum. (Jenkins p. 75)
Some Features of Globalisation

- A process of mutual linkages
- Transcends national boundaries
- Connects communities across time & space
- Flows - economic, social, political, cultural, military, technological, people, identity
- Goes hand in hand with marginalisation
- Central role of IT
Globalisation: A Preliminary Definition

“an unprecedented compression of time and space reflected in the tremendous intensification of social, political, economic, and cultural interconnections and interdependencies on a global scale.”

Stegler, p. ix

- time-space compression
- deterritorialisation and suprateritorriality
One way to approach this: think about the world before globalisation

- Distance mattered—space often measured in time
- Territorial boundaries more or less kept things in and out
- Society and culture had spatial referents
- Everything had its “place” (literally)
In a world of deterritorialisation and supraterioriality:

• Distance becomes almost irrelevant (the end of distance)

• Boundaries are increasingly permeable.

• Groups and cultures increasingly don’t have a territorial basis (deterritorialisation)

• A new kind of non-physical “place” is emerging (supraterioriality)
Bosworth and Gordon: A survey of some key processes

• Expansion of international commerce
• Rising importance of private capital flows
• Increasing travel and migration
• Increased communication and interaction between peoples
Bosworth and Gordon also point to some of the key public controversies over globalisation:

- The fact there are winners and losers, and societies vary in how much they compensate the losers
- Continuing poverty: ¼ world’s population below $1 a day; over ½ below $2 a day
- Inequality between rich and poor is rising
- Environmental concerns and conflict over global governance
- Open borders and their effects (the piggy-back effect)
Key themes

- The power of information/technology
- A new form of informational capitalism
- The logic of networks: what is new?
- The dialectics of net and self
- Globalisation and marginalisation
- Power of flows
- Power of identity
Beck – Risk Society

- Relation of people-social structures: who defines risk?
- Constructed nature of risks - “stork does not bring consequences, they are made”
- Themes
  - Redistribution of risk
  - Destandardisation of labour
  - Individualisation versus standardisation
Frank Lechner: Empirical Debates

1. Process vs. Project
2. New Era vs. Nothing New (Globabaloney)
3. Hard vs. Soft
4. End vs. Revival of Nation State
5. Cultural Sameness vs. Difference
Amartya Sen: Normative Debates

(Good vs. Bad)

1. Whether globalisation is a Western curse

2. Whether globalisation fairly benefits the poor

3. Whether the institutional infrastructure of globalisation is adequate
‘Over the past decade globalisation has been driven by technological advances…..But globalisation has also been driven by policies and ideas…’  
(Bosworth & Gordon)