

Independent yet influential

The Globalisation Institute is a registered charity. Because we are independent, our research is valued, trusted and acted upon. We are non-party and work with policymakers regardless of political affiliation who appreciate our fresh insights and our evidence-based research.

Connect with us

Join our e-mail list and find out more about our programmes and how you can help at www.globalisationinstitute.org



The Globalisation Institute
Suite 58, 95 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1BZ, UK
www.globalisationinstitute.org
+44 (0)20 7043 2910

Cover photo: Michael Regnier/Panos



Globalisation: a force for good

We believe that globalisation is a force for good. Only by integrating the poorest into the world economy can we put an end to the poverty that still blights much of the world today. Globalisation has enabled China to lift 160m people out of poverty, and millions have been lifted out of poverty in India, too.

Yet in many poor countries, there are important problems that need to be addressed. Civil wars, poor governance, economic exclusion through informal property rights, and too little investment all hinder prosperity. These problems need constructive solutions, and ones that progress beyond simple slogans and gesturing.

Globalisation is also a major contributor to economic growth in rich countries. Removing barriers to trade enable businesses and consumers to take advantage of lower costs. Tariffs and quotas do not just hinder developing country exporters, but also the economies of rich countries.

But globalisation has serious opposition. As Mike Eskew, the CEO of UPS, recently said: “Everyone who believes in free and fair trade is in risk of losing a significant battle. There is a small but vocal anti-globalisation movement that has pushed its message forward with great force and tenacity.” Because globalisation is often demonised, its benefits are often not understood.

Moreover, the losers from globalisation tend to be in specific industries that are vocal. The 2001 introduction of

steel tariffs in the US had the clear benefit of helping the steel industry. But being allowed to buy the cheapest steel is good for the US economy as a whole, even though the benefits are spread wider, both geographically throughout the US and among a wider range of companies. Similarly, European farmers have a strong voice, while the benefits of ending the Common Agricultural Policy, though larger, are spread across Europe more thinly.

An enterprise-based approach

Our role involves educating opinion formers, policymakers and the general public about globalisation. Institute personnel are regularly on TV and radio and speak at public events, at schools and at universities. But our role goes further and includes ‘policy engineering’ – devising policy options that work around the political pressures and make globalisation work for the world’s poorest.

We work towards practical, enterprise-based policies that governments and international institutions can adopt in order that every country can take advantage of the benefits of globalisation.

We recognise that business and NGOs have often been suspicious of each other, but we believe that welcoming business is essential to fighting poverty. If we want to be effective in defeating poverty we need to engage – not dismiss – the champions of growth.