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This text is a reader containing forty articles on the theme of globalization, organized into ten chapters, divided, to some extent, along disciplinary lines. The authors are sociologists whose academic interests have included the study of racial and social inequality, interests that are reflected in the book's subtitle as well in the authors' choice of essays for inclusion. The book naturally emphasizes sociological perspectives and, based upon the authors' comments in the preface, was intended as a textbook reader for courses in sociology that deal with issues related to globalization. However, it is a welcome addition to any undergraduate course on globalization, irrespective of the discipline.

Although this text is listed as the third edition of the book, it is substantially different from earlier editions, containing twenty-six new selections, more than half of which have been published since 2008. In fact, several of the essays reference not only the 9/11 attacks of 2001 but also the current economic recession. Sources include not just academic and popular books but also mainstream newspapers such as *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*; other excerpts are drawn from academic and policy journals such as *Current History* and *Foreign Policy*. About a quarter of the essays were selected from progressive magazines, newsletters, and websites, including *Mother Jones*, *Counterpunch*, *The Nation*, *The American Prospect*, and the *Center for American Progress*. According to the authors, many of the recently published essays were chosen to "reflect an emphasis on grassroots resistance and social movements aimed at changing the outcomes of globalization toward more humane goals" (p. x). In short, the authors are straightforward about their agenda; they are more interested in exploring the social impacts of globalization and in raising related ethical questions than in providing a comprehensive overview of it. This is not to say that this volume is one-sided, though a few of the essays do verge on the polemical. Indeed, the work often pairs essays that present conflicting viewpoints that leave significant room for classroom debate and discussion, which is encouraged and facilitated by the inclusion of a series of questions for reflection at the end of each chapter.

In editing such a reader on globalization, there is clearly a vast amount of material to from which to select, creating inherently difficult editorial decisions about what materials to include. In the preface, the editors make clear which aspects of globalization they consider problematic and therefore worthy of attention. They admit that they have chosen essays that (1) "focus on the consequences of globalization among developed countries and developing countries," (2) will "highlight debates on whether the forms globalization take are beneficial or not," and (3) have "a critical edge" (p. x). As a result, there is a marked critique of the social and economic effects of globalization in developing countries in a number of the essays, particularly those drawn from the aforementioned progressive sources.

After an introductory chapter that briefly characterizes the prominent features of globalization, subsequent chapters focus on such areas as economic globalization, political globalization, cultural globalization, the globalization of social problems and social movements, and transnational migration and its impact upon social organization. Framing these are an early chapter on "debating globalization," which presents arguments and counter-arguments on whether globalization is a good or bad development and the final chapter on "rethinking globalization," which revisits this and other questions. Despite the division of the essays into broadly disciplinary chapters, there is a good deal of thematic overlap, as certain prominent themes are considered from multiple perspectives. Some of these recurring tropes are the development and implementation of global financial structures, the political implications of

globalization, the impact of globalization on gender roles, and the effects of transnational migration.

For those unfamiliar with the origins and roles of the acronymic global economic organizations that control much of the world's economic policies, a useful primer is offered in "The ABCs of the Global Economy" and other essays. The text also includes seminal essays on the social, political, and economic aspects of globalization by prominent commentators such as Anthony Giddens, Thomas Friedman, and Joseph Stiglitz. Significantly, a number of the essays focus on the economic and social effects of transnational migration, including discussions of exploitation and immigrant rights in the United States, the depopulation and impoverishment of certain regions of Mexico, the impact of transnational movements of labor on families in developing countries, the ethics of commercialized surrogate motherhood, and the environmental effects of mass global tourism.

The reader provides a basic understanding of the complex processes of globalization, along with a basic grounding in the issues being debated, yet it also includes essays on a wide-ranging variety of issues. On one hand, this could be seen as a flaw in the text, as it seems to jump unevenly from topic to topic. On the other hand, by including texts from both academic and popular sources, which introduce students and their professors to a plethora of diverse—and often little discussed—manifestations of the globalizing process, it adds personal interest stories and layers of complexity. For example, included are essays on Japanese hip-hop, the Mexican beer industry, the global popularity of skin lighteners, the global trade in electronic waste, Sri Lankan and Filipino maids and nannies, surrogate mothers in India, sex trafficking, the effects of the BP oil spill on turtles in the Caribbean, and the flow of guns from the United States into Mexico. While at times eclectic in its coverage, the book presents a variety of insights and perspectives on the theme of globalization as well as some often startling statistics on, for instance, the astronomical rise in the number of international tourists since 1960 and international air travelers since 1980, the percentages of African women who use skin lighteners, the estimated number of women abducted annually from the Ukraine by sex traffickers, the percent of the Filipino population that is supported by remittances from migrant workers, the number of licensed gun dealers in the Houston metropolitan area, and the small number of multinational food and beverage companies that control much of what is available on American supermarket shelves. In some instances, the text would benefit from some explanatory footnotes. For instance, in Joseph Stiglitz's essay, "Globalism's Discontents," he refers to the symbolic significance of "the Seattle protestors of 1999" (p. 112), a reference unlikely to ring a bell with most undergraduate readers. In general, however, given the disparate varieties of essays and excerpts, the text is accessible to undergraduates.

As a reader with a relatively short introductory chapter, *Globalization: The Transformation of Social Worlds* gives neither a history nor a clear definition of 'globalization,' nor is the text comprehensive coverage of the phenomenon. It is, however, a useful supplementary reader for any course that deals with the phenomenon of globalization. The essays included in the volume are timely and diverse and generate debate about the impact of globalization, and, as the authors intended, often do so with "a critical edge."

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