

Globalization Processes And Human Rights

Khudoyberdiyev Rashid Zakirovich,
Khamidullayeva Sarvinoz O'tkir qizi
Tashkent State Medical University

Abstract. Globalization processes — including trade, investment flows, technological integration, migration, and cultural exchange — have a multifaceted impact on human rights worldwide. This article examines both the positive and negative aspects of globalization, particularly in relation to labor rights, economic and social rights, cultural and ethnic rights, and migration rights. Based on statistical data and academic research, the legal and practical foundations of globalization processes are analyzed. In conclusion, the paper identifies risk factors of globalization in the context of human rights and offers legal and social measures to mitigate their negative consequences.

Keywords: Globalization, human rights, labor rights, economic and social rights, migration, ethnic rights, legal regulation.

Introduction. At the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century, the world increasingly transformed into an economically, politically, and socially interconnected system. This process, commonly referred to as *globalization*, encompasses the rapid expansion of international trade, the cross-border movement of capital, the advancement of information and communication technologies, and the intensification of exchanges among people, ideas, and cultures. For example, global trade today is not merely expanding in scope but has reached approximately 25% of the world's total GDP in terms of export and import volume.¹

While globalization has provided humanity with new opportunities, it has also introduced new challenges — particularly in the field of human rights. Global economic integration and technological development have caused a shift from nationally based legal frameworks to transnational and cross-border forms of regulation. According to *Freedom House*, the share of people living in “fully free” countries has increased from 35% to 46% over the past three decades.²

However, research shows that globalization processes are not entirely beneficial for human rights. Studies in the field of *Human Rights Studies* indicate that economic, political, and social dimensions of globalization may have positive effects on certain types of rights, while potentially exerting negative influences on others.³

For example, one study found that while *physical integrity rights* are strongly correlated with globalization, *empowerment rights* show little to no significant connection. Therefore, the main purpose of this article is to analyze the complex relationship between globalization processes and human rights from a legal perspective — particularly to identify the legal and socio-legal implications of globalization based on statistical data and academic research.

Content and Objectives of the Study.

This study broadly examines the intricate relationship between globalization processes and human rights through a legal-analytical approach. The main content of the research includes the following aspects:

- Firstly, the concept of “globalization” is explored in its legal, economic, social, and cultural dimensions, as well as the ways in which these processes have evolved. Factors such as economic openness, the growth of investment and trade flows, and the worldwide spread of information and communication technologies are included.

¹ Esteban Ortiz-Ospina, Diana Beltekian, and Max Roser, Trade and Globalization, (2014). Our World in Data

² Daniel Griswold, Globalization, Human Rights, and Democracy. *eJournal USA* (2006).

³ Dreher, Axel & Gassebner, Martin & Siemers, Lars-H. R., 2010. "Globalization, economic freedom and human rights," University of Göttingen Working Papers in Economics 115, University of Goettingen, Department of Economics.

• Secondly, the concept of human rights — including civil and political rights, economic and social rights, migration rights, and the rights of local ethnic and cultural groups — is analyzed in light of the new challenges emerging under globalization.

• Thirdly, both the positive and negative impacts of globalization processes are examined based on statistical data and empirical research sources. For instance, the study highlights the effects of economic integration on human rights indicators in developing countries, as well as the outcomes of globalization related to access to healthcare and education.⁴

The purpose of this article is to analyze the relationship between globalization processes and human rights from the perspective of legal theory and practice, as well as to achieve the following specific objectives through statistical data and empirical research.

Main Part. *The Structure and Legal Aspects of Globalization*

Globalization is a process in which economic, political, cultural, and information-communication boundaries between states, societies, and individuals become increasingly permeable. Such processes include: the growth of international trade and investment flows, cross-border movement of capital and labor, exchange of technologies and information, and cultural as well as ideological integration.

For instance, the World Trade Organization (WTO) in its *World Trade Report 2023* notes that global trade integration has expanded opportunities for national development, cooperation, and the spread of economic and technological progress.

From a legal point of view, this process requires a balanced transformation between state sovereignty, national regulatory governance, and international norms. For example, research shows that the influence of global capital and transnational corporations has, to some extent, limited the legal authority of states.

Positive Impacts of Globalization on Human Rights

Globalization can contribute to the protection and improvement of human rights in several ways:

Information and Public Oversight: Through the Internet and global information networks, human rights violations can be rapidly exposed, creating public pressure for adherence to international legal standards. For instance, research has suggested that “globalization can strengthen legal protection by expanding freedom of information.”

International Legal Standards and Normative Pressure: In terms of human rights, international norms (for example, legal documents of the United Nations) have spread more widely through globalization and are increasingly reflected in national legislations. Scholar Z. F. Kabasakal Arat analyzed this aspect in the context of “the spread of human rights norms in different regions.”

Economic Growth and Legal Opportunities: Global trade and investment flows can increase economic resources in developing countries, thereby enabling improvements in education, healthcare, and labor rights — key components of socio-economic rights. For instance, economist S. R. Osmani (Ulster University) analyzed the interlinkages between globalization, economic growth, and legal protection. (Source: Ulster University)

Negative Impacts of Globalization on Human Rights

However, globalization also presents a number of challenges to the protection and implementation of human rights:

1. **Violation of Labor Rights:** In the search for cheap labor, globalization often results in poor working conditions, weakened labor unions, and diminished enforcement of equality and safety standards. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), as of 2022, approximately 27.6 million people were engaged in forced labor worldwide. (Source: ilo.org)

2. **Economic Inequality and Uneven Growth:** Globalization can lead to unequal distribution of income and wealth. Certain studies reveal that the positive effects of globalization are not experienced equally across all social groups. For example, research conducted by A. Dreher and colleagues (1981–2004) found that not every dimension of globalization has a positive impact on human rights.

⁴ Maichal, M., & Sugiyanto, F. X. (2025). Does globalization affect human development index? Evidence from high-corruption and low-corruption countries. *Jurnal Ekonomi & Studi Pembangunan*, 26(2).

3. Cultural and Information Control Risks: While global communication networks facilitate information exchange, they also pose risks to data privacy, personal security, and the sovereignty of local cultural groups. Katke (2018) discussed these complex cultural and legal implications of globalization.

Empirical Evidence and Statistical Data

Empirical data help clarify the relationship between globalization and human rights:

According to the ILO's report "*Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*", approximately 50 million people were living in conditions of modern slavery in 2021 — of whom 28 million were subjected to forced labor.⁵

Here is the full English translation of your provided section — including the analytical discussion and the conclusion — rendered in formal academic English suitable for an international journal:

From the Perspective of Global Investment Flows

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) *World Investment Report 2023*, the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) to developing countries reached USD 916 billion in 2022, accounting for over 70% of global investment flows. (Source: imf.org)

From the perspective of global trade integration, the World Trade Organization (WTO) in its *World Trade Report 2023* emphasized the need to better align trade integration and global supply chains with social and legal criteria.

Analytical Aspects

The theoretical and empirical aspects discussed above complement each other; however, it should be noted that:

- The impact of globalization on human rights is not unidirectional — it can be both positive and negative. For example, economic globalization can become a source of risk for poorly protected labor forces.
- The strength of national legal systems and institutions, the role of the state in ensuring justice, and the level of civil oversight are among the key factors determining how globalization affects human rights. In other words, under globalization, the question “who governs and how?” becomes crucial.
- Statistical data provide important guidance, yet they also have limitations: factors such as informal labor markets, invisible workforces, and cultural contexts may obscure direct interpretation of outcomes.
- From a legal standpoint, globalization creates a field for both legal opportunities and potential violations. Therefore, effective governance of globalization, strengthening of legal mechanisms, and integration of human rights protection are essential.

Conclusion.

1. Globalization processes have provided strong impetus to the formation of the human rights system. Owing to the activities of international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), International Labour Organization (ILO), and UNESCO, universal norms of human rights have become widely disseminated. As a result, many countries — including Uzbekistan — have accelerated the alignment of their national legislation with international standards. By 2023, Uzbekistan had ratified 9 out of the 10 core UN human rights treaties (UNHCR, 2023), marking a major achievement in this regard.

2. The economic dimensions of globalization bring both positive effects and disparities in human rights. Although global trade volume increased fourfold between 1990 and 2024 (WTO, 2024), the benefits of this growth have not been distributed equally. According to IMF (2023), the income of the richest 10% of the global population rose by 52%, while that of the poorest 40% increased by only 17%. This indicates persistent inequality in the practical realization of rights to education, healthcare, and fair labor.

3. Labor and environmental rights are among the most frequently violated within global production chains. The ILO (2023) reported that approximately 27.6 million people are engaged in forced labor worldwide. In parallel, environmental degradation — particularly in industrial zones of developing countries — continues to restrict the right to a healthy environment. Therefore, ensuring ecological sustainability and occupational safety must be recognized as priority dimensions in protecting human rights amid globalization.

⁵ Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage This report was produced through a collaboration between the ILO, Walk Free and the International Organization for Migration.

4. The advancement of information technologies has opened new opportunities for human rights protection. According to Freedom House (2024), 79% of the world's population now has access to information on human rights via the Internet. This plays a crucial role in strengthening civic oversight, detecting violations, and fostering global solidarity. However, it also necessitates reinforcing safeguards against cybersecurity threats and information manipulation.

5. Uzbekistan's experience represents a positive model of harmonizing globalization with human rights protection. The adoption of the "National Human Rights Strategy" in 2020 (Ministry of Justice, 2021) marked a significant step toward harmonizing national legislation with international standards. In recent years, notable progress has been observed in areas such as freedom of expression, gender equality, and social justice.

Globalization has created significant opportunities for human progress; however, it does not automatically ensure the protection of human rights. Therefore, as each state integrates into the global economic and political system, it must reconcile human rights protection with national sovereignty, social justice, and sustainable development principles.

It can thus be concluded that globalization and human rights are interdependent phenomena, yet without a balanced approach, this interdependence may lead to outcomes that contradict humanitarian and ethical values.

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