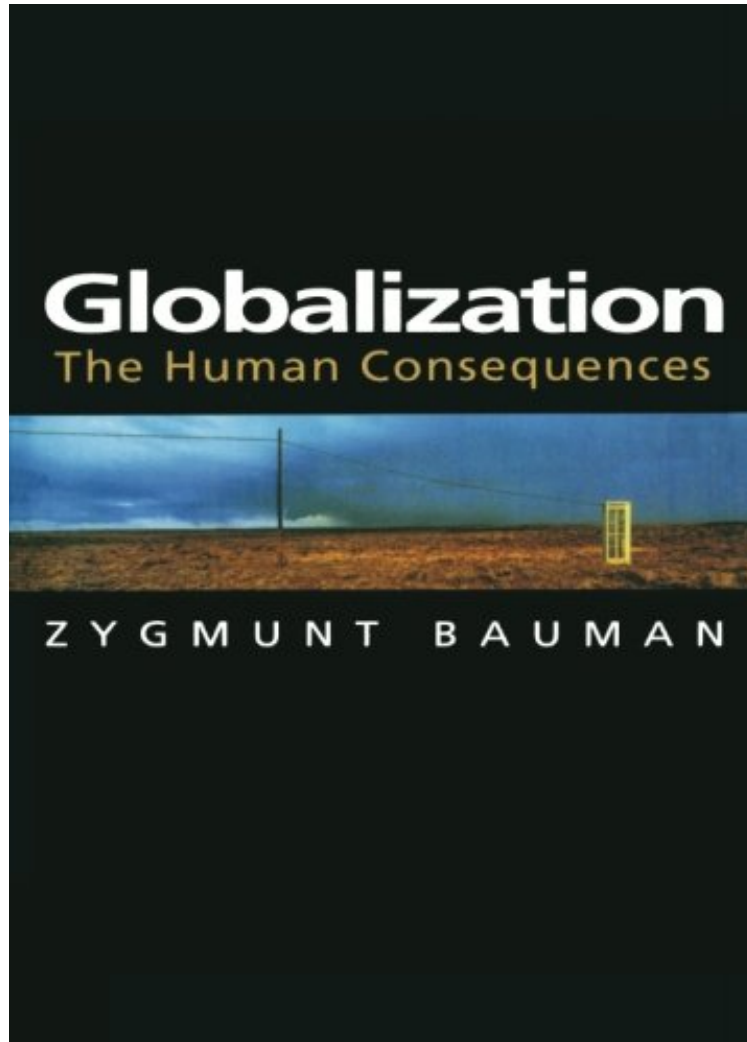


[FREE] Globalization: The Human Consequences

Globalization: The Human Consequences

Zygmunt Bauman

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#363084 in Books Zygmunt Bauman 1998-09-15 2000-10-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.50 x .33 x 5.381, .37 #File Name: 023111429X136 pages Globalization The Human Consequences | File size: 47.Mb

Zygmunt Bauman : Globalization: The Human Consequences before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Globalization: The Human Consequences:

25 of 25 people found the following review helpful. The Spatial Division of Global Power By A Customer The process of socio-economic reform in the free-market era, facilitated under the direction of private enterprise, has created an international dichotomy in the political realm between the mobility of capital (global) and the immobility of labor (local). Essentially, Bauman argues that the privatization of the global economy, although gradually, has led to the erosion of the public sphere and a rise in absentee landlordism. In a sociological sense, the inculcation of the consumerist ethos, harnessed as a means of fueling the burgeoning private sector, amounts to the de facto division of global consciousness into two categories. For the author, the tourist and the vagabond, people with the financial ability

to free themselves from the grips of spatial locality, and those who aspire to become free in the former sense, epitomize the cultural, economic, and political expectations of the new global elite and the local underclass. Bauman views the increased use of criminal incarceration and the conservative appeal to "public" law and order as an outgrowth of this spatial dichotomy, and the increase in urban criminal activity as a symptom of this new polarization. In referring to this issue as the "criminalization of poverty," Bauman suggests that the global elite have reconfigured the structure of power in the world market, since they are no longer bound by practical barriers, namely governmental restrictions and national boundaries. The tourists have effectively withdrawn from their historical obligation to local communities, while the underclass have been forced to contend with their plight (unemployment and economic insecurity) in the tumult of urban ghettos on an individual basis. Escape, slippage, and avoidance, according to the author, have become the preferred method of interaction with hostile localities, namely labor unions and unstable markets. Thus, the seat or seats of power, within the structure of the post-Fordist economy, have become more abstract and intangible, since capital mobility, capital flight, and financial investment are temporary, nomadic, and spatially diffused. Thus, contrary to the optimism of many free-market advocates and technocrats, the introduction of the technological/communicational age has not ushered in an era of international equality and access to the political sphere. In contrast, an asymmetrical structure of power relations now characterizes the global milieu and economic governance. Limited accountability, contemporarily speaking, has redefined the role of the business elite to their workers, communities, and consumers.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Bipolar Bauman
 By Rev. Thomas Scarborough
 This book represents one of a series, which, as one of its goals, "aims to shape the major intellectual controversies of our day". It deals with five major themes: the new "absentee landlords" of our time, the "legibility of space", the "demise of state sovereignty", the "freedom to choose where to be", and the criminalisation of "the rejects and the waste of globalization". Zygmunt Bauman paints a stark picture of "state borders . . . levelled down". He writes about "the fast weakening hands of the nation-state", and the reduction of the state to "the issue of law and order". Is this a true reflection of reality? "Globalising" powers are, after all, nothing new. One may think of the papacy, or of colonialism, which exercised vast trans-national influence. While such powers undoubtedly had a profound impact on nation states, they did not erase either their borders or their national character. It would seem far more likely that state power is merely transmuting into new forms. The new global order, states Bauman, has largely emancipated business "from territorial constraints". In the past, we knew the "absentee landlord" -- a class of agricultural landowner who lives away from his property and is not directly involved in its day-to-day production. Even the absentee landlord, however, faced a "practical limit" to exploitation. According to Bauman, this is not so in the case of "late-modern capitalists and land-brokers, thanks to the new mobility of their now liquid resources". They easily uproot and relocate to exploit more favourable circumstances elsewhere, creating an "increasingly worrying polarization of the world". This was a worthwhile book. However, Bauman would seem to have oversimplified and overstated the case. He writes freely about "extremal expressions of . . . polarization", and of "worlds sedimented on the two poles". While there is surely much truth in his claims, this is not a nuanced book. This having been said, his polar opposites would seem, by and large, to represent modern trends. The world has indeed become more polarised through globalisation, to the great detriment of many millions of people on the planet.

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Juxtaposing Effects of Globalization
 By John Dunn
 Bauman's thesis is that the twin siblings of globalization are opulence and mobility at the top (the 'tourists') and alienation and despair at the bottom ('the vagabonds') of the social milieu. He makes a good case for such tendencies, though he relies on metaphor and allegory, more than careful argument. This is a brilliantly stimulating book which should be widely discussed. Nonetheless, the lack of qualification -(e.g., most of us are neither completely tourists or vagabonds - which Bauman notes but then drops) leaves his paradigms looking like caricatures. I felt ambivalence towards much of Bauman's discussion, agreeing with him that he had identified a problem but disagreeing with him on its parameters and extent. Globalization, though fraught with problems, deserves a better defense.

The word "globalization" is used to convey the hope and determination of order-making on a worldwide scale. It is trumpeted as providing more mobility of people, capital, and information and as being equally beneficial for everyone. With recent technological developments most notably the Internet, globalization seems to be the fate of the world. But no one seems to be in control. As noted sociologist Zygmunt Bauman shows in this detailed history of globalization, while human affairs now take place on a global scale, we are not able to direct events; we can only watch as boundaries, institutions, and loyalties shift in rapid and unpredictable ways. Who benefits from the new globalization? Are people in need assisted more quickly and efficiently? Or are the poor worse off than ever before? Will a globalized economy shift jobs away from traditional areas, destroying time-honored national industries? Who will enjoy access to jobs in the new hierarchy of mobility? From the way the global economy creates a class of absentee landlords to current prison designs for the criminalized underclass, Bauman dissects globalization in all its manifestations: its effects on the economy, politics, social structures, and even our perceptions of time and space. In a chilling analysis, Bauman argues that globalization divides as much as it unites, creating an ever-widening gulf between the haves and the have-nots. Rather than the hybrid culture we had hoped for, globalization is creating a more

homogenous world. Drawing on the works of philosophers, social historians, architects, and theoreticians such as Michel Foucault, Claude Lvi-Strauss, Alfred J. Dunlap, and Le Corbusier, *Globalization* presents a historical overview of the methods employed to create and define human spaces and institutions, from rural villages to sprawling urban centers. Bauman shows how the advent of the computer translates into the decline of truly public space. And he explores the dimensions of a world in which through new technologies time is accelerated and space is compressed, revealing how we have arrived at our current state of global thinking. Bauman's incisive methods of inquiry make *Globalization* an excellent antidote to the exuberance expressed by those who stand to benefit from the new pace and mobility of the modern life.

Anyone prepared to move beyond the seductiveness of libertarian ideology... will find *Globalization* as eloquent a summation of the problem as they are likely to encounter anywhere. (Alan Ehrenhalt *Wilson Quarterly*) Utilizing the works of philosophers, historians, architects, and theoreticians, British sociologist Zygmunt Bauman takes a hard look at the history, ethics, and economic and social consequences of globalization, and finds that it will inevitably divide more than it unites. (*Globe and Mail*) A valuable introduction to the question of globalization, and, more importantly, sets a new agenda for sociological theory at the beginning of the twenty-first century. (*Acta Sociologica*) A powerful antidote to bland political-cultural pronouncements of the 'there is no alternative' variety. (*British Journal of Sociology*) Brooding brilliance... Bauman subtly lays out [globalization's] 'human consequences.' (*Independent*) About the Author Zygmunt Bauman is emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Leeds and the University of Warsaw. He is the author or editor of numerous books, including *Liquid Times: Living in an Age of Uncertainty*, *Consuming Life*, *Does Ethics Have a Chance in a World of Consumers?* and *The Art of Life*.