

32.7 Beginning to Think Globally

In this chapter, you read about globalization and the making of the global sneaker. You learned that free trade plays a key role in the global economy. You read how shoe companies have become multinational corporations. And you have seen how the global sneaker has increased economic interdependence among several countries.

Globalization is changing the world. These changes may be either good or bad, depending on your point of view.

Positives

Use 2 examples from this section as evidence if you think it is a good thing.

The Case for Globalization Globalization has benefits for both rich and poor countries. When companies in wealthy countries set up factories in poor countries, they create new jobs. The workers who fill these jobs often improve their standard of living. The money they earn also helps bring economic growth to their countries.

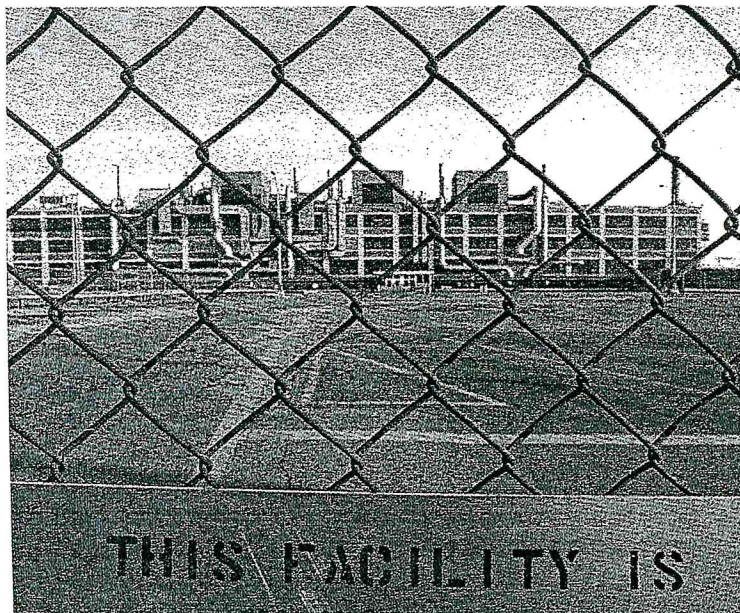
Companies that move production offshore do so to keep their costs low. This helps them keep their prices low as well. Low prices benefit consumers in both rich and poor countries. Many working people today can buy products that were once considered luxuries that only the rich could afford.

Globalization has other benefits. Countries that trade with one another want to maintain good relations. As a result, conflict among nations may be reduced. In this way, economic interdependence may lead to a more peaceful world.

A global society also brings the world's people together in ways never before possible. It lets us see how other people live and work in other lands. It allows us to share ideas, technology, music, and art across vast distances. As we learn more about one another, we can learn to understand and respect other ways of life.

Closed Factories, Lost Jobs

Globalization has brought new factories and jobs to developing countries. But as production has moved overseas, some U.S. factories have closed their doors. Factory closings are hard on workers who lose their jobs. Towns suffer as well from the loss of jobs and business.



The Case Against Globalization

Increased global trade can bring harm as well as good. Some developing countries lack laws to protect the environment.

Factories set up in such countries often dump **toxic waste** into rivers and streams. They release deadly fumes into the air. Such polluting practices would be illegal in developed countries.

Many poor countries also lack worker protection laws. Without such laws, factories can require workers to work long hours for low wages. A sneaker factory worker in Asia might earn just \$2 for a 12-hour workday. They can also hire children, who are paid even less. Factories that abuse workers are called sweatshops.

Use two even from this section if you say it is a bad thing.