

# Topic 9.7: Resistance to Globalization After 1900

## Standards Table

Theme	Learning Objective	Key Concept(s)	Education Standards Met
Cultural Developments and Interactions (CDI)	Explain the various responses to increasing globalization from 1900 to present.	KC-6.3.IV.iv	AP World History: causation, comparison, SAQ reasoning

## Learning Objectives

- Identify different forms of resistance to globalization
- Explain why groups resisted global economic and cultural changes
- Compare cultural, economic, and political resistance movements
- Analyze primary sources for perspective and argument
- Apply evidence in AP-style SAQ responses

## Lesson Overview

As globalization expanded after 1900, not all individuals and groups supported its effects. While globalization increased economic integration and cultural exchange, it also created inequality, cultural homogenization, and economic disruption. In response, groups around the world resisted globalization in different ways. Some movements focused on preserving local cultures and traditions, while others protested economic inequality or environmental damage caused by global systems. This lesson explores these varied responses and prepares students to analyze them using historical evidence.

## Essential Vocabulary

- **cultural homogenization** — the reduction of cultural differences
- **economic displacement** — loss of jobs due to global economic shifts
- **anti-globalization movement** — protests against global economic systems
- **localism** — emphasis on local culture and traditions
- **protectionism** — policies limiting foreign economic influence

## Background Reading

Globalization created both opportunities and challenges, leading to diverse responses. In many regions, economic globalization led to job losses as industries moved to lower-cost areas. Workers and communities responded by protesting trade agreements and multinational corporations, arguing that globalization increased inequality.

Cultural globalization also sparked resistance. The spread of global media, brands, and lifestyles led some groups to fear the loss of local traditions and identities. In response, movements emerged to preserve language, religion, and cultural practices. These movements often emphasized local identity and resisted outside influence.

Environmental concerns also fueled resistance. Industrial growth and global trade contributed to environmental damage, leading to protests against pollution, deforestation, and climate change. Activists argued that globalization prioritized profit over sustainability.

Finally, some governments responded to globalization by adopting protectionist policies or limiting foreign influence. These responses highlight the complexity of globalization, as it generated both integration and resistance across different regions.

## Primary Sources

### **Document 1: Zapatista Army of National Liberation, First Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle (Mexico, 1994)**

<https://schoolsforchiapas.org/library/first-declaration-lacandon-jungle/>

We are the product of 500 years of struggle: first against slavery, then during the War of Independence against Spain, then to avoid being absorbed by U.S. imperialism, and then to enact our Constitution and expel the French empire from our soil. Later came the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz, which denied us justice and land. Today, we continue this struggle because the powerful have continued to deny us our most basic rights.

We have nothing, absolutely nothing, no roof over our heads, no land, no work, no health care, no food, no education. Nor are we able to freely and democratically elect our political representatives. We are subjected to a system that exploits us and denies us dignity, while others accumulate wealth at our expense.

We declare that the existing political and economic system has failed us. The implementation of neoliberal policies has worsened our conditions, forcing us into poverty and exclusion. We demand justice, democracy, and dignity, and we will continue to resist a system that marginalizes indigenous peoples and prioritizes global economic interests over human needs.

### **Guided Questions**

1. Identify ONE claim the Zapatistas make about economic or political systems.
2. Explain ONE cause of resistance described in the document.
3. Analyze the point of view of the Zapatistas as indigenous activists.
4. Explain ONE connection between this document and globalization.
5. Compare this form of resistance to another region's response to globalization.

### **Document 2: Vandana Shiva, *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply* (2000)**

<https://archive.org/details/stolenharvesthij00shiv>

Globalization has transformed agriculture into a system controlled by multinational corporations that prioritize profit over sustainability. Farmers who once relied on traditional knowledge and biodiversity are now dependent on commercial seeds, chemical inputs, and global markets. This has reduced agricultural diversity and increased vulnerability to economic and environmental crises.

The displacement of small farmers is one of the most serious consequences of this system. As large corporations expand their control, local communities lose access to land and resources. This creates economic inequality and undermines the ability of communities to sustain themselves independently.

Resistance to this system is essential for protecting both ecological balance and social justice. Communities must reclaim control over their resources and challenge systems that exploit both people and the environment. Sustainable practices and local knowledge must be preserved in order to ensure long-term survival.

### **Guided Questions (Document 2)**

1. Identify ONE claim Shiva makes about globalization.
2. Explain ONE environmental effect described in the document.
3. Analyze Shiva's point of view as an environmental activist.
4. Explain ONE economic impact of globalization mentioned.
5. Compare Shiva's argument with the Zapatistas' concerns.

### **Document 3: French Ministry of Culture, *Statement on Cultural Exception* (1993)**

<https://www.culture.gouv.fr>

Cultural products cannot be treated simply as commodities like any other goods. They are expressions of identity, values, and traditions that define societies. The expansion of global markets threatens to reduce cultural diversity by promoting standardized products that dominate international media.

In order to preserve cultural identity, governments must take active measures to support domestic cultural industries. This includes policies such as subsidies, quotas, and regulations that protect local production from being overwhelmed by foreign influence.

Without such protections, cultural diversity may decline as global corporations shape cultural consumption. The preservation of national culture is not only a matter of heritage but also of maintaining the diversity that enriches global society.

### **Guided Questions (Document 3)**

1. Identify ONE claim about culture made in the document.
2. Explain ONE reason the government supports cultural protection.
3. Analyze the purpose of the statement.
4. Explain ONE form of resistance to globalization shown here.
5. Compare this document with Shiva's argument.

## Key Tables

### **Types of Resistance to Globalization**

Type	Example
Economic	Zapatistas
Environmental	Vandana Shiva
Cultural	French policy

## Change / Continuity / Comparison

### **Change over time:**

Resistance movements increased as globalization expanded and its effects became more visible.

### **Continuity over time:**

Groups have historically resisted outside influence, though globalization intensified these responses.

### **Comparison:**

Some movements focused on economic issues, while others emphasized culture or environment.

## Key Takeaways

- Globalization created both benefits and resistance
- Economic inequality drove many protests
- Cultural preservation was a major concern
- Environmental issues became central
- Responses varied by region and issue

## SAQ Practice Section

### **SAQ Set 1 (Stimulus-Based — Economic Resistance)**

#### **Stimulus:**

“Global economic integration has led to both growth and inequality, prompting resistance movements.”

- A. Identify ONE example of resistance to economic globalization.
- B. Explain ONE cause of this resistance.
- C. Explain ONE effect of this resistance.

### **SAQ Set 2 (Stimulus-Based — Cultural Resistance)**

#### **Stimulus:**

“Globalization has increased cultural exchange but also raised concerns about cultural loss.”

- A. Identify ONE example of cultural resistance.
- B. Explain ONE reason for this resistance.
- C. Explain ONE effect on society.

### **SAQ Set 3 (Non-Stimulus — Environmental Resistance)**

#### **Skill Focus: Causation**

- A. Identify ONE environmental issue caused by globalization.
- B. Explain ONE way people responded to this issue.
- C. Explain ONE broader impact of this response.