

Global problems of the 21st century

Lead-in

Complete the description below with the words from the box.

communications experience improvements life world

Globalization is a term used to describe the way in which the is developing a single economy and culture. This is a result of in technology and and the influence of large multinational companies. Globalization is changing people's of everyday all over the world.

How do you understand globalization? Write your own definition of the term.

Text 1

Humanity's top ten problems

In 2003, Nobel Laureate Richard E. Smalley outlined Humanity's Top Ten Problems for the next 50 years, in a talk given for the MIT Enterprise Forum. According to Professor Smalley, the biggest problems facing humanity are:

1. Energy
2. Water
3. Food
4. Environment
5. Poverty
6. Terrorism and War
7. Disease
8. Education
9. Democracy
10. Population

Where did this list come from? Over 2002 and 2003, Professor Richard E. Smalley posed the question “What will be the Top Problems facing the World in the not too distant future – 50 years?” to several of his audiences. Professor Smalley asked them to think globally and to keep in mind the world population will grow from 6.5 billion in 2003 to 10 billion in 2050. Each group provided the following six answers – energy, water, food, environment, poverty, terrorism & war. The other four listed were presented by most groups – disease, education, democracy, population.

There exists another list of other global issues which present a major concern of international organizations, governments, communities and individuals. They are racism, discrimination, global warming, financial crisis, nuclear weapons, crime and growing violence, toxic waste, genocide and starvation.

The future of humanity might look grim... yet there is one prime Positive Motivation Tip to consider. While we face problems and challenges in the world, we can make a difference by becoming part of the solution. Indeed, in the global village every act of peace and conscientious living helps.

Learn from it

Vocabulary

face (v) – сталкиваться, смотреть в лицо; *face a problem*;

poverty (n) – нищета; *poverty line, climb out of/push into poverty*;

issue (n) – вопрос, проблема; *global issues, be an issue, bring up an issue*;

concern (n) – забота, озабоченность, особый интерес; *cause concern, present a major concern*;

community (n) – общество, община, сообщество; *community spirit, community service*;

violence (n) – насилие, жестокость; *growing violence, act of violence, non-violence*;

humanity (n) – человечество; *future of humanity, act of humanity*;

conscientious (adj) – сознательный, добросовестный, ответственный; *conscientious living, be conscientious in one's duty*.

Practice

1. Read the text once again and restore the context of the words from Vocabulary section above.
2. Work with a partner to make up your own sentences with the words from Vocabulary section.
3. Complete the table forming parts of speech.

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
violence		conscientious	
concern			
humanity			

4. Match to make collocations. Use the collocations in your own sentences.

keep

a difference

outline

in mind

look

globally

make

problems

think

grim

5. Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

issues	conscientious	community	face	outlines	concerned
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1. The group visited various youth and projects in the city.
2. It's a website devoted to environmental
3. The document our company's recycling policy.
4. We have to the reality that, so far, the treaty has had little effect.
5. A man, he took his duties very seriously.
6. I was mainly with making something that children could enjoy.

6. Translate these sentences into English using Vocabulary.

- 1) Профессор Университета Райса Ричард Смолли получил в 1996 году Нобелевскую премию по химии. После получения Нобелевской премии Смолли стал активным сторонником развития нанотехнологий для решения глобальных проблем человечества, особенно в области обеспечения энергоресурсами.
- 2) Нищета является одной из глобальных проблем, с которыми столкнулось человечество. В России, к примеру, в 2012 году 18 миллионов человек проживают за чертой бедности.
- 3) Финансовый кризис и проблема ядерного вооружения вызывают серьезную озабоченность у мирового сообщества.
- 4) Мы сталкиваемся с проблемами и вызовами, которые нам бросают динамичные темпы развития технологий и общества.
- 5) Каждый из нас может помочь человечеству выжить. В современной “глобальной деревне” очень важную роль играет сознательное отношение.

Speak about it

How would you answer Professor Richard E. Smalley’s question (“What will be the Top Problems facing the World in the not too distant future – 50 years?”)? Work with a partner to make a list. Rank problems in order of importance. Be ready to explain your ranking.

Text 2

Globalization

If you look at the tag on your shirt, chances are you would see that it was made in a country other than the one where you are right now. What's more, before it reached your wardrobe, this shirt could have very well been made with Chinese cotton sewed by Thai hands, shipped across the Pacific on a French freighter crewed by Spaniards to a Los Angeles harbor. This international exchange is just one example of globalization, a process that has everything to do with geography.

Globalization is the process of increased interconnectedness among countries most notably in the areas of economics, politics, and culture. McDonalds in Japan, French films being played in Minneapolis, and the United Nations, are all representations of globalization.

At its core globalization is an easing of borders, making them less important as countries become dependent on each other to thrive. Some scholars claim that governments are becoming less influential in the face of an increasingly economic world. Others contest this, insisting that governments are becoming more important because of the need for regulation and order in such a complex world system.

Is globalization a good thing?

There is a heated debate about the true effects of globalization and if it really is such a good thing. Good or bad, though, there isn't much argument as to whether or not it is happening. Let's look at the positives and negatives of globalization, and you can decide for yourself whether or not it is the best thing for our world.

Positive aspects of globalization

- * As more money is poured in to developing countries, there is a greater chance for the people in those countries to economically succeed and increase their standard of living.
- * Global competition encourages creativity and innovation and keeps prices in check.
- * Developing countries are able to reap the benefits of current technology without undergoing many of the pains associated with development of these technologies.
- * Governments are able to better work together towards common goals now that there is an advantage in cooperation, an improved ability to interact and coordinate, and a global awareness of issues.
- * There is a greater access to foreign culture in the form of movies, music, food, clothing, and more. In short, the world has more choices.

Negative aspects of globalization

- * Outsourcing, while it provides jobs to a population in one country, takes away those jobs from another country, leaving many without opportunities.
- * Although different cultures from around the world are able to interact, they begin to melt, and individuality of each begins to fade.
- * There is little international regulation, which could have sad consequences for the safety of people and the environment.

Anti-globalization

Anti-globalization protesters say that the world trading system is not fair. They also say that the decision of the IMF and WTO (World Trade Organization) are undemocratic because the people in the countries they affect cannot vote for them.

They say current trade laws allow the people in rich countries to exploit the people in poor countries by producing goods where the costs are lowest. Globalization also causes unemployment in the developed world as factories can no longer compete with the cheap labour prices of the undeveloped world.

Like in all situations here as well there are winners and losers.

Learn from it

Vocabulary

thrive (v) – процветать; *thrive on smth/doing smth*;

influential (adj) – влиятельный; *an influential man, be influential in politics*;

pour (v) – лить, вливать; *pour money into ..., pour wine*;

encourage (v) – поощрять; *encourage creativity and innovation, encourage change*;

undergo (v) – испытывать, претерпевать; *undergo changes, undergo pains*;

awareness (n) – осознание, осведомленность; *global awareness, self-awareness, awareness of issues*;

affect (v) – действовать на..., влиять; *affect smb's interests, affect public opinion*;

exploit (v) – эксплуатировать, использовать; *exploit people*;

compete (v) – состязаться; *compete with cheap labour prices*.

Practice

1. Read the text once again and restore the context of the words from Vocabulary section above.
2. Work with a partner to make up your own sentences with the words from Vocabulary section.
3. Complete the table forming parts of speech.

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
awareness	affect compete exploit	influential	

4. Match to make collocations. Use the collocations in your own sentences.

keep	consequences
work	trade laws
current	countries
cheap	in check
developing	benefits
reap	unemployment
sad	in cooperation
cause	labour

5. Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

exploited	unemployment	undergone	thrive	influential
affects	developing	awareness	labour	

1. Children when given plenty of love and attention.
2. The community here has been devastated by poverty and

3. It is known that poor housing significantly educational achievement.
4. The article has a series of changes and will be published in two weeks.
5. Children are being in many of these factories.
6. She was extremely in raising people's of the disease.
7. The demand for skilled in the building industry is high.
8. Children in many countries lack basic medical care.

6. Translate these sentences into English using Vocabulary.

- 1) По своей сути, глобализация - ослабление границ. Это делает страны зависимыми друг от друга в вопросе процветания.
- 2) В то время, как все больше денег вливается в развивающиеся страны, для людей в этих странах повышается шанс быть экономически успешными и повысить свой уровень жизни.
- 3) Глобальная конкуренция поощряет креативный подход и инновационные решения.
- 4) Хотя различные культуры всего мира могут взаимодействовать, в условиях глобализации они начинают терять свою индивидуальность.
- 5) Антиглобалисты считают, что система мировой торговли несправедлива. Условия эксплуатации дешевого труда в развивающихся странах временами походят на рабство.
- 6) Современная экономика должна претерпеть серьезные изменения, по мнению многих ученых, экономистов и политиков.

Speak about it

1. Discuss these questions with a partner.

- What images spring to mind when you hear the word 'globalization'?
- What are the good things and bad things about globalization?
- Do you think it's possible to ignore globalization?
- What will globalization look like fifty years from now?
- What concept do you think will come after globalization?

- Could globalization have happened without the Internet?
- How would your life be different if globalization hadn't happened?
- What do you think of the concept of a global village?
- Do you think globalization could end in a world with just one giant country?
- What do you think indigenous tribes think about globalization?
- Do you think globalization will reduce or increase the poverty gap?
- How has popular culture added to globalization?
- Are you a globalized shopper?

2. Discuss the impact of globalization up to now on the following:

- your own life
- your country
- the world

Text 3

Poverty

Read the radio interview with Pascal Delrio, an international expert, talking about poverty.

Interviewer: Mr Delrio, do you believe we can solve the problem of world poverty?

Delrio: I am more optimistic now than before. Millions of people have succeeded in escaping poverty in the last decade, but it is also true that in some regions, more people than ever are living below the poverty line, and we must help these people to lift them out of poverty.

Interviewer: But how can we achieve that?

Delrio: I accept that there is no simple solution. The widening gulf between rich and poor in some countries is often due to external forces beyond their control. Some of the most deprived regions have large populations living on the margins of society, and it is for these specific groups that we can do most.

Interviewer: But poverty is not just an issue for developing countries, is it? We have thousands sleeping rough every night in cities like London and New York, and street children in a lot of big cities around the world.

Delrio: I agree, and I accept that children and adults who live in the streets are in desperate need, and that these social conditions breed crime. But so much depends on the global economy. Right now, we have a golden opportunity to combat poverty. Perhaps we cannot get rid of it completely, but we certainly can make it less serious, and that is our challenge.

Interviewer: Mr Delrio, thank you very much.

Learn from it

Vocabulary

deprived (adj) – бедный, живущий в нищете, обездоленный; *deprived regions, a deprived area, be deprived of ...;*

desperate (adj) – отчаянный; *in desperate need, be desperate for ...;*

breed (v) – порождать; *breed crime;*

combat (v) – сражаться с...; *combat poverty, mortal combat;*

challenge (n) – вызов; *pose/meet/take up a challenge.*

Practice

1. Read the text once again and restore the context of the words from Vocabulary section above.

2. Work with a partner to make up your own sentences with the words from Vocabulary section.

3. Explain the meaning of the following phrases:

- sleep rough
- external forces
- margins of society

4. Match to make collocations. Use the collocations in your own sentences.

world	expert
get	their control
an international	poverty
beyond	poverty line
live below	rid of

5. Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

expert	breed	challenges	rid	rough	desperate
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1. Are western nations ready to meet the enormous environmental that lie ahead?
2. I have a friend who is an in health care.
3. We have been campaigning to get of the car tax for 20 years.
4. Success tends to success.
5. Parts of this school are in need of repair.
6. He spent the night sleeping on the streets.

6. Translate these sentences into English using Vocabulary.

- 1) Голод — это проблема не только малоразвитых государств. Даже в США, в стране с одним из самых высоких уровней жизни в мире, миллионы людей недоедают и даже голодают.
- 2) Больше всего россиян беспокоит проблема нищеты и большого разрыва между богатыми и бедными.
- 3) По данным ООН более 2,5 миллиардов человек живут в условиях нищеты на менее чем два доллара США в день.
- 4) Дети и взрослые, которые живут на улицах, находятся в отчаянном положении. Такие условия порождают болезни и преступность.
- 5) Вероятно, никогда не удастся избавиться от проблемы бедности окончательно, однако всеобщими усилиями можно сделать ее менее серьезной.

Speak about it

1. Answer the following questions.

1. What are the reasons of the widening gulf between rich and poor?
2. In your opinion, what “deprived regions” does Mr Delrio mean in his interview? What do you know about these places and people living there? (consult extra sources)
3. Is poverty an issue of developing countries only? Why (not)?
4. What are the consequences of poverty for individuals and society?
5. Mr Delrio says that “much depends on global economy”. What does he mean by that?

2. Work in small groups on one of these projects.

- Choose a country/region which can be considered struggling with poverty. Make an illustrated report on the current situation there.
- Work out a plan/strategy on how to effectively deal with the problem of homeless people in big cities.
- Explore the websites of these organizations working to combat poverty. Choose one of them and prepare a report on its activities.

Bread for the World - <http://www.bread.org/>

Opportunity International - <http://www.opportunity.org/>

World Food Programme - <http://www.wfp.org/>

Text 4

Problems of urban terrorism in Russia

Today in Russia and in the world, problems of protecting the population, critically important infrastructure elements, and the environment against natural and technogenic disasters and terrorist attacks have become some of the most significant priorities. The most vulnerable targets for terrorist activities are Russia's major cities – Moscow, first of all, as well as the large cities and towns in areas marked by social and political instability and military conflict. These cities are the focus of 90-95 per cent of terrorist attacks.

During recent years, the scientists of the Russian Academy of Sciences and other Russian scientific organizations have carried out important work under the state program of security, as have Moscow researchers under the program on Moscow's security. One major result of this work has been the development and approval of the Security Principles for Moscow in 2000 by the Moscow City Government.

The Security Principles of Moscow provide the following description of terrorist threats:

Terrorism has become one of the most dangerous challenges for the security of society. It poses a special hazard for large cities and political, economic and cultural centers. Terrorism has the opportunity to use the achievements of science and technology for its criminal pursuits.

The main threats of terrorism are as follows:

- Attacks on political and economic entities (seizure, bombing, arson, and so forth)
- Bombings and other terrorist acts in crowded areas (metro, railway stations and terminals, residential areas)
- Kidnappings and seizures of hostages
- Hijackings of airplanes and other means of public transportation
- Attacks on facilities that are potential threats to the population in an effort to destroy them
- Disruption of aviation and rail traffic control systems, power supply lines, means of communication, computers and other electronic devices (electromagnetic terrorism)
- Disruption of the psychophysical state of the population by means of programming behavior or activities of large population groups
- Cyberattacks against the most important computer networks
- Dissemination of information in the press and on the radio and TV that may distort public opinion and cause civil commotion
- Disruption of information networks

- Dispersion of chemical and radioactive materials in crowded areas
- Contamination of water supply systems and foods

At present, in Moscow there have been set priorities for developing the program to bring into life the strategy and corresponding activities against terrorism. The improvement of the effectiveness of measures taken against terrorist activities is the chief priority among them.

Learn from it

Vocabulary

priority (n) – приоритет; *a significant/high/chief priority, give priority to ...;*

target (n) – мишень, цель; *a vulnerable target, aim at the target;*

threat (n) – угроза; *be a threat to ..., a hidden threat;*

disruption (n) – разрушение, перебой; *disruption of control systems, disruption of networks;*

distort (v) – искажать; *distort public opinion, distort the facts/news/truth;*

contamination (n) – загрязнение; *contamination of water;*

effectiveness (n) – эффективность, действенность; *effectiveness of measures, improvement of effectiveness.*

Practice

1. Read the text once again and restore the context of the words from Vocabulary section above.
2. Work with a partner to make up your own sentences with the words from Vocabulary section.
3. Match words in the box with their definitions below.

seizure	bombing	arson	kidnapping	hostage	hijacking	cyberattack
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- a criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property;
- an action of capturing someone or something using force;

- an attempt by hackers to damage or destroy a computer network or system;
- an act of dropping or detonating a bomb somewhere;
- an act of illegally seizing an aircraft, vehicle, or ship while on the move;
- a person seized or held as security for the fulfillment of a condition;
- an act of abducting someone and holding them captive.

4. Match to make collocations. Use the collocations in your own sentences.

cause	chemicals
set	facilities
take	civil commotion
pose	water/food
destroy	public opinion
disrupt	information
disseminate	a hazard
distort	priorities
disperse	measures
contaminate	control systems

5. Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

measure	facilities	priority	causing	distorted	kidnapped	hostage
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1. Health insurance will be our top
2. The programme presented a picture of her life.
3. Does the company offer any for employees with young children?
4. A prison librarian held for 13 hours has been freed.
5. This is a temporary to stop the problem from getting any worse.
6. Three American journalists have been by political extremists.

7. She was charged with death by dangerous driving.

Speak about it

Discuss the following questions.

- 1) Has your life changed in any way due to terrorism?
- 2) Do you think news stations are neutral when they report on terrorism?
- 3) What do governments learn from terrorism?
- 4) Do you worry about terrorism?
- 5) When did terrorism first start in the world?
- 6) What countries around the world have terrorist attacks within their borders?
- 7) Is there a difference between a freedom fighter and a terrorist?
- 8) Do you think terror groups will one day get hold of nuclear and chemical weapons?
- 9) What is state sponsored terrorism?
- 10) What do you understand by the term 'cyber-terrorism'? How dangerous is it?