# A Casual Affair: History, the Present, and the Forgotten Analysis of Human Trafficking in an Era of Globalization

## Acknowledgements

the western perception of fidelity.

## Abstract

In the midst of the 21st-century, nations have become more connected on an international level. This connection flourishes with the rise of trade that facilitates the movement of goods, information, services, cultures, and people. A surge in trading highlights the success and dependence on a global economy that conducts itself according to western principles of capitalism. However, the ability to trade on an international scale has created a multitude of problems within a nation, yet a common predicament for many of these nations is the alarming growth rate of human trafficking. This multidimensional phenomenon divides into three main categories: sex, labour, and organ trafficking. The examination of human trafficking requires an acknowledgment that within these subcategories they all utilize different industries within society to sustain profits in a capitalist-oriented market. Despite the abundance of complications, this study addresses how these industries exploit vulnerable populations within a nation with respect to the unique intersectional factors that institutionalize their level of vulnerability.

*Keywords*: international level, western principles, capitalism, human trafficking, vulnerable population, intersectional, level of vulnerability.

## The Unceasing Dilemma

Human trafficking is the illegal transport of people from one country to another, typically for the purposes of forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation. The trafficking of human beings for profit among criminal organizations is an opportunistic response to several underlying systemic structural issues in the relationships between developed and developing countries. Fundamental causes of human trafficking can be attributed to the rate of poverty and

the influence of globalization in the nations. Issues that further complicate the impoverished conditions include but are not limited to, lack of job availability and education, health crises, corruption, internal conflict, government instability, and prior experience with colonization. Under these circumstances, any task of analyzing the relationship between globalization and human trafficking, which in turn is further exacerbated by external factors becomes a complicated yet vital exercise.

Due to the heavy reliance on the global market, nations in the international system become subjugated to the demands of globalization. Although there are many benefits to the free movement of goods, services, and people across national boundaries, when states yield to the forces of globalization, they also experience all the negative externalities and consequences that come with it. One of these negative consequences is that of human trafficking. For this reason, in this research study, I explore in some detail what conditions of globalization, if any, exacerbate the problem of international human trafficking in the 21st century.

The upcoming sections will be broken down into Background, Contextualizing Globalization in the Modern International System, Thematic Evaluation of Human Trafficking, The Practicality of Prevention/Prosecution, and Concluding Thoughts. The Background will define major key terms: globalization, human trafficking, and consequently introduce the complicated nature of their relationship. The next section, Contextualizing Globalization,

explains how this process is ingrained in the international system beginning with a discussion of what preceded it, namely colonialism. After explaining this evolution, this study will raise the potential concerns of globalization for individual legal systems that exist through the conception and acceptance of sovereignty. The subsequent section endeavors to address the multidimensional quandary of human trafficking with case studies on sex trafficking and labour trafficking. Successively, there is an examination of the existing preventative measures in the globalized society that includes critiques and recommendations for improvement. This research study concludes with a concise analysis of the complex relationship between globalization and human trafficking.

# Background

Previous discussions about the relevance of human trafficking in a global context feature arguments amongst scholars over which root cause contributes the most to the issue. Most of these scholars blame poverty or attribute some percentage of the blame to this issue (Getu, Burke, Voelkner). The amount of poverty in an area reflects the level of vulnerability of that population. A vulnerable population is often one whose members are stuck in poverty's cycle due to intersectional factors that prevent mobilizing through societal ranks. The cyclical nature of poverty means that individuals in vulnerable populations do not have access to education, healthcare, consumable resources (also known as life necessities: food and water), skilled jobs, capital, and many others. The intersectionality of these factors is the reason for the complexity in addressing trafficking on an international level because each nation is affected differently by culture, society, politics, and economy (Getu, Voelkner, Trounson and Pfeifer, Churakova and Westhuizen, Mapp, Lawrence, Kakar, Nwadinobi, Meeteren and Bannink, Harrison, Wilkins). Some scholars suggest one way to ease the impact of trafficking is to improve the global economy through the expansion of the job market in individual nations (Getu). Yet, countries that have high governmental corruption, low education rates, and chronic epidemics will not benefit simply by expanding the job market. This will not halt the cycle of poverty and its detrimental impact on vulnerable populations (Harrison). Therefore, people will both choose to and be forced to succumb to human trafficking.

The following subsections will clarify some of the important concepts that this research study will analyze in detail. The sections will examine what is human trafficking, globalization, and how conforming to western values increases the vulnerability of communities contributes to high levels of trafficking.

## *What is Human Trafficking?*

Human Trafficking, as previously stated, is the illegal transport of people from one country to another, typically for the purposes of forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation. There are many dimensions to the study of trafficking including the prominence of organ

trafficking. However, due to limitations on space, this research will focus on labour and sex trafficking. Sex trafficking is used to maintain the commercial sex industry which is comprised of "street prostitution, strip clubs, outcall services/prostitution, child and adult pornography, Internet pornography/interactive sex play exchange, phone sex, and sex tourism" (Burke 454). Meanwhile, individuals trafficked for labour are forced to work or provide services under the influence of force, fraud, or coercion.

### *What is Globalization?*

One can define globalization as the process of diffusion of culture and knowledge through the means of international trade. Others define it as a process through which people, goods, information, technology, and services flow through the international system (Lecler).

While this latter view evokes a positive connotation, the premise of globalization is the promotion and adaptation to western capitalistic values, with a recent push into neoliberalism (Ramone). The international system rewards those nations that adopt said values while simultaneously ostracizing those who refuse to do so (e.g., Thailand converting from socialist to a market economy versus North Korea that remains communist). Rewards are not in the traditional sense of physical gifts but rather opportunities. These possible opportunities include the ability to trade with other countries, join organizations and treaties, gain economic allies, and access to an international market (Bourguignon). This reward system is focused on the principle of polarity, or the ways power is distributed within the system. Many refer to positioning in the international system using the dichotomy of "global north" or "global south".

However, the reality is that various nations do not neatly fit into one of these categories, so a potential solution is to refer to them on a polarity scale. For example, utilizing a dichotomous vocabulary, one would have to classify Russia as a country belonging to the global north. However, utilizing a scale instead would allow for more accuracy in positioning the country in such a way that it helps identify the nation's problems and responsibilities. For this specific example, there is a growing need to address corruption and the unbalanced distribution of poverty. This is better reflected by the older classification model of developed, developing,

and less developed  countries that account for those nations that are in-between the opposite binaries. This scale of  polarity can be measured using tangible elements that are quantifiable or intangible elements that  cannot be quantified. Tangible elements measure the affluence or strength of the nation's  geography, population, economy, and military. While intangible elements seemingly highlight  things like the level of organization, intelligence, and morale, all of which contribute to the  success or failure of a given nation.

### *What is the Relationship Between Human Trafficking and Globalization?*

This study will utilize the three levels of analysis; individual, national or state, and international, to explain and dissect the complex issue of human trafficking in the world.  As globalization gains momentum in the international system, the level of dependency and sociopolitical connection between countries become impractical to regulate. The tension between the national level and international level is heightened when the ideals of globalization challenge the authority of sovereignty. Below, I discuss the debate about open borders which points out the complexities involved in this issue as any system of open borders would supersede sovereignty and facilitate trafficking into levels where repair is nonviable. The following section will expand on the experience of globalization and potential legal concerns with regard to sovereignty.

## Contextualizing Globalization in the Modern International System

Globalization, as defined above promotes the flow of goods, services, and to some extent, human beings. The main attribute is the so-called global economy which markets demand from an international audience. This section will, in greater detail, explain the many definitions of globalization and investigate what features this process adapted from the experience of colonialism that preceded it. Afterward, this study will explain the legal concerns of globalization in violation of sovereignty due to its proposition for open borders. Before that, however, I must clarify that not every nation used as an example here has been colonized. Yet, due to the promotion of capitalist values under globalization, colonialism's influence can be felt

in these regions.

One example is the commodification and objectification of bodies of colonized people, a common theme in colonialism, and one that surges throughout the international system and permeates even those societies that were not, technically, colonized. Human trafficking's impact, thus, is experienced across countries in a myriad of different ways. Some of these ways are directly impacted by the history of direct colonialism. Others get infected by colonialism experienced generally in the geopolitical region. Two such anomalous cases with no experience of colonization discussed in this study are Thailand and Russia.

While goods transmit easily through trade, this encourages the migration of individuals with various skill sets throughout the international system; most often it is individuals from the global south trying to seek better lives in the global north. Therefore, while globalization has many dimensions, it is crucial to discuss the debate of open borders as it sets the premise for the business of trafficking.

While globalization has many facets it is critical to understand the implications of the open border debate. The principle of sovereignty gives the right to law. Individual nation-states have different variations of creating said law and some choose to utilize a representative system where a group of individuals is elected to make and maintain the law. Sovereignty, therefore, allows the people in liberal democracies to dictate who can and cannot enter into the country whether on a temporary or permanent basis. The sovereign right to choose which people enter and/or leave is more jealously guarded by many countries since immigration is not easily retractable. In reality, borders are not a binary of open or closed, rather they are "permeable" (Perkmansum and Sum). This permeability reflects the nation-state's endeavor to uphold national interest. Those who are of use to the nation are permitted to enter meanwhile those that have little to no value are rejected. This is reflected through the usage of quota systems and travel bans as the sovereign has the power to limit immigration. Quota systems implement the exclusion of low-skill workers while simultaneously accepting corporations and exercising caution with non governmental organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank (Rudolph).

In comparison to immigration, the trade of goods and services is easier to nullify through the implementation of embargos, taxes, and tariffs. The opening of borders would somehow lead

to the eradication of these tariffs and taxes while decreasing the disparity between the rich and poor on a global scale (Scheve and Slaughter, Bourguignon). The principles of open borders deny the nation-state the ability to impose and uphold national interests. The involvement in international trade upholds the interests of the nation, for instance, improving the economy. Yet, the nation-states hold the power to revoke trading policies if that interest dissipates or evolves into a threat to national security (Donnelly, Rudolph).

The theoretical reality of open borders promised by globalization would allow for the unrestricted and unmanaged flow of individuals, goods, and services. Since many individuals are being trafficked through borders for the purpose of exploitation at the present moment, what will that mean for an intertwined global society that is completely consumed by globalization? Another reason why the open border principle is unlikely to occur even in a time where the global economy is widely recognized is because of the devotion and dependence on the sovereign nation. The foundation of a sovereign nation and how that directly prohibits the principles of open borders will be later explained in further detail under concerns of legality.

## Residual Poverty and the Toxicity of Colonization

While globalization is a prominent process in the modern system it has evolved from the principles and structure of colonization. The only difference between globalization and colonization is the principle of concealed interests. Concealed interests are where individuals or in this circumstance, nations announce they are trying to accomplish something in another country that has no socioeconomic consequences. In reality, their true intentions are suppressed as the truth can tarnish their reputation and even cause violent conflict. Hence, why many scholars, especially postcolonial theorists, refer to globalization, specifically for its negative qualities, as neo-colonialism (Ramone). Said scholars have their own reasoning for constructing and using this label but this study will explain how both systems; colonization and globalization, utilize the mechanism of promoting the oppression of some for the gain of the rest (Phillips, Harrison). This mechanism utilizes repression of social, political, and economic values. These values are intertwined as they are constructed based on the unique cultural system that establishes proper conduct, practices, and expectations for individuals. Under colonialism, many of these cultural systems were distorted as colonial powers enforced certain degrees of

assimilation to their own "superior" culture (Ramone).

The combination of the diverse cultures that existed prior to colonization and the varying levels of assimilation emphasizes that the impact of globalization is uniquely experienced by countries that were until recently, the mid-20th century and later, colonized. One common method of forcing assimilation was by disproportionately distributing resources in the colonized nation as an attempt to manipulate populations to assimilate faster. Assimilation was used as a power tactic by the colonial power to extend influence and exercise control. The problems created during this time period serve as a precedent for the issues that are exacerbated by globalization. These issues include but are not limited to asymmetrical social stratification, poverty, disease, and internal conflict. These problems festered for decades if not centuries and then the abrupt liberation from hegemonic dominance through decolonization led to an informal government system that did not have the capabilities or resources to address these continuing and persistent problems. Thus, the cycle continues as the issues never get resolved as they have been programmed, as it were, into the culture of the nation.

It is impossible to generalize the influence of colonialism as each nation is influenced differently by varying social, economic, and political features derived from the main colonial power. For example, Nigeria has experienced conflict between democracy and military regimes due to the unbalanced division of the nation into rigid ethnic boundaries under colonialism. Meanwhile, India's caste system still justifies religious oppression and class violence even though it was formally abolished in 1950.

### *What does the Experience of Colonialism Mean as an Antecedent Factor?*

Once decolonization occurred, whether in the form of radical liberation from or in the form of a peaceful withdrawal of the colonial power, issues stemming from the new social hierarchy became a socially accepted way of life, and people were punished for trying to deviate from it. The wealthy population during colonial rule were often those that quickly assimilated to the colonial reign or those that were imported from the colonizing power by order of the government or monarch.

Inequality is all that the people knew and experienced so no matter who was in power

there would always be some level of disparity due to social stratification. This is why many previously colonized nations are diagnosed with the syndrome of internal conflict prompted by competing interests to secure the regulation of power (Harrison). Disadvantaged people will want the power and luxuries associated with the advantaged classes i.e., those who rule in the present moment (Bull). This is why many previously colonized nations experienced some form of, generally violent, international conflict with competing interests to regulate power. This process includes riots, bombings, and/or rebellions that end with revolutions or coups d'état. For instance, Nigeria's experience with colonization led to the Biafran War on behalf of extreme ethnic pluralism. Other examples of unresolved tension include but are not limited to the Rwandan genocide leading into the First Congo War, Bangladesh Liberation War, the Ethiopian Civil War, the Lebanese Civil War, and the internal conflict in Myanmar that started in 1948 and that still exists to this day (Harrison).

The chaos of instability that follows decolonization characterizes the impermeable nature of a revolving cycle. This cycle is the interaction of social, economic, and political problems where it would be unfeasible to eradicate one issue with the expectation that all the concomitant issues would also be solved. Decolonization occurred around the mid-20th century when the modern international system began emerging in the aftermath of World War II. The first classification model of nations on the international level reflecting socio-economic conditions was formed after this period with the establishment of first, second, and "Third World" countries.

"First World" countries, as they came to be known, are synonymous with the present classification of the global north. Meanwhile, the "Third World" was associated with recently liberated colonized nations, presently the countries of the global south. The potential for expanding influence and business profit grew overwhelming for the global north after the implementation of the Marshall Plan that was designed to catapult the United States as the hegemon of the international system. However, the influence and mobilization of the Soviet Union teetered into explosive tension that was embedded into the foundation of the current multi-polar system which promotes a hierarchy of polarity under globalization.

## Neo-colonialism or Globalization

This expansion of First World countries' influence corresponded with a period of rapid modernization through technology--improved communication with cell phones, international phone lines laid across oceans, and the invention of the internet. The rise of technological advancement prompted competition to develop better quality goods at faster rates than other competitors. Addressing the demands of a global market required improvement of product distribution methods including investment and development of air, sea, and land transportation.

Unfortunately, this further degrades the global south into inferiority because it is difficult to compete in the global economy while disadvantaged with unfavorable circumstances stemming from previous and continuous interference from the global north. How can the global south spare the resources needed to produce goods and products that match the quality of those produced in the global north? While the global north can allocate resources to design and produce technology to trade such as cellphones, computers, and fridges; the global south must focus on developing technology and allocating funds to suppress extremist groups or riots. This conundrum is exacerbated by the reality that those higher on the polarity scale are not prone to these regular episodes of rebellions, revolutions, disease outbreaks, pirating, and other issues that challenge the stability of sovereignty as those in the global south. Countries of the global south began competing in globalization at a clear disadvantage to countries of the global north.

In addition to competing against the global north to meet the demands of the global market, the global south is also competing against each other over a mutual interest (Bourguignon). The mutual interest amongst the global south is achieving economic allies in the global north as a means to stabilize and maintain their economy. The predisposition of assimilating faster to colonial culture for reward explains the swift acceptance of globalization and its principles. Those of the global south that assimilate again at a faster rate will build relations with the global north thus improving their position on what I have been describing as polarity and its reputation in the international system. Theoretically, it is advertised as a way to improve individual economies with a positive trade-off, in turn, making the sovereign governments stable and the people happy. Happiness amongst the citizens means more support

during elections and less risk of a violent outbreak, i.e., riots.

Adaptation to the principles of a capitalist system is not the only method of assimilation. When attempting to succeed in the global economy, countries of the global south will adopt qualities of the global north that may not be functional with respect to their individual circumstances. As Astra Taylor explains it, "…globalization's most vigorous boosters envisaged an extreme erasure of boundaries, …would lead to cross-cultural mutual understanding… American proponents of this process called 'globalization' other countries called 'Americanization'" (255). The assimilation to western practices, such as in the case of Nigeria copying the American presidential system and constitution in the creation of the Second Republic highlights how nations will take whatever means necessary to mobilize themselves in the international hierarchy. However, America's system does not reflect the unique variables that Nigeria grapples with including but most certainly not limited to ethnic pluralism and continuous waves of military coups.

## Regulating the International System

The legacy of the "First World" countries after World War II commemorates itself in the foundation of international organizations and trade agreements that include the United Nations (UN), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), North Atlantic Trade Organization (NATO), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)and World Trade Organization (WTO). The roles of many of these organizations have evolved to adapt to the needs of the global society, especially as a preventative measure against another world war. The United Nations, in particular, and over time, acquired new roles and responsibilities as more member states were allowed to join. Dependence on the United Nations as an international mediator shifted into a major law-making body that oversees 193 sovereign states.

The unfortunate precedent is that these organizations interfere in the global south because of the origin of influence from the western global north. For example, after World War II, the IMF provided loans to many nations of the global south, then classified as the "Third World," with the expectation they would repay the amount plus pay interest, neglecting to realize that existing systematic issues enforce poverty, not wealth and that these repayments would be very

difficult for these countries to make. Therefore, this external interference only promoted the global south to acquire more debt and spiral further into poverty. It, unfortunately, must be articulated that people, or nations, are not poor because they choose to be, but they are so because they struggle with resource limitations and concurrently deal with other systematic issues that stem from colonialism.

## Legal Concerns/ Impracticalities of Globalization's Politics

While globalization is about the interconnectedness between different parts of the world and cross-border movements of goods, services, people, and other values, one concern over its prominence is the existence of sovereignty within individual nation-states. A sovereign state is defined by its territory, a permanent population, a sole government, and the capability to initiate relations with other sovereign states. Internal sovereignty upholds various responsibilities within its borders such as executing law and punishment, defining requirements for citizenship, enforcing national security, and so forth (Lodder). The issue that arises under the influence of globalization is that there is no sole international sovereign power that controls and regulates the interconnected nature of countries.

One complication is the involvement of non-state actors that encompass external sovereignty, or independence from outside authorities. Non-state actors are divided into four categories: intergovernmental organizations like the United Nations, non-governmental organizations like Amnesty International, multinational corporations, and terrorist groups. However, a major problem is that while these actors promote international interaction, there is no higher judicial system that can command or regulate since it would violate the power of each sovereign state (Bourguignon). Rather the international system relies on the cooperation and willingness of each sovereign to abide by the demands of globalization in a peaceful manner. Tensions may arise in the system with the implementation of sanctions including embargoes, travel bans, tariffs, quotas, non-tariff barriers, and asset seizure. There are circumstances in which the sovereign is influenced by incentive or a beneficial trade-off for the long term (Rudolph, Donnelly).

The impact of globalization through these non-state actors is vast but due to space constraints, this thesis cannot discuss all let alone most of the implications for each sovereign nation under the international system. Each difference in society, culture, politics, and economy develop intersectional issues that might be similar throughout a region but still vary amongst each sovereign nation.

For example, multinational corporations under neoliberalism ideology instigate asymmetric power relations within the international system and in the sovereign nations, especially those classified as the global south. These corporations and other actors such as non governmental organizations scrutinize the sovereignty of developing regions. This is the sacrifice made in the trade-off to participate in the global economy. A multinational corporation has its facilities and other assets in at least one country other than its home country. These businesses have offices and/or factories in different countries and usually have centralized headquarters where they regulate global management. It is common for headquarters to be located in the country of origin, often in the global north. Very large multinationals have budgets that exceed those of many small countries. Nearly all major multinationals are either of American, Japanese, or Western European origin including Nike, Apple, Shell, Coca-Cola, AOL, Nestle Toshiba, Honda, and BMW. Globalization becomes toxic when corporations set up factories in the global south where they maximize profit as they don't have to abide by western-style labour conditions and labour laws, such as those related to minimum wage, safety conditions, and regulation of work hours.

A common issue in the international system is that nations under global south classifications are prone to unpredictable economic fluctuations that contribute to their lower level in the polarity scale. Making them prime targets for corporations to import raw materials to their factories to produce goods and then resell them at normal (if factories were in the global north) or higher prices around the world. Culprits include corporate giants of whom the most notorious include Nike, Apple, Nestle, and Shell. The unfortunate reality is that it is impossible to purchase goods from corporations without some form of exploitation.

Proponents of multinational corporations claim that they create jobs, improve technology and wealth in countries that are in need of such development. Critics also explain that these corporations can have disproportionate political influence over governments, exploit developing

nations, and deteriorate job markets in their original country. In the global north, middle-class workers cannot find jobs because companies outsource for cheaper labour in the global south. If corporations move their business to the global south, then the labour market in the nation of origin is burdened heavily as many lose their jobs.

On this note, it is important to explain that sovereignty in the global south is subject to the whims of not only multinational corporations, but also the other three non-state actors. For instance, Nigeria under globalization has some form of access to resources that it is unable to produce through trade. Globalization catalyzes cultural diffusion, so as the global south grows dependent on multinational corporations like Shell originating in America or BP from Great Britain that promote Western values it becomes impossible for nations like Nigeria to isolate themselves for the consequences-- social, economic, and political will outweigh the significance of this alienation. However, heavy dependence on multinational corporations enables higher levels of exploitation. For example, Nigeria only received 55 percent of the shares in Shell and BP in 1974. meaning that when it held smaller shares the country did not receive a sustainable profit for its natural resources. This led to lawsuits (from citizens), pirating, and environmental hazards increasing issues of land usage for residents. Overall, this is a common trade-off many nations have to make to remain prominent in the global economy.

Sovereign nations are responsible for creating a legal structure to promote a peaceful functioning society. The issue with creating legal countermeasures to trafficking on an international level is the complicated nature of legal systems within each nation. For both labour and sex trafficking, legislation must be comprised of individual punishments. The potential solutions to sex trafficking and further details about labour trafficking will be discussed at a later point.

### *How do Socioeconomic Conditions on a National Level Influence the International System?*

While it could be said that globalization has promoted equality in the international system, it simultaneously exacerbates the disparity of wealth within said nations (Bourguignon). The cultural system within a nation, functions on a fixed social hierarchy. When exposed to

globalization, that nation, as I have explained above, is placed somewhere in the hierarchy of polarity. Meaning that the global south is given the opportunity to exist in the same market as richer nations with the goal of developing more or equal amounts of wealth. This potential creates two outcomes: achieving said wealth with a narrow rate of success and/or exacerbating the income and wealth inequalities within the nation.

What this means is that the already disadvantaged lower classes become even more vulnerable to exploitation as they attempt to survive in the competition of the global economy. This internal disparity makes individuals more likely to accept the deceiving qualities of the global north if they are trying to escape systematic oppression. Oppression in this context may represent violence such as the government's abuse of power or a systemic process like poverty. This systematic process is a primary instigator for making individuals desperate to escape, this desperation leads them to accept falsehoods advertised by the global north without seeking proof. Poverty determines the level of vulnerability of communities in this circumstance as which individuals are more vulnerable to becoming a victim of trafficking. Individuals will believe or be coerced by traffickers who offer opportunities to relocate to countries of the global north for work.

The diffusion of values can be classified as the mission statement of globalization, i.e., the most accepted principle. However, the social ramifications for global south nations complicate the nature of preexisting values by altering cultural values. The success and dominance of the global north in the international economy leads to heavy aspirations that mislead populations in the global south, especially those who are disproportionately affected. The idolization of the global north not only clashes with pre-existing values in the nation but may also prompt desires to relocate through work or by other means to obtain perceived notations of wealth.

It is a difficult exercise to prove that globalization exacerbates internal disparity as official statistics can be misleading. For example, Ukraine's national poverty rate according to some sources is 2.4% (World Bank). However, this may not reflect the actual poverty experienced by the people. A more accurate measure would be the per capita GDP of Ukraine in 2016 was $2,187.73, which in 2016 was worth 53,709.26 hryvnias (World Bank). In comparison, a country categorized as the global north, Germany's per capita GDP in 2016 was $42,098.92. This drastic difference exemplifies how the cyclical nature of poverty creates issues in a nation

and exacerbates the contribution made by other issues. For example, many countries in the global south have extreme rates of disparity within the population that have been poor since the days of colonialism or other periods of oppression and continue to be poor due to an ineffective government system.

This variance exemplifies how the cyclical nature of poverty creates issues in a nation exacerbates the contribution made by other issues. For example, many countries in the global south have extreme rates of disparity within the population that have been poor since colonization or other periods of oppression but remain poor due to an ineffective government system. The conditions that can contribute to the exploitative nature of poverty are lack of education, employment, and healthcare, war/civil disorder, government instability, and corruption. To further complicate the matter, poverty can also be exacerbated during times of war or civil disorder because the government no longer prioritizes programs set to promote the wellbeing of its citizens. People stuck in poverty are more desperate to attain opportunities whether that means pursuing an education, finding work, or paying medical fees. This desperation makes them more likely to become victims of debt bondage or seek assistance from traffickers for "jobs".

Thus, the next section will provide a further explanation of who these victims can be and how they are lured into trafficking. I will be providing case studies for sex and labour trafficking, respectfully.

## Thematic Evaluation of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the illegal trafficking of individuals for the profit of another individual and/or crime organization. Before addressing the definitions as designated by statutes, there must a discussion that trafficking is classified under three main categories: labour, sex, and organ trafficking. However, due to constraints in time and length, this study will focus on labour sex and labour trafficking respectfully. While there are scholars who choose to designate child trafficking as its own category, doing such in this circumstance would undermine the usage of an intersectional lens. It is critical to utilize this lens in the study as vulnerable populations are identified by different overlapping societal factors depending on the region of study. The

separation of age groups fuels societal standards when determining the label of a victim. Specifically, empathy and assistance are given in a manner that upholds social biases of gender, race, and age (Ricard-Guay and Hanley, Chakrabarti, Mapp, Meeteren and Bannink). For example, in western countries with historical precedence of patriarchy, higher levels of empathy are given to a white female child compared to a black male teen or adult.

This study has previously discussed vulnerable populations or those more susceptible to trafficking. However, some scholars refer to them as low-risk populations. From an intersectional standpoint, low-risk individuals are composed of all sexes and all age groups ranging from children to adults depending on the context (Mapp, Ferrell-Schweppenstedde et al.,

and Stenersen et al.). The classification of low risk is used rather than high risk because traffickers can easily prey on these people, and there is little to no trade-off with the possibility of getting caught. Vulnerability in these populations emerges from a lack of resources/means and societal detachment from society to recover victims if they go missing. Low-risk populations are exposed to more crime so there is less likelihood they will even be reported missing as local crime already overwhelms police resources.

Henceforth, each nation that is cited as an example will require a brief background to distinguish the influence of problems and differences (society, culture, and politics). This diversity among nations connects to the existence of different vulnerable populations. The upcoming sections will address some dimensions of both sex trafficking and labour trafficking.  This diversity in case studies foreshadows the consecutive section that will discuss the  impracticality of implementing a single collective international response that is currently relied  on in the international system.

### *Sex Trafficking*

There are many dimensions of sex trafficking that reflect oppression and forced servitude  for the profit of the commercial sex industry. Individuals who are trafficked for commercial  sexual purposes may serve in brothels, prostitution, sex rings, the porn industry, and strip clubs  (Getu, Stenersen et al.). The sex rings are organized under "pimps," or the

ringleaders, who pay  other people to lure vulnerable, low-risk individuals (Bienstock). Low-risk individuals come  from poor economic backgrounds where the relatives do not have the ability to find them and  lack the financial resources to do so. It is a common association that in these areas there are no  effective police forces since they do not have resources to find missing persons and/or the desire  to do so, i.e., corruption (Burke, et al., Voelkner).

An individual's vulnerability is further impaired by the intersection of gender roles, racial stereotypes, cultural expectations, and (lack of) monetary stability as it increases desperation to seek whatever source of income they can obtain. While there are willing individuals who have not been coerced into their position in the sex industry, there is a problematic matter of individuals being forced by their environment to seek this employment. This leads to another complication that is debated amongst scholars as to whether or not prostitution falls under sex trafficking (Burke et al.). This cycle functions because victims cannot easily escape due to a lack of documents, fear of legal retribution, or debt bondage. If victims do not abide by the rules of the trafficker, then they are threatened with bodily harm to themselves and/or their families (Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, Bienstock,). Sometimes, family members are used as collateral for debt repayment. The limited or lack of resources and opportunities enforce the status of low-risk populations by enhancing the vulnerabilities for traffickers to exploit. These resources/opportunities are all connected back to socioeconomic status. If an individual does not have money that means they do not have an education which leads to the inability to work for high-paying technical jobs. Therefore, individuals become desperate to find any job available to them to support themselves and their families. The interaction of these factors aggravates the possibility of improvement on a national level and institutionalizes these conditions for individuals for generations.

### *How does Globalization Affect Societal Connotations of Sex?*

As explained above each nation-state constructs sovereignty with respect to upholding its unique cultural system. However, to reiterate when a nation-state adopts globalization that

means its socioeconomic system will be influenced by principles of western capitalism. The significance of this is that this involves assimilation into a market economy that has the potential

to alter existing cultural values. The lack of governmental intervention in the market implies little to no regulation of goods or services that are in demand. This is crucial when discussing sex trafficking because of the rising tension between the market that allows individuals to commodify their bodies both voluntarily and involuntarily versus the legal system built on a culture that criminalizes the action (Phillips, Burke et al., Brooks and Heaslip)

Legal restrictions prevent victims from fleeing or escaping because many countries still criminalize the sex industry or there is societal condemnation (Voelkner). In fear of the legal system that will deport them, victims are pressured to remain silent and obey the rules of the ringleader (2019 Trafficking in Persons Report). There are societal repercussions in any situation, either the victim gets deported and is seen as a failure for not being able to provide income for their family and/or they are disgraced for their involvement in what is referred to as "harlot behavior" (Bienstock, Voelkner, Nwadinobi). This condemnation perpetuates the cycle of trafficking since survivors cannot easily integrate back into society and receive assistance to combat trauma, they experience more vulnerability and can be trafficked again.

Variation within the realm of human trafficking also contributes to the impossibility of eradication, especially on the international level. While both sex and labour trafficking have their own problematic elements, the divergence on a national level denotes a no-win situation for legal prosecution for the international system. Specifically, the unfair conservative mindset towards the sex industry unlike the labour industry in most countries promotes more degrees of exploitation that traffickers employ. For example, the sex industry does not have the opportunity to form unions or any other form of regulative protectionism similar to those of the labour industry. This means that the demands of the market are met at the expense of the individuals.

This is primarily why traffickers were able to build such a lucrative business and maintain it today.

***HIV/AIDS***

In South Africa, sex trafficking is fueled by a historical precedent affecting a specific population for marriage demands. The historical precedent of the 1948 apartheid created disproportionate underdevelopment that contributed to the HIV/AIDs epidemic. In this case study, the vulnerable population consists of younger girls, some even underage, as they were more in demand in the trafficking scheme for marriage because they are most likely to be virgins. This measure is taken to ensure that these girls do not carry HIV and/or AIDS. Due to the apartheid, the majority of the population still does not have access to resources including but not limited to healthcare, hospitals, and medicine. In South Africa, this is detrimental to citizens as it lowers life expectancy, increases the likelihood of contracting disease, and promotes trafficking as victims who cannot be sold into sexual labor are killed and imported for their organs.

Despite the success of the anti-apartheid movement, the institutionalization of inequality during this period created grave implications for vulnerable populations. For example, the 1913 Land Act made it illegal for the black community to work as sharecroppers and by extension possess their own land. However, the market of South Africa supports farmers and agriculture, yet its unique situation shows that many laborers either do not have land to work or an insufficient amount of land that would not even support their family let alone provide an opportunity for profit (Harrison). When land is owned and cultivated by a family rather than a corporation it is usually passed down through generations. The revocation of this opportunity during the apartheid has, however, systematically forced individuals into finding other sources of income, thus, making them more vulnerable to trafficking.

South Africa in comparison to its neighbors, is more prosperous and economically developed. Traffickers lure victims from surrounding territories with higher levels of underdevelopment with promises of better work and higher wages in South Africa (Vranckena and Chetty). Directly, South Africa plays into the plot of globalization by being the perfect transportation spot for smuggling victims internationally (2019 Trafficking in Persons Report). South Africa offers direct flights to and from other countries in Africa, Europe, North America, South America, and Asia; however, victims can also be smuggled illegally onto boats.

Another case, one of a similar nature, is the emergence of the mail-order bride phenomenon that is typically associated with Russia. However, it must be said that this subcategory of sex trafficking is also classified under another phenomenon of cross-border marriage. The dual identity makes it impractical to distinguish between mail-order brides from cross-border marriage as individuals in both exist through similar circumstances that influence their expectations and willingness to be a candidate in the marriage process.

Cross-border marriage is the process of an individual immigrating to the country of their potential spouse. This phenomenon does not occur without social stigma, as many utilize the term to reflect the overwhelming belief that this is solely women immigrating to the country of their potential male spouse. This phenomenon is not associated with one specific nation as it is practiced on a global scale in almost every region of the world. It emerges from cultural expectations and social standards, as women are expected to mobilize their social standing and marry a more influential male (Voelkner). However, there continue to be cases where significant male populations immigrate to the nation of their female spouse (Longo). This is not the process of a mail-order "bride", but it is similar to it as men in the global south will marry women in the global north if it means improving socioeconomic status. The complexity of exploitation depends on the role of societal factors making it impossible to create accurate general statements. These factors include but are not limited to; opportunities available to the "bride" (economic, social, educational, et al.) or external conditions: war, social expectations, government transparency, and family conditions.

The reason for the mail-order "bride" distinction is because the process of exploitation is done through societal standards embedded in patriarchy. Cross-border marriage may reflect issues of mail-order "brides", but the intention of both sides is to gain something. Mail-order brides submit themselves to the needs/desires of the spouse that reinforce existing gender roles. What the spouse gets in return varies from a domestic servant to a willing sexual object (Burke et al., Getu, Brooks and Heaslip, Longo).

However, both mail order brides and cross-border marriages have the potential to experience abusive marital relationships (Burke et al.). This potential fluctuates as external variables interact and/or accumulate depending on existing cultural values and gender roles in

society. One may argue that extreme religious or ethnic practices derived from patriarchy will create an environment for more abuse to occur. For example, in a white patriarchal culture that upholds conservative gender roles in a heterosexual relationship, the woman is the domestic servant, and the male is the breadwinner. Numerous outcomes can occur from this scenario but in consideration of time restraints, this study shall briefly focus on the discussion of marital rape. If trafficking is the commodification of an individual's body for monetary exchange, then the bodies of females, a foreigner under both mail-ordered or cross-border classification, are given to the husband in return for his socio-economic support (Burke et al.). This exchange of a good/service in both categories increases the concealed nature of trafficking and the impossibility of eradication. It is impractical to distinguish between mail-order brides and cross border marriage as individuals in both categories desire the same outcomes and exist in similar circumstances.

There is a lack of existing protocols that can be used by organizations to regulate and determine the classification of mail order brides and provide assistance without deteriorating the existing social acquiescence of cross-border marriages. These absences are because of the inability to distinguish between vulnerable populations who are undermined by unequal wealth distribution and those who utilize this opportunity to practice cultural norms of improving socioeconomic status to benefit their family.

*Sex Tourism*

Another form of sex trafficking in the promotion of the commercial sex industry is the high success of sex tourism most notably in Vietnam, Thailand, and India but it is also prominent in other global south nations (2019 Trafficking in Persons Report, Ferrell-Schweppenstedde, et al., and Getu). Sex tourism occurs when individuals physically travel to other countries where it may or may not be legal to participate in commercial sexual activities such as prostitution. Some scholars refer to sex tourism as hotel prostitution as businesses that promote the commercial sex industry like nightclubs and brothels, and by extension sex trafficking, is centered around tourist hotspots in major cities (2019 Trafficking in Persons Report, Kara). In some instances, sex workers especially when imported (read as trafficked) from foreign countries become the tourist

attraction. Tourism in the global south is especially appealing to the middle class of the global north as they can spend more money in the global south due to the disproportionate currency value (Stenersen et al.).

The stereotype of foreigners, especially from Western countries coming into the global south and exploiting individuals under sex tourism, is understood globally (Phillips, Bales). The dominant stereotype is that of Caucasian middle-aged men traveling from the global north into countries of the global south for sex. However, while it may be abundantly true it is important not to associate all acts of sex tourism with this stereotype. First, this stereotype allows for the interpretation that foreigners are only tourists which completely ignores people that travel for business, religious purposes, or any other purpose that may require obtaining a visa, who can just as easily exploit the victims. Furthermore, this stereotype neglects that the nation's locals also participate in sex tourism, as many businesses in the sex industry cater to two markets; locals who are predominantly nonwhite and foreigners of all different backgrounds including race (Stenersen et al.).

Sex tourism is the unfortunate reality of what it means to accept globalization and its associated principles. Sex tourism represents the ability for transportation of the product (the victim) and the buyer across borders to exchange a product/service for its monetary value. This reflects how individuals benefit from international social stratification because advantaged people in the global north will exploit individuals in the global south because they have the resources, specifically money, to do so (Getu, Ferrell-Schweppenstedde, et al.).

When discussing the existence of human trafficking, Thailand's existing geopolitical relations with neighboring countries: Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar (that were all previously colonized nations) supersedes the fact that it was never colonized. While the other nations succumbed to trafficking in part due to the inequality institutionalized by colonization,

Thailand was the unwilling bystander coerced into similar disparity due to other historical events, i.e., the Vietnam War. Thailand and bordering nations cannot escape the sexual fetishization of foreign bodies that evolved from the colonial mindset of ownership. The ideology of the market economy further supports this mindset as ownership of a product is dictated when a monetary exchange occurs. Samantha Ferrell-Schweppenstedde et al. dissect this multilevel mentality of the clientele as "...buying sex means [they are] likely to have real

socioeconomic power: as men in a patriarchal context, as Westerners in a postcolonial context, as people with capital in a capitalist context" (1547). These levels of context indicate two conclusions, the first being that if globalization did not directly evolve from colonialism it at least heavily influenced it. The second conclusion is that the unique effect of globalization on a nation depends on a specific coalition of intersectional factors that are then exploited by this system.

## Labour Trafficking

Many developed nations, recently referred to as global north countries, have protocols that protect workers by establishing standards for labour conditions, such as, how many hours they can work, when they work, wages, and requirements for safety equipment. Labour trafficking reaches a pinnacle when employers trade off the security of workers for a higher profit or the labour market does not provide a sufficient population of these protections as highlighted in the various examples below.

### *How does Globalization Affect Labour?*

This is a major issue as individuals migrate through globalization to find work or mobilize in skill level. The labour market of a nation is affected by the movement of people. The higher the demand for a job the more an individual will get paid. Higher skilled jobs require certain education or experience so individuals cannot be easily replaced; meanwhile, lower-skill jobs are in abundance, so individuals are easily replaceable. Individuals desperate to find work are those that are easily exploited either by legal businesses or traffickers.

Since globalization promotes capitalistic values, the need to make a profit is crucial to the success of a corporation/business. As discussed above, the ultimate goal for corporations is to make the most amount of profit possible with the consideration for trade-offs, or any external factor that can reduce profit like following western minimum wage protocols in the global south. The ability to ignore these protocols and maximize profit is why many corporations move major factories of production to countries of the global south. Moving factories to the global south to

maximize profit is the principle of capitalism and to an extent, globalization. That is why most of the clothing items sold in stores in the United States or any other country in the global north have the "Made in China/Vietnam/Thailand/Cambodia/e.g.,". However, it is considered exploitation when these countries and other global south nations produce a majority of the clothing sold by major corporations and then worn throughout the global north but those in the global south cannot afford to buy the clothes they themselves are making especially in inadequate conditions (Achbar et al.). Labour trafficking is a subsection of labour exploitation and occurs when corporations need workers to work in said conditions. While the labour source is exploited and trafficked differently depending on the production industry in each nation. This difference will be explained below. Yet, a common theme is that these vulnerable communities are coerced, forced, or deceived into working against their will which makes them trafficking victims. It is important to note that labour trafficking includes the movement of individuals within the country as well as importing them into a different one.

### *Harsh Climate*

Labour trafficking finds an abundant market in nations that have extreme weather conditions but need a large labour force to produce goods. These goods are determined by each nation's geographic features, ranging from the fishing industry in Thailand to timber in the Russian Federation (2018 List of Goods). A common feature of labour trafficking is that workers are deceived by recruiters about the location of work and wages. In order to maintain cooperation, they withhold wages, revoke identifying documents notably passports/visas, and they might resort to the use of physical violence.

One example is the case of Russia. Recruiters in Russia utilize its old Soviet connections with previous satellite states to find a population of potential workers. A majority of previous satellite states have established and joined the Commonwealth of Independent States. Traffickers exploit the connection with Russia through similar cultural, social, economic, and political values. Most frequently individuals trafficked into Russia are transported from Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, and North Korea (2019 Trafficking in Persons Report; Trounson and Pfeifer, Churakova and van der Westhuizen). Russia's demand for trafficked victims' surges

because citizens do not want to work for companies that are notorious for paying wages late or not paying workers at all. This is commonly seen in labor-intensive industries like lumber and construction (2019 Trafficking in Persons Report, Trounson and Pfeifer, Churakova and Westhuizen). The main characteristic of Russia is a relatively long period of cold temperature that drops dramatically in the winter months. This harsh climate means many locals do not want to work in labor-intensive industries i.e., construction because of constant exposure to the cold (Churakova and van der Westhuizen). For reference, the average high for St. Petersburg in January ranges from -8°C ~17.6°F to -3°C ~ 26.6°F, andSiberia's lowest recorded temperature was -88°C~ -126.4°F in 2018 (Yu Media Group). In response, companies will recruit foreigners who come on work visas and then force them to work by means explained above. Unfortunately, it has become normal and easy to bribe government officials to disregard visa regulations for incoming migrants and/or the conditions of the labour environment.

### Safety Conditions (or Lack Thereof)

Any discussion of work in factories in countries of the global south immediately conjures up images of sweatshops. This assumption is not wrong, but it does not cover the entire spectrum of safety conditions. Workers in sweatshops work long hours without breaks, low to no pay, and an unregulated climate in the building (Richard-Guay and Hanley, Achbar and Abbott). However, in factories that produce goods that require machinery (textiles, bricks, et al.) workers are not given safety equipment increasing potential health risks and death. If individuals get injured or die that is a loss of income and families lose a source of income (if paid regularly) and receive no compensation.

One product that is increasing in demand with the rise of the makeup industry is Mica. 25% of Mica production is exported from Bihar and Jharkhand in India, (Lebsack, "2018 List of Goods Produced by Child Labor", 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report, Kakar). Mica production is extremely dangerous as it is sourced from underground mines that only children can fit inside. Informal mining and collection can lead to collapsing mines. Collapsed mines are the graveyards for potential profit and exploited children. There is a lack of safety equipment such as gloves, helmets, masks in these mining areas. Moreover, many children who work in the mines are poor,

so they do not have footwear to protect their feet, let alone be able to afford their own safety equipment (Lebsack). This can lead to many health problems: post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), scars, bacterial infections, and lung cancer if they survive to adulthood. Mica mining is done without governmental permission as companies bribe local police, and the government doesn't have the resources to constantly check potential mining sites (Lebsack).

*Internal Conflict/Army Supply*

Nations riddled with internal conflict often escalate into violent collisions of conflicting groups. When an insurgent group rises, it requires a specific workforce to impose its principles on bystanders to rapidly gain support. Often leaders of these groups increase their population by kidnapping or purchasing individuals from trafficking rings.

In India, recruitment into the Maoist group begins with children as it is easier to instill cooperation using fear and intimidation. The trafficking of individuals for Maoist purposes occurs in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and the state of Jammu and Kashmir (2019 Trafficking in Persons Report, Kakar). Females that are trafficked into Maoist groups serve as soldiers participating in rebellious acts such as bombings against opposing groups that can either be liberation groups or the Indian government. However, female soldiers, unlike their male counterparts, experience subjugation through sexual exploitation as well as labour exploitation (2019 Trafficking in Persons Report, Kakar).

On a similar note, Nigeria's insurgent group, Boko Haram, exploits the nation's systematic issues that perpetually affect society since decolonization. Boko Haram is classified as a jihadist, or an extreme Islamic terrorist organization that gained momentum in the Northeast because that is where the Hausa-Fulani (the Muslim majority) has resided since Nigeria gained independence in 1960. Its success is based on utilizing trafficking to gain more supporters, military personnel to control, and building families to ingrain its principles (2019 Trafficking in Person Report, Nwadinobi). Females (mostly younger age groups) are kidnapped and/or purchased to be threatened into marrying loyal soldiers and by extension become soldiers themselves. Females are also conditioned into becoming suicide bombers, spies, smugglers, or other vital positions because society grew hypervigilant against males (2019 Trafficking in

Person Report, Nwadinobi). Gender stereotyping and profiling overlook females as potential attackers so they target urban locations such as markets and mosques (Nwadinobi).

However, the Nigerian military is also guilty of exploiting individuals especially those in IDP (Internally Displaced Person) camps. It has been reported that individuals of authority trade food and water for labour or sexual favours from IDPs. There have also been reports that they lure vulnerable individuals into trafficking themselves (2019 Trafficking in Persons Report). This is not a surprising revelation as Nigeria has historically been susceptible to episodes of democratic failure followed by military regimes.

The difference in reasons for exploitation and methods used to acquire trafficked victims on a national and subregional scale makes it impossible to generalize on an international scale. This is why the following section will examine existing legislation and organizations that aim to prevent and prosecute all forms of trafficking.

## The Feasibility of Prevention/Prosecution

To combat human trafficking in an era of globalization there need to be legal statutes on an international scale. As mentioned above, the existence of an international statute would violate the principle of sovereignty. However, another contributing factor is the variance in the regulation of the labour and sex industry amongst the sovereign nations. Some nations criminalize the sex industry. Others legalize certain aspects with some strict regulation and while other nations allow this capitalist-oriented market unregulated freedom. The criminalization of the sex industry is highly constructed on the cultural expectations of each society that constitutes the nation (Ferrell-Schweppenstedde et al., Ricard-Guay and Hanley, Mapp, Nwadinobi, Middleton, Meeteren and Bannink).

In similar terms, labour trafficking is difficult to eradicate because criminalization within a nation varies on labour standard violations and criminal charges (Ricard-Guay and Hanley, Lodder, Meeteren and Bannink). The complexity of nation-state sovereignty is that while some nations rely on labour unions others may deter their existence (Saudi Arabia) or even permit the capitalist free market principle to function without regulation (People's Republic of China).

The prosecution of labour and sex trafficking offenses is influenced by immigration

policies too, especially if individuals are undocumented migrants (Lodder, Churakova, and van der Westhuizen). Each sovereign power is responsible for creating a system of conditions to enter for individuals that want/need to pass their borders. Globalization allowed supporters to advocate the principle of open borders, yet the current era reflects resilience as many nations, namely in the global north, are strengthening restrictions for potential migrants. This is to preserve these nations' reputation and status in the international system, upholding the principle that only citizens can reap the benefits. This once again leads into the scheme of capitalism that idolizes the rich but penalizes the poor in a constant cycle.

## Critiques of International Protocol and Prospective Remedies

Every multidimensional factor including human trafficking itself that is mentioned in this study contributes to the overwhelming impossibility of eradicating it from the global society. It is vital to understand that implementing an inadequate solution is just as bad if not worse than having no solution.

The main issue with existing protocols and laws is that they are on a national and international level. Rather, as I will explain further in detail later, nations need to develop better local-level protocols. Ironically, it is impractical to eradicate human trafficking from the international system with the legal framework on the international level. This is because national law and by extension international law both utilize a bottom-down approach where the law is passed on these levels and then governments somehow expect local divisions to adhere to these standards. Although it is impossible to eradicate trafficking without addressing the other systematic problems mentioned above that catalyze the process, there needs to be more organization and effort made on the local level. This bottom-up approach would allow nations the resources and elasticity to address the intertwined nature of their unique problems rather than abiding by a generic protocol that is more useful as a theory rather than a legal framework. In an ideal world, the bottom-up approach would depart from standards associated with the global north/south dichotomy. For instance, Nigeria would be able to allocate resources to address human trafficking intensified by poverty-inducing issues that have been stressed by ethnic pluralism and democratic unsteadiness since its liberation in 1960.

Equally, Vietnam can address human trafficking in consideration of the influence of its

surrounding neighbors (Thailand, Laos, China, Cambodia) that call attention to agricultural and environmental problems since adopting the principles of the market economy while being socialist. The geopolitical response is illustrated by the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking also referred to as COMMIT which comprises Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, China, Cambodia, and Myanmar. This unit aims to "combin[e] efforts on prevention of trafficking, protection of victims and their repatriation and reintegration, and prosecution of the criminals responsible" (International Organization for Migration).

An argument can be made that a subregional approach like COMMIT is the most adequate solution of collective responsibility in an era of globalization. This alliance of mainland Southeast Asia is how other subregions of continents should proceed when attempting to combat global issues like human trafficking especially if they are unable to allocate resources to improve prevention at a local level. A sub-regional approach is better than an international approach even though it is a top-down approach to legislation. This approach holds nations more responsible for intervention at a national level as geopolitical mutualism will promote more productive dialogue. Subregional organizations uphold similar social values so there are limited stalemates that delay the conception of legislation. This is where the international approach fails as the United Nations, unlike COMMIT, has to impose and enforce legislation that satisfies all 193 nation-states with an extreme variation of sociopolitical values especially over the conception of universal human rights (Tharoor, Donnelly).


This western belief that is upheld by the United Nation does not assist in preventing human trafficking in more conservative nation-states including but not limited to India, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Yemen (Hancock). While the United Nations initiates legislation for all six continents, save for Antarctica, it is not plausible for it to pursue and maintain the compliance of each of the 193 member states.

However, it must be said that this hypothetical suggestion is only practical if a nation has competent and law-abiding political leaders and a just judicial system. This approach will immediately fail in the face of the smallest degree of corruption, for example, the bribing of local community police or politicians. While the main focus of this study has been to explain the relationship between globalization, human trafficking, and the role of colonialism, it is of utmost importance to recognize how poverty convolutes the situation for many if not all nations whose

communities fall prey to trafficking. Therefore, in order to eradicate human trafficking nations must take conscious and practical efforts to at least reduce the severity of poverty on a national, state, and local level.

Another improvement that needs to be made on an international level is the extreme lack of concern regarding intersectionality in the ways legislation proceeds (Stark). Without using an intersectional lens especially when initiating treaties and protocols, governments and organizations are perpetuating the nature of trafficking. This is relevant when discussing the United Nations "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children"(OHCHR). The specifications of supporting women and children, while commendable for addressing vulnerable populations completely overshadows male and nonbinary populations. This has great social ramifications as to who society believes is a victim and who is simply a participant. The mechanism of sustaining the cycle of trafficking is that victims do not get the services they need to deal with the trauma in part because they do not see themselves as victims because society implies otherwise (Trounson and Pfeifer, Yakushko and Rajan, Bienstock, Mapp, Kakar, Nwadinobi, Ferrell-Schweppenstedde, et al., Stark, and Voelkner).

### Technology and Social Media

In the age of global communication, it should also not be surprising that technology can promote both good and bad aspects. As explained above, traffickers do utilize technology and social media to lure victims from Craigslist to Facebook. However, recently people have collectively been addressing and informing others as preventative countermeasures. On Instagram, there was a recent post addressed to individuals of domestic violence and/or trafficking about hiding a spoon in their underwear to get stopped at the airport if they needed to be rescued from that situation.

Social media and the internet have also been tools in educating how to observe signs of a trafficker and their victim when traveling. This can be crucial information for bystanders who interact with the public on a constant basis. This may include flight attendants, restaurant staff, uber drivers, and many others that would not recognize the situation beforehand. These platforms

are also used to share experiences of either encountering a potential trafficker or a survivor. This is important for individuals that live in high-profile cities where crowds are normal, allowing for traffickers to stalk and blend in with relative ease.

Advancement within social media creates new tools to gain and spread knowledge. The social media platform Instagram recently launched IGTV which allows creators to upload videos longer than 10-minutes to a global community of 1 billion users. This new feature provides an opportunity for digital media companies like Refinery29 to publish content designed to improve lifestyle and health but is also responsible for keeping the global community informed. For example, the issue of mica mining only came to my attention while browsing Instagram in the form of an IGTV video, "The Dark Secret Behind Your Favorite Makeup Products" (Lebsack). This short 20-minute documentary amassed 737,000 views on Instagram and nearly 9 million views on YouTube.

These views represent individuals from a global population, any individual with access to these platforms can view this information. Social media is an advancing mechanism of globalization as it spreads knowledge, cultural values, language, and technology surpassing the boundaries of previous decades. Yet, as a global society, we cannot solely depend on social media to reverse the effects of centuries worth of oppression that perpetuates vulnerability. Besides improving legislation, we as members of society must demand change to the institutionalized practices that perpetuate the vulnerability of communities.

## Conclusion

It is advised that history should not be forgotten or ignored. However, many do not explain that the world and society should learn from and repair issues that distinguish said past. This includes the systematic disorder and inequality created by colonization and promoted by recent waves of globalization. Yet, as the new decade advances, globalization continues to spread and evolves the longer it is embedded in society. With this advancement is the concealed infection of human trafficking catalyzed by multifaceted problems in a nation. Human trafficking is a multidimensional problem that feeds off other multilayered issues in society. This is done through the institutionalization of the social hierarchy. Social stratification is constructed and enforced differently in each nation due to diversity in culture but often reflects socioeconomic

status. Lower classes are exposed to intersectional issues most of which stem from poverty as it is a cyclical cycle that traps generations of families. It is when these individuals try to escape the cycle that they are most vulnerable to becoming victims of trafficking. Traffickers look for low risk populations like the poor because they are desperate enough to take any opportunity to make money as a means to get a stable source of income. The poverty that is supported and enforced by social stratification worsens when nations adapt to globalization.

Globalization exacerbates all forms of vulnerability that stem from poverty; external factors that contribute to the dilemma include war/internal conflict, the presence of extremist groups, educational and employment opportunities, racism, climate, corruption, governmental stability, and cultural values. Globalization also disparages existing cultural values by enforcing assimilation to western-capitalist values. This assimilation rewards nations by allowing them to compete in the global economy. The most concern rises from the global south competing against the global north and other global south nations. These levels of competition are concerning because countries of the global North do not have to deal with issues that the global south is predisposed to--revolutions, coups d'état, and others.

Regardless of status, many if not all nations comprising the global society through the process of globalization have come to depend on the international system. Though, simultaneously these nations have also increased the preservation of their status as a sovereign state. This is where nation-states complicate preventative measures against human trafficking as they agree to abide by international agreements but are not compelled to uphold and implement further measures. This occurs because there is no international sovereign that can hold them accountable for this digression.

As cultures intertwine and people interact, it becomes increasingly important to recognize the role of intersectionality in the systems we practice as human beings. That is why people need to take more responsibility for each other as our communities have transcended past previously accepted borders. That means accepting the change that globalization has brought, recognizing the toxicity of the past, and striving to improve conditions for future generations.


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