

BFU: Free Trade

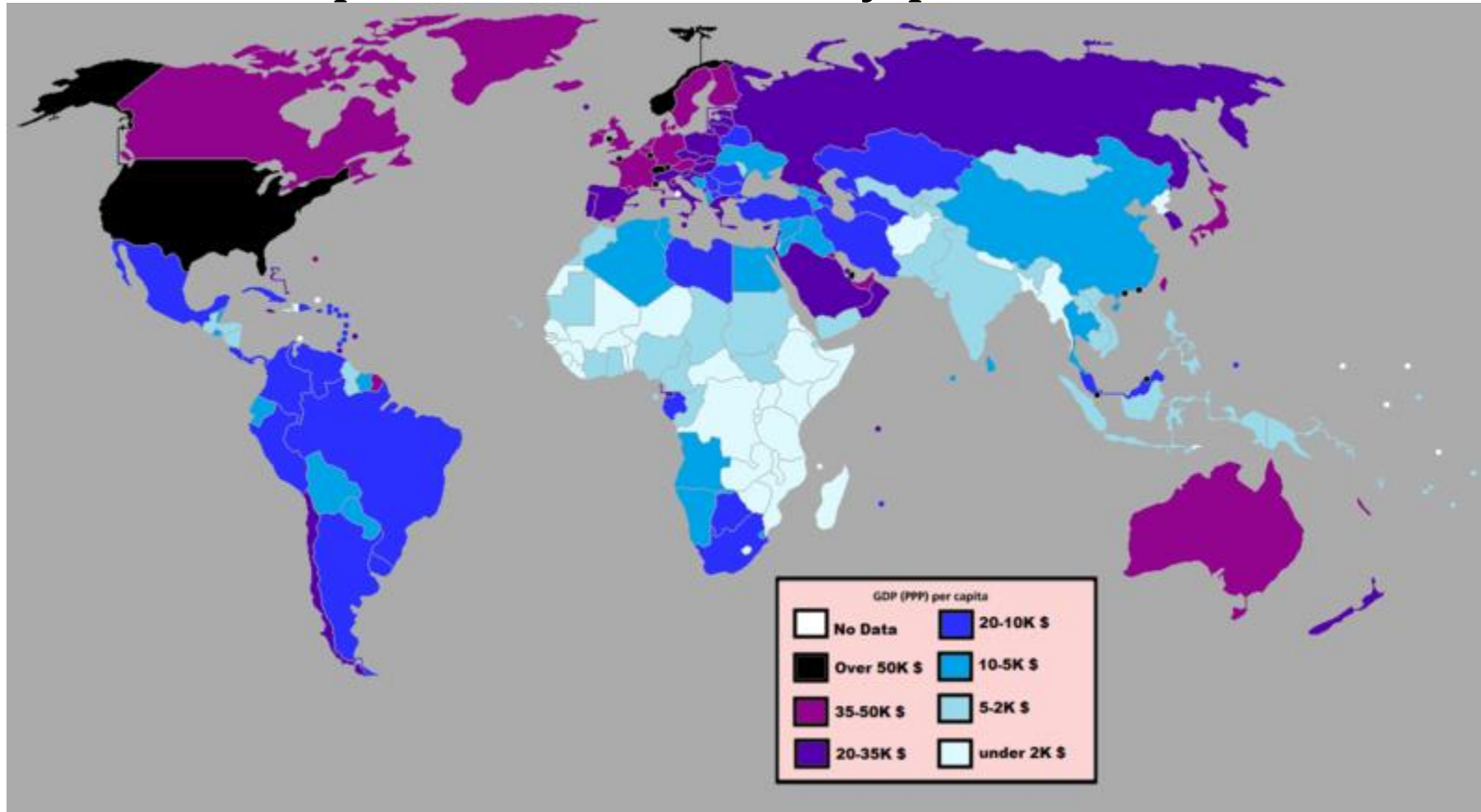


Misconception:

Economics always helped everyone...

Think about today.

Here is a map of the economically powerful countries:



The USA, Western Europe, and Japan dominate. Is it because they have the most factories? No!

Developed now includes new industries like computers, telecommunications, healthcare, services, biotechnology, and entertainment.

We divide the world into the Developed World and the Developing World.

The Developed Countries are Europe, USA, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Israel, and some Gulf Arab States.

The faster Developing Countries are Brazil, India, China, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, and Southeast Asia.

The rest of the world is developing more slowly but still developing.

Countries like Ethiopia, for example, are developing with investments from the USA, China, Saudi Arabia, and France.

If there's something to sell, there will always be somebody to buy it. This is capitalism. Because all countries are so connected, we call it global capitalism. The process is called globalization.

Global companies want free trade.

Free trade is like a promise that governments make not to interfere in business. They promise to keep taxes low. They promise not to make regulations.

Complete

1. What are some developed countries?

Europe, USA, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Israel, and some Gulf Arab States.

2. What are some developing countries?

Brazil, India, China, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, and Southeast Asia.

3. How do we divide the world now?

Developed and developing countries.

Some examples of Free Trade Organizations include:

WTO: World Trade Organization	The world trade agreement
NAFTA: North American Free Trade Association	USA, Mexico, and Canada
EU: European Union	Europe

The world is so connected that there are many organizations that act like banks for the world. They include:

IMF: International Monetary Fund	They give loans to countries to grow their economies
World Bank	They also give loans to countries to grow their economies
United Nations	This is a world governing body but they also work with economies.

Free trade allows new technologies to cross borders without delays. Computers and the internet open up borders so that we know what's going on around the world without having to wait.

Complete

1. What are some Free Trade organizations?

WTO: World Trade Organization.

The world trade agreement.

USA, Mexico, and Canada.

2. What are some “World Banks” that promote free trade?

IMF: International Monetary Fund.

United Nations

World Bank

3. The IMF, WTO, NAFTA, and World Bank all want what kind of trade?

World Bank all wants free trade.

4. What does Free Trade mean?

Free trade means a promise to not interference not make regulations, and keep taxes low.

It's hard to even think about "Borders" because everyone has family in different places. Refugees are common all over the world. It's not just in the United States, where people cross the Mexican border to look for jobs.

It's also in Europe and Arabia, where Africans and Asians come as "migrant" workers and make a new life for themselves.

Some people have many nationalities and have trouble identifying with just one.

Corporations are also multi-national. They include people and products from different nations. Multinational corporations aren't *loyal* to one country. Apple is not an American company; it is a global company.

Honda is a "Japanese Car" but most of its factories are in the USA. Honda creates more jobs for Americans than many other "American" products. So, we can't even say Honda is "Japanese." It is multinational.

But there are problems with free trade. There are problems with globalization.

Rewrite

1. Most developed countries nowadays are all different races.
2. Multinational corporations belong to different countries.
3. Honda is Japanese and is mostly made in U.S.
4. Globalization is the process of the global economy coming together.

Anecdote: Free Trade at Ford!

Imagine it is the 1950s. You work for Ford Motor Company. You live in Detroit. Your job is in a factory. You make steering wheels. You don't need an education; you just have to show up for work.

Your life is good. You can buy a house. You can afford a car. You have a nice family. You tell your son: "Boy, you should be just like me and work hard. Life will be good to you."

You retire to Florida. You sell your son that house that you earned with your factory wages.

Look at your house now:



Your son was working at that same factory. He lost his job. He doesn't have an education, so he is unemployed.

Look at your son now:



What happened?

In the 1980s, all of the car companies left Detroit. They couldn't afford to pay salaries to factory workers in the USA.

Why? It was cheaper to pay people in Mexico to do the same work. Ford couldn't compete and stay in the USA.

But it doesn't stop there. Let's follow your steering wheel job.

The new Ford factory opens in Chiapas, Mexico. A guy named Juan gets your old job, making steering wheels. He gets paid about \$2.50 a day for this job. (You were making \$35.00 an hour before you retired.) But Juan is happy. He made much less working in the fields, so he is doing well.

But there are some protests. People demand more money; they point out that *gringos* got \$35.00 an hour for the same job. The Mexican government takes the side of the people and demands that Ford pay higher salaries.

Ford responds: they just move the factory across the border to Guatemala. They pay the Guatemalans even less money. They say: "If you complain, we will leave. We will go to Honduras, where they *want* to work." Juan decides to leave Chiapas and go North to the USA, where he will look for work there.

Answer

1. Where were most of the Ford plants before Free Trade?

Most of Ford plants before Free Trade were in Detroit.

2. What happened next?

Ford factory opens in Chiapas, Mexico. Later they move to Guatemala.

3. How did Free Trade hurt Ford?

Free Trade hurt Ford because the Mexican government demanded them which cost a lot of money. And their workers complained of their low salary.

These are the problems with free trade and globalization. They are not new problems. They are very old. So, we need to go back to the 1800s and look at how the Industrial Revolution created these problems. The central problem is called inequality.

Inequality can mean many things. We are talking about economic inequality. It divides people into classes, like the upper, the middle, and the lower classes. It divides people into owners and workers. People who aren't equal don't have the same access to education. Rich people can send their children to private schools; poor people have to take what they can afford. Rich people don't have to worry about saving for college; poor people might choose to work instead of college.

Inequality affects healthcare. Rich people have better choices in healthcare, and they also often have healthier lifestyles. They suffer from less stress. Inequality can mean access to the internet. It can mean literacy, which is reading and comprehending. It can be financial literacy, which means understanding how economic systems function and how to best make money.

The more advanced we get; the more obvious of a problem inequality becomes.

Complete

1. Inequality is rich and poor people.
2. Inequality divides people into different classes such as owners and workers.

Answer

1. What is inequality?

Inequality is people not having the same rights. Therefore, not having what they want.

2. What are some bad effects of inequality?

Negatives effects of inequality on people are to not have the same education, jobs, and salaries.

3. Do you think inequality gets better or worse with free trade? I think inequality becomes worse with free trade because the companies are paying to poor people a low salary and if they move to rich countries companies pay a high salary to employees for the same work.

Summary Complete

1. Globalization is **when economics come together.**
2. The world is divided between
3. Free trade means **to have low taxes and no more regulations.**
4. Some free trade organizations are
**NAFTA: North American Free Trade Association and
Canada.**

5. It's difficult to think about borders because the people have family in different countries.

6. Inequality means to have different resources.