

United States of America

- One of the world's largest multinational corporations, General Motors, is based in the US, but much of the production and manufacturing occurs in factories around the world in 36 different countries. Many US multinational corporations have similarly international operations.
- The United States has been criticized for heavily subsidizing (giving payments to) its farmers, allowing US farmers to sell their goods cheaply and making it difficult for farmers in developing and emerging countries to compete in the market. The US says the subsidies are needed to keep the market stable and maintain US food independence.
- English is the official language in 52 countries, and roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$ of the world's population speaks English to some degree, making English the most popular second language in the world. English is also the most dominant language of the Internet.
- Globalization has caused major changes in the US job market, with many manufacturing jobs lost over the last 30 years, while some other industries have increased the number of jobs.

Japan

- Japan is one of the largest CO2 emitting countries of 2010.
- Globalization has led Tokyo to become the largest megacity in the world, and Japan is home to two of the largest multinational corporations in the world: Toyota and Sony.
- The rise in popularity of sushi around the world has resulted in overfishing Pacific bluefin tuna, with numbers depleted by approximately 96%.
- Japan has been criticized for heavily subsidizing (giving payments to) its farmers, allowing Japanese farmers to sell their goods cheaply and making it difficult for farmers in developing and emerging countries to compete in the market. Japan now says it will phase out the subsidies by 2018.

China

- Though still a communist nation, China has allowed much more free-market activity in the last 30 years, including the creation of special economic zones, such as Shantou and Shenzhen, to accommodate trade laws that are more free-market oriented than national laws allow for.
- The Port of Shanghai is the world's busiest port as of 2012; out of the top 10 busiest ports in the world, 7 are located in China, importing and exporting products across the globe.
- After many years of little global economic participation, China has opened its economy to the world in the last three decades. This has led to enormous economic growth led by Chinese-made exports in the manufacturing sector. Income inequality, however, has risen, especially between urban and rural dwellers.

Germany

- Germany has the most powerful economy in the European Union, a group of 27 member states that is also a free trade area.
- Germany engages in offshoring to gain cheap labor, but encourages “nearshoring” by taking advantage of available labor in new EU member states.
- Germany’s farmers benefit second most among EU countries from the EU’s farm subsidy program.
- In 2005, 17.9% of Germany’s people were immigrants, with immigration rates increasing each year. 47% of new immigrants are unskilled workers.
- Approximately 5% of Germany’s population is Muslim due to its guest-worker program and individuals seeking political asylum.

India

- India's interest is to ensure that the world moves to a smaller carbon footprint, as India is very vulnerable to climate change. Agriculture and rural development will be hit the hardest if climate change continues unabated.
- Economic liberalization (less government interference in the economy), among other factors, has reduced extreme poverty in India by half since the 1990s.
- Outsourced jobs in India have added jobs to their market and increased GDP. Some of the most common industries that are outsourcing to India include information technology, manufacturing, and call/help centers, though recently India has lost many of its call center jobs to the Philippines.
- Increased competition for cheap labor has resulted in an increase in sweatshop labor. Sweatshop labor is defined as a shop where employees work very long hours, are paid very little, and work in dangerous environments.

Brazil

- Many of Brazil's indigenous languages are vulnerable, endangered, or already extinct due to more predominant use of Portuguese, Spanish, and English in daily life and business.
- Brazil is one of the world's leading exporters of beef and veal and is, as a result, the world's 4th largest greenhouse gas emitter due to the deforestation necessary to support cattle.
- Brazil has been at the forefront of a developing and emerging country movement to reduce or eliminate developed country farm subsidies; it is allowed to sanction the US over the US cotton subsidies. Brazil argues that developed world subsidies make it harder for Brazilian farmers to compete in the world market; developed country farmers can sell their goods at a cheaper price thanks to the subsidies.

Mexico

- Mexico has gained manufacturing jobs through US and Canadian outsourcing and has experienced economic growth, but its poverty rate is still near half the population.
- Profits from the drug trade in Mexico equal profits made from tourism. Drug cartels in and around Mexico have become very powerful and often wage war with one another and work to influence politics in their region; demand in the United States helps to drive this illicit trade.
- Mexico City is the largest megacity in North America, with people moving into the city due to an influx of international corporations and their job opportunities.
- Lenient pollution laws have led many industrialized nations, like the United States, to rely on Mexico as a “pollution haven”. Certain highly polluting industrial processes that are illegal in the US are legal in Mexico.

United Kingdom

- British influence can be seen across the globe; due to years of colonization and other global conquests, many countries speak English as a first or second language and still others accept the British monarch as their head of state.
- Sovereignty over domestic policies has decreased since European Union law takes precedence over UK law.
- The global financial crisis beginning in 2008 and rises in global food and fuel prices have led to an increase in living costs in the UK, which has disproportionately affected individuals with low income.
- The UK's farmers benefit fifth most among EU countries from the EU's farm subsidy program.

South Africa

- The World Cup, hosted by South Africa in 2010, is an example of international sports and tourism bridging the gap between countries and cultures.
- “Brain drain” of highly skilled South African workers to developed nations from the late 20th century has damaged the economy, but skilled expats are starting to return.
- South African business with China and India, two countries that purchase high quantities of minerals, has raised the price of minerals and leads to increased profits for South Africa. China is South Africa’s largest trading partner.

Colombia

- Poverty is decreasing; since the early 2000s, the percentage of Colombians who count themselves as middle class has risen from 15% to 28%. The middle class now accounts for 30% of the population.
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- The international drug trade leads to deforestation in Colombia, displacing many populations. Colombia accounts for 40% of global coca production.
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- Trade liberalization has led to even lower wages among industrial workers. As part of a 2012 free trade agreement between the United States and Colombia, duties and tariffs on goods sold between the two countries are being phased out, while an associated labor action plan is designed to improve Colombian labor conditions. The government has made efforts to reduce threats and violence against trade unionists, but some persist.

Saudi Arabia

- In a continued effort to be more globally competitive, Saudi Arabia now allows foreigners to invest in the country's insurance services, mining, railroads, airlines and satellite transmission services.
- Islamic historians in Saudi Arabia have urged Muslims around the world to adopt a purist strand of Islam to streamline beliefs that are diverging as a result of globalization.
- Saudi Arabia has almost one-fifth of the world's known oil reserves, is the largest producer and exporter of total petroleum liquids in the world, and maintains the world's largest oil production capacity. Far East Asia received an estimated 54 percent of Saudi Arabia's crude oil exports in 2012, and Saudi Arabia ranks second after Canada as a petroleum exporter to the United States.

Nigeria

- Nigeria is a major oil exporter. In 2004, a threat of an oil workers' strike in Nigeria caused oil prices to rise to record prices worldwide.
- With the introduction of higher technologies and the influx of western culture, many worry that Nigeria is in a state of cultural disorientation and vulnerable to cultural invasion.
- Money made from oil exports has not contributed to the Nigerian economy, according to the IMF. The World Bank reports that of the \$600 billion dollars earned since 1960, about half has ended up in overseas bank accounts due to corruption and theft.
- Nigerian cocoa, peanut, and cotton growers struggle to compete with subsidized farmers in wealthy countries.

Tanzania

- Tanzania is among the Least Developed Countries named by the United Nations. Its poverty rate was near 88% in 2008.
- Increased water usage has led to water scarcity in Tanzania. People often find water by digging into dry river beds, but this water is often polluted.
- Privatization of local manufacturing is helping Tanzania remain competitive to foreign companies producing goods at lower costs, but privatization has led to fewer unions and thus poorer working conditions for Tanzanians.
- Miners, many of them children, toil in very dangerous work, with exposure to toxic mercury, in Tanzanian gold and tanzanite mines. The products go to countries including South Africa, England, and Canada.
- Agriculture provides 80% of Tanzania's employment and 85% of its exports, but low prices have made it difficult for Tanzania's small farmers to succeed in international markets, particularly in competition with subsidized crops from wealthier countries.

Russian Federation

- Increased international mobility, communication, and poverty have facilitated human trafficking in Russia and Eastern Europe. Russian men, women, and children are trafficked for the sex industry, forced labor, and debt bondage (when a person has to work to repay a debt).
- Russia supports foreign governments by providing military equipment. Many western countries have sanctions on Iran, but much of Iran's military arsenal comes from Russia.
- Russia is the second-largest producer of dry natural gas and third-largest liquid fuels producer in the world. Approximately 32% of total oil import and approximately 39% of total gas import in Europe come from Russia. In 2014, Russia signed an agreement to sell massive quantities of natural gas to China.