Post three

This assignment is to reply to my classmate weekly post.

Please read this post and give me your suggestions and opinions on the topic/content of this post. I'd like the response to be at least 250 words.

Please do not critique the content, but give your thought about the topic

**Week Six: The Demise of the State? Globalization and the decline of sovereignty**

The question this week asks for a very black and white answer, but with regards to globalization and nation-states, it is not that simple of a response.  The world has seen an explosion of global interdependence, intertwining economies and societies. So the question remains whether or not nation-states will cease to remain the most important actors in the world arena or have they lost their status? Again, this is a tough answer, but the argument that is most convincing is that nation-states still are important and remain a huge determining factor with globalization.

International institutions or organizations would not be able to function without the support of the nation-state especially the Great Powers of the world but on the other side of the coin, smaller and weaker nations depend heavily on the benefits of globalization.  Great powers like the United States, China, and Russia all depend on each other in their own ways but rely on interdependence to make them even greater.  For these great powers, their sovereignty is not threatened whereas in others they have seen an “erosion of the state.” Greece has seen an erosion of the state and has needed the help of its neighbors to keep it afloat.  On a side note, it’s actually shocking that Wal-Mart’s revenues compared to Greece’s gross domestic products are almost the same amount (Stopford 1998, 16).

Martin Wolf writes that a “globalized economy could be defined as one in which neither distance nor national borders impede economic transactions” and goes on to say that this is not the case (Wolf 2001, 178). Even though all countries in some form or fashion are interdependent, borders and state identities still hold strong. Globalization has blurred some of these lines and weakened strong cultural characteristics, but the nation-state still remains. Wolf also states that “most successfully integrated economies are small, homogeneous countries with a strong sense of collective identity” (Wolf 2001, 190).  In today’s world, cultural identities are being threatened by the influx of refugees from neighboring nation-states.

Globalization challenges nation-states in a variety of ways, however I believe the most important challenge would have to be to a state’s own government and cultural identity as previously mentioned.  International institutions like the United Nations (UN) and European Union (EU) combined with Multinational Corporations (MNCs) have placed a lot of pressure on countries to conform to a more global ideal. Governments seen as too harsh or even controlling of their populace are scrutinized more than a country that attempts to follow the current trends providing more their citizens while at the same time taking away certain freedoms.  Putting pressure on a nation-state can be good and bad, and it all depends on the situation.

In Susan Strange’s article, she outlines how big business has taken away from the nation-state and is perhaps the biggest challenge posed by globalization.  Strange makes some really good arguments but I still maintain that the nation-state will continue to be an important player in the international system.  Big businesses would not survive without globalization, but they also will not survive without the backing of an established nation-state to protect its assets and resources.  States have the ability to dictate a lot about how a business is ran and at the end of the day, need that nation-state.

References

Wolf, Martin. 2001. “Will the Nation-State Survive Globalization?” Foreign Affairs 80.1: 178- 190.[http://ezproxy.apus.edu/login?url=http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail?vid=2&sid=51e3711e-e800-4cab-a24d-49b312b2b5ef%40sessionmgr4004&hid=4214&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#db=aph&AN=3948673](http://ezproxy.apus.edu/login?url=http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail?vid=2&sid=51e3711e-e800-4cab-a24d-49b312b2b5ef%40sessionmgr4004&hid=4214&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d" \l "db=aph&AN=3948673" \t "_blank)

Stopford, John. 1998-1999. “Multinational Corporations,” Foreign Policy 113:12-24. <http://ezproxy.apus.edu/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/224052235?pq-origsite=summon>

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