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THE JOINDER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND GLOBALIZATION

By

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Abstract

Many of the world's interests, values, wants, and needs are being served by the joinder of telecommunications and globalization. Dominant factors in the present era of the Space Age are security and commercialization, particularly telecommunications and remote sensing. It is not surprising that these two factors, which play a dominant role on the land, in the air, and in the sea should also prevail in outer space. Political and legal regimes, essential to the exploration, use, and exploitation of these areas, have been created for the necessary governance of outer space and its natural resources.

1. Introduction

The title to this essay contains the word "joinder." This raises the question of which of the two ideas, globalization¹ or telecommunications arrived on the scene first. In my view telecommunications and the driving forces of multilateralism were the immediate forces leading to the existence of globalization. Without the first presence and use of an advanced communication process there could

not have been the evolvement of the multifaceted areas of discourse that contributed to the emergence of globalization. Without the gathering of raw data through remote sensing and the transmission via satellites of analyzed information there would not have been the dissemination of the specialized product of human endeavors.

In a sense the practical aspects of communications and globalization are opposite sides of a coin. The well-being of one requires the well-being of the other. Based on national self-interest a world communications regime has evolved in which interferences in space communication have been kept to a

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minimum. This has contributed in turn to the condition of globalization with attendant benefits to the members of the human race best able to obtain them.

2. Communications and National Security

With instant communications it is possible to provide assurances to foreign countries with factual statements on matters believed by them to impinge on or affecting their national security interests. Such advice can have a stabilizing influence and can contribute to the harmonious relationships from which globalization acquires its own beneficial qualities. One recent example was the very considerable effort made by the United States prior to and after February, 2008, to keep the world advised, and particularly Japan and China, of the means used in the destruction of a spent American satellite and its fuel tank in orbit above these two countries. This was important since there were fears that the fuel tank may have contained toxic substances and because the destruction was to be achieved through the firing of a missile from an American cruiser in the North Pacific. Monitoring allowed for the providing of assurances that the operation would not result in harms.

Another outer space security concern was reflected in 2006 when it was reported that China had engaged in targeting an American imaging satellite with a ground-based laser and that in 2007 China had conducted a kinetic anti-satellite weapons test on an obsolete Chinese weather satellite resulting in its destruction. Both American and Chinese exercises caused debate as to whether these countries were considering policies

referred to as the “militarization” or the “weaponization” of the space environment.² Speculation was raised whether such exercises were a prelude to an arms race in space.

3. Terrorism

Terrorists approach globalization from several perspectives.³ A basic outlook is that globalism constitutes a special threat to the culture and to the religious beliefs and practices of Muslims and that terrorism is an almost exclusive means to combat this perceived threat. Terrorists make full use of modern communication systems. At the same time they show no concern for environmental harms and the need for improvements in commercial relationships. A single-minded obsession with Western influences excuses reliance on unlimited force and violence. The openness and relaxed immigration and border policies of Western States have made them highly pervious to terrorist activities.

Moreover, most Western States place a high priority on the freedom of choice for individuals in such areas as the rights of women and children, family life, and religious and educational preferences. These have been coupled with social, cultural, political, economic, financial, and demographic values. These in turn are associated with Western preferences for the free enterprise system. This has resulted in a Western commercial hegemony. This has produced a comfortable and productive way of life in advanced countries requiring appropriate and balanced security systems

Terrorists perceiving the views and behavior of the West as being so threatening to their way of life have responded with acts of unspeakable horror and brutality directed not at individual persons because of individual animosities but against a non-preselected mass of individuals who just happened to be a convenient target of opportunity.

An additional perspective of terrorists is that scientific and technological advances and capabilities largely originating in the West, such as advanced methods of communication, should be employed by terrorists as they pursue their goals. Thus, a product usefully employed in world communications has been used by terrorists to advance their objectives.

In the existing battlefield the world views of the adversaries are perceived as being so irreconcilable that compromises and accommodations, never capable of being reached, should not even be attempted. Both sides have come to the view that basic differences are so irreconcilable that an interminable and never-ending conflict is permanently forecast.

Those in the West who have come to accept such an analysis also fear that anti-terrorist repressive measures may also have a detrimental affect on the cherished possession of civil and political rights and liberties. The resolution of such concerns will have to be entrusted to the American Constitutional process and to commitments to democracy.

4. United States Support for Globalism

On August 31, 2006 President George W. Bush announced a new American National Space Policy. It was supportive of the concept of globalization as being both in the short term and in the long term interests of the United States. In passing it should be noticed that globalism has become such an all pervasive concept relating to space activity that a mere pronouncement opposing it would have no or little value. The 2006 policy statement reads: "The United States is committed to the exploration and use of outer space by all nations for peaceful purposes, and for the benefit of all humanity. Consistent with this principle, 'peaceful purposes' allow U.S. defense and intelligence-related activities in pursuit of national interests."⁴ In keeping with this pronouncement the United States stated that it would "seek to cooperate with other nations in the peaceful use of outer space to extend the benefits of space, enhance space exploration, and to protect and promote freedom around the world."⁵

5. The Role of International Organizations

The actions of many international organizations have materially influenced the availability to terrorists of effective communications. The UN Security Council in Resolution 1373 (2001) called for the creation of a Counter-Terrorism Committee to be administered by an Executive Directorate that has been able to call to the attention of participants subjects suited to cooperative efforts. On December 18, 2001 the Defense Ministers of NATO initiated measures seeking to compose a "Military Concept for Defense against Terrorism," allowing for case by case

actions against terrorists. Its focus was on deterrence. The G-8, with its principal concerns for such subjects as energy sources, global warming, and the Middle-East conflict, has also voiced concerns respecting terrorist activities with a special reference to deterrence.

The United Nations is a living example of the benefits derived from globalization. Much of the formal activity is carried out by ECOSOC. It has a Department of Economic and Social Affairs which measures the rapid growth of economic interdependence. All of the specialized agencies of the UN are engaged in the progressive development of globalization. Although not directly concerned with deterring terrorism they have through their activities contributed to the beneficial conditions that have been opposed by terrorists. Through the ongoing activities of the specialized agencies over time the present social conditions of today's terrorists may be modified and they will come to entertain more modern perspectives.

6. Conclusion

Continuing advancements in science and technology will contribute to many new outer space activities. The transmission of new ideas will have a striking impact on human behavior with the enhancement of globalization being a significant factor. These developments will be employed to advance the common interests of mankind.

It may be supposed that scientific and technological progress may also be employed by terrorists as they pursue their stated goals. Terrorists cannot be prevented from seeking access to such

advanced communication equipment and the "know-how" required to make use of it.

One response should be that terrorists and their supporters be brought under such detailed and ongoing scrutiny that they would be denied opportunities to make use of all of the hardware that is essential for their successful operations. If terrorists are to be taken at their word, and I deem it dangerous not to do so, their long-term plans and programs must be brought under the most careful surveillance. This will require highly coordinated efforts constructed on a globalized basis with the efficient and effective use of international communications.

Notes

¹. DAVID J. BEDERMAN, *GLOBALIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL LAW* (2008).

². Militarization of the space environment contemplates the presence of satellites designed to meet defensive purposes, such as gathering data relating to possible offensive activity on the part of another State. The satellite is considered to be "peaceful" since it is an information gatherer, with such information to aid it in determining the hostile intentions of an adversary. Weaponization refers to the emplacement in the space environment of a satellite designed to engage in hostile activity against another State. The intention of the launcher is critical. In the one instance there is no hostile intent. In the other there is an aggressive or hostile intent.

³. CARL Q. CHRISTOL, *INTERNATIONAL LAW AND U. S. FOREIGN POLICY*, Second, Revised Edition, Chapter 12 (2007).

⁴. U. S. National Space Policy, August 31, 2006, p. 1.

⁵. *Ibid.*