

of media propaganda), of our modern globalization is in fact abetting national government power. We can see a convergence ideology in formation within nation states that has refocused the state towards egalitarianism and the guarantee of entitlement and individual rights and above all the mitigation of any form of risk. Market and private property control is necessary to ensure the re-distribution of wealth to appease voters and demonstrate equality of access and services.

Nation-states have also proven to be adept at opposing the forces of regionalization that attempt to transcend the power (and authority) of the state in a supranational direction by setting limits and constraints to the development of a regional identity and its supranational institutions. States will ensure that regional and sub regional integration frameworks have a limited mandate in terms of intervention, domestic jurisdiction, and the exercise of sovereignty.²¹⁸ As already mentioned regionalization might result from mercantilist or nationalistic tendencies of the member-states that see frameworks of regional integration as a means to pool and increase their national power resources. In this sense, the logic of the 'new regionalism' is not very different from that of the 'old' security alliances. In both cases, the goal is to guarantee that the bloc (region) members obtain greater security in their international relations in a context of increasing vulnerability of either the world economy or global security.²¹⁹

In this case we have neither convergence nor divergence but rather coexistence between the three processes of globalisation, regionalism and statist or corporatism taking place simultaneously. Thus, there might be parallel processes of globalization and continuing trends of fragmentation and disintegration. Historically political fragmentation often manifested by the quest for national self-determination and the creation of new states, has been a trend with as much significance as the (parallel) forces of economic globalization.²²⁰ In this perspective the effects of globalization upon regionalization and especially on the nation-state are indeterminate: "The structural logic of globalization and the recent history of the global economy can be read as providing rationales for 'high stateness' as well as 'low stateness'."²²¹

SUMMARY

It is clear that states and their policies are probably the single most important determinant of the scope and direction of both regionalization and globalization.²²² The stronger the state, the more capable they are in coping with the intricacies of the economic, political, social, technological, and cultural dimensions of globalization. Conversely, the weaker they are, the greater is the probability that their borders will be exposed to the vulnerabilities of the world economy.²²³ Given this analysis most nation states will attempt to increase their leverage and control over the factors of production—land, labour, capital, monetary and fiscal control and knowledge—by pursuing policies that attract, retain and enhance these competitive inputs without harming the central aspect of government control and the ability to tax, redistribute and promote sociological equality and normative nationalistic values.

From this consideration some experts have determined that nationalism and globalization are in fact linked dialectically. Globalization does not imply necessarily the erosion of the nation-state's authority but rather a needed change in state strategies and redirection of state energies. Conversely, state strategies and state actions can determine the future directions of globalization. One possible option open for states to cope with globalization is by enhancing the processes of regionalization, such as the creation of free trade areas that recreate a double (and contradictory) logic of economic relations: liberal at the intra-regional level but protectionist/mercantilist toward other rival regions or blocs within the IPE. Given historical empiricism such an outcome would be far more probable than the obliteration of borders, cultures and societies by a wave of globalize homogeneity.