

Studies on Sports, Culture and Education will be included in the III International Social Sciences Conference. It is aimed to contribute to the studies of the researchers and scientists in the related fields at the highest level.

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Abstract Multiobjective weapon-target assignment is a type of NP-complete problem, and the reasonable assignment of weapons is beneficial to attack and defense. In order to simulate a real battlefield environment, we introduce a new objective—the value of fighter combat on the basis of the original two-objective model. The new three-objective model includes maximizing the expected damage of the enemy, minimizing the cost of missiles, and maximizing the value of fighter combat. To solve the problem with complex constraints, an improved nondominated sorting algorithm III is proposed in this paper. In the proposed algorithm, a series of reference points with good performances in convergence and distribution are continuously generated according to the current population to guide the evolution; otherwise, useless reference points are eliminated. Moreover, an online operator selection mechanism is incorporated into the NSGA-III framework to autonomously select the most suitable operator while solving the problem. Finally, the proposed algorithm is applied to a typical instance and compared with other algorithms to verify its feasibility and effectiveness.

Introduction With the rapid development of military air combat, the weapon-target assignment WTA problem has attracted worldwide attention [1]. The WTA problem is a classic scheduling problem that aims to assign weapons to maximize military effectiveness and meet all constraints. So, it is important to find a proper assignment of weapons to targets. From the perspective of the quantity of objective functions, Hosein and Athans [4] classify the WTA problem into two classes: When taking the time factor into account, Galati and Simaan [5] divide the WTA problem into two categories: The current research status of various WTA problems are summarized in Table 1. Summary of variant metaheuristic algorithms and implementation of various WTA [6]. In contrast to the single-objective weapon-target assignment problem, MWTA can take different criterions into consideration that are more in line with real combat decision making. In this paper, we mainly focus on the static multiobjective weapon-target assignment SMWTA problem, which aims at finding proper static assignments. At present, a number of studies address this problem. In Liu et al. The specific example they used contains only 7 platforms and 10 targets. Considering the constraints of attack resource and damage probability, a mathematic model on weapon-target assignment was formulated. Both the proposed repair method and appropriate decomposition approaches can effectively improve the performance of the algorithm. But the algorithm has not been tested on a large-scale WTA problem, and it has a low convergence speed. In the work of Li et al. They only applied the proposed adaptive mechanism to the MWTA problem, but they did not verify the behavior of the proposed adaptive mechanism on standard problems. Simulation results show that the MPACO algorithm is successfully applied in the field of WTA, which improves the performance of the traditional Pareto ant colony optimization P-ACO algorithm effectively and produces better solutions than the other two algorithms. Although the above methods have remarkable effects on solving the SMWTA problem, all of them considered two objectives, maximizing the expected damage of the enemy and minimizing the cost of missiles, without considering the attack power. Due to the fact that fighters cannot destroy the targets at once, we put forward the value of fighter combat to evaluate the ability of sustained operational capability. On the basis of the original double-objective model, we propose the three-objective model, which is closer to real air combat. As the number of objectives is increased from two to three, the performance of evolutionary multiobjective algorithms EMOAs may deteriorate. They face some difficulties as follows: Namely, the main difference is the substitution of crowding distance for a selection based on well-distributed and adaptive reference points. The NSGA-III has been successfully applied to real-world engineering problems [27 , 28] and has several proposed variants, such as combining different variation operators [29], solving monoobjective problems [30], and integrating alternative domination schemes [31]. The proposed algorithm is used to seek better Pareto-optimal solutions between maximizing

the expected damage, minimizing the cost, and maximizing the value of fighter combat. Based on the framework of the original NSGA-III, the proposed algorithm is devised with several attractive features to enhance the optimization performance, including an improvement strategy of reference points and an online operator selection mechanism. Improvement Strategy of Reference Points. We can see from studies [24 , 26] that reference points of the original NSGA-III are uniformly distributed on a hyperplane to guide solutions to converge. The locations of these reference points are predefined, but the true Pareto front of the SMWTA problem is unknown beforehand. So the mismatches between the reference points and the true Pareto front may degrade the search ability of the algorithms. If appropriate reference points can be continuously generated during the evolution according to information provided by the current population, it will be possible to achieve a solution set with good performances. Therefore, we add the improvement strategy of reference points to the original NSGA-III algorithm, that is, continuously generating good reference points and eliminating useless reference points. Online Operator Selection Mechanism. Crossover and mutation operators used in the evolutionary process of optimization with NSGA-III can generate offspring solutions to update the population and seriously affect search capability. The task of choosing the right operators depends on experience and knowledge about the problem. Different crossover operators can be selected online according to the information of generations. Another benefit of this mechanism is that the operator choice can adapt to the search landscape and improve the quality of Pareto-optimal solutions. The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews the related work. Detailed improvements of the proposed algorithm are also introduced in Section 4. Section 5 is divided into two subsections as follows: Section 6 concludes the paper and presents a direction for future work. Related Work Many realistic problems contain several two or more conflicting objectives that are to be minimized or maximized simultaneously [32]. Most single-objective optimization problems can find only one solution others may lack the appropriate conditions , but multiobjective optimization problems MOPs can find a set of Pareto solutions that consider all the objective functions and constraints. Generally, multiobjective optimization can be presented as follows [33]: There have been various studies on multiobjective evolutionary optimization besides NSGA-III, such as a set-based genetic algorithm for interval many-objective optimization problems, set-based many-objective optimization guided by a preferred region, a many-objective evolutionary algorithm using a one-by-one selection strategy, and many-objective evolutionary optimization based on reference points. The review on the related work will be further enriched if these studies are included. Set-Based Evolutionary Optimization The goal of a multiobjective evolutionary algorithm MOEA is to seek a Pareto solution set which is well converged, evenly distributed, and well extended. If a set of solutions and its performance indicators are taken as the decision variable and objectives of a new optimization problem, respectively, it is more likely that a Pareto-optimal set that satisfies the performance indicators will be obtained. Based on this idea, a many-objective optimization MaOP can be transformed into an MOP with two or three objectives, and then a series of set-based evolutionary operators are employed to solve the transformed MOP [34]. Researchers have carried out studies on set-based MOEAs, including the frameworks, the methods of transforming objectives, the approaches for comparing set-based individuals, and so on The first set-based MOEA was proposed by Bader et al. In their work, solutions in a population are firstly divided into a number of solution sets of the same size, and then the hypervolume indicator is adopted to assess the performance of those sets. In the method proposed by Zitzler et al. A comparison of results with traditional MOEAs shows that the proposed method is effective. Besides, Gong et al. In their work, a weighted sum approach is used to combine all objectives into one objective. After generating offspring by genetic operators, a local search is conducted starting from each new individual, optimizing the combined objectives. A genetic local search algorithm for multiobjective combinatorial optimization MOCO was proposed by Jaszkiwicz [46]. Firstly, Pareto ranking and a utility function are applied to obtain the best solutions. Secondly, pairs of solutions are selected randomly to undergo recombination. Finally, local search is applied to offspring pairs. The above studies combine an MOEA with classical local search methods; however, none of them applies the local search method to theoretically identify poor solutions in a population. They encouraged researchers to pay more attention to the Karush Kuhn Tucker proximity metric KKTPM and other theoretical optimality properties of solutions in arriving at better

multiobjective optimization algorithms. Wierzbicki [48] firstly proposed a reference point approach in which the goal is to achieve a Pareto solution closest to a supplied reference point of aspiration level based on solving an achievement scalarization problem. Decomposition strategies have also been incorporated into reference point approaches to find preferred regions in the method proposed by Mohammadi et al. Up to date, there is only a few researches on achieving the whole Pareto-optimal solution set by employing multiple reference points. In their work, the reference points are generated by estimating the bounds of the Pareto front, and solutions near each reference point can be obtained in parallel. This priori method is very convenient; however, the later evolution process increases the computational complexity. Although solutions and reference points are optimized simultaneously during the evolution process, the fitness value of an individual is calculated by the traditional Pareto dominance. In the work done by Deb and Jain [24], a hyperplane covering the whole objective space is obtained according to the current population, then a set of well-distributed reference points are generated on the hyperplane. However, the Pareto fronts of most practical problems are not uniformly distributed in the whole objective space, and it is necessary to adopt reference points which are adaptive to various problems. However, the value of which seriously affects the performance of the algorithm is a constant during evolution. In addition, the Tchebychev approach is only adopted in this study, and it may not be appropriate to all kinds of problems. Indicator-Based Evolutionary Optimization Compared with the above approaches, indicator-based evolutionary algorithms IBEAs [53] adopt a single indicator which accounts for both convergence and distribution performances of a solution set. Because solutions can be selected one by one based on the performance indicator, the algorithm is also called one-by-one selection evolutionary optimization. The hypervolume is usually adopted as the indicator in IBEAs. However, the computational complexity for calculating hypervolume increases exponentially as the number of objectives increases. So it is hard to be used to solve MaOPs. To address this issue, Bader and Zitzler [54] proposed an improved hypervolume-based algorithm—HypE. In their work, Monte Carlo simulations are applied to estimate the hypervolume. This method can save computational resources while ensuring the accuracy of the estimated hypervolume. Motivated by simultaneously measuring the distance of the solutions to the Pareto-optimal front, and maintaining a sufficient distance between each other, Liu et al. However, there are two issues in this algorithm. However, the shape of the Pareto-optimal front of a practical optimization problem is frequently unknown beforehand. Problem Formulation The WTA formation can be described as finding a proper assignment of weapon units to target units as illustrated in Figure 1. Some formulation of the problem, including the assumptions and the new three-objective mathematical model, are introduced in this section. Illustration of the WTA problem. Assumption Description In this research, to establish a reasonable WTA mathematical model, the following assumptions can be defined: We assume that the mathematical model is composed of fighters, missiles, and targets and the opposing groups are not necessarily equal in quantity. Each fighter is equivalent to one platform, which possess different kinds and quantities of missiles.

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www.enganchecubano.com - Sessions of the 3rd International Issyk-Kul Forum "Chingiz Aitmatov and the Challenges of Modernity" will be named after the writer's works, said head of the Department of Culture Damira Alyshbayeva at a press conference in Bishkek on October 4.

Alexander III succeeded his father and was at first expected to continue his tradition. In disposition he bore little resemblance to his softhearted, impressionable father and still less to his refined, chivalrous, yet complex granduncle, Alexander I. He gloried in the idea of being of the same rough texture as the great majority of his subjects. His straightforward manner savoured sometimes of gruffness, while his unadorned method of expressing himself harmonized well with his roughhewn, immobile features. During the first 20 years of his life, Alexander had no prospect of succeeding to the throne. He received only the perfunctory training given to grand dukes of that period, which did not go much beyond primary and secondary instruction, acquaintance with French, English, and German, and military drill. When he became heir apparent on the death of his elder brother Nikolay in , he began to study the principles of law and administration under the jurist and political philosopher K. Pobedonostsev , who influenced the character of his reign by instilling into his mind hatred for representative government and the belief that zeal for Orthodoxy ought to be cultivated by every tsar. The marriage proved a most happy one. During his years as heir apparentâ€”from to â€”Alexander let it be known that certain of his ideas did not coincide with the principles of the existing government. He deprecated undue foreign influence in general and German influence in particular. His father, however, occasionally ridiculed the exaggerations of the Slavophiles and based his foreign policy on the Prussian alliance. The antagonism between father and son first appeared publicly during the Franco-German War , when the Tsar sympathized with Prussia and the tsarevich Alexander with the French. It reappeared in an intermittent fashion during the years â€”79, when the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire posed serious problems for Europe. At first the Tsarevich was more Slavophile than the government, but he was disabused of his illusions during the Russo-Turkish War of â€”78, when he commanded the left wing of the invading army. He was a conscientious commander, but he was mortified when most of what Russia had obtained by the Treaty of San Stefano was taken away at the Congress of Berlin under the chairmanship of the German chancellor Otto von Bismarck. To this disappointment, moreover, Bismarck shortly afterward added the German alliance with Austria for the express purpose of counteracting Russian designs in eastern Europe. Although the existence of the Austro-German alliance was not disclosed to the Russians until , the Tsarevich reached the conclusion that for Russia the best thing to do was to prepare for future contingencies by a radical scheme of military and naval reorganization. On March 13 March 1, O. In the last years of his reign, Alexander II had been much disturbed by the spread of nihilist conspiracies. On the very day of his death he signed an ukaz creating a number of consultative commissions that might have been transformed eventually into a representative assembly. Alexander III cancelled the ukaz before it was published and in the manifesto announcing his accession stated that he had no intention of limiting the autocratic power he had inherited. All the internal reforms that he initiated were intended to correct what he considered the too liberal tendencies of the previous reign. In his opinion, Russia was to be saved from anarchical disorders and revolutionary agitation not by the parliamentary institutions and so-called liberalism of western Europe but by the three principles of Orthodoxy, autocracy, and narodnost. In the other provinces he clipped the feeble wings of the zemstvo an elective local administration resembling the county and parish councils in England and placed the autonomous administration of the peasant communes under the supervision of landed proprietors appointed by the government. At the same time, he sought to strengthen and centralize the imperial administration and to bring it more under his personal control. In foreign affairs he was emphatically a man of peace but not a partisan of the doctrine of peace at any price. Though indignant at the conduct of Bismarck toward Russia, he avoided an open rupture with Germany and even revived for a time the Alliance of the Three Emperors between the rulers of Germany, Russia, and Austria. It was only in the last years of his reign, especially after the accession of William II as German emperor in , that Alexander adopted a more hostile attitude toward Germany. The

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termination of the Russo-German alliance in drove Alexander reluctantly into an alliance with France , a country that he strongly disliked as the breeding place of revolutions. In Central Asian affairs he followed the traditional policy of gradually extending Russian domination without provoking a conflict with Great Britain, and he never allowed bellicose partisans to get out of hand.

3: Basel III: international regulatory framework for banks

State of the insurance industry: 21st century resilience. This presentation details the importance of insurance and risk mitigation in the future of cities and towns, providing a case study of flood risk, a discussion of the consequences of coverage gaps and an overview of how insurance can help build resilience in the future.

The ratio would apply to certain U. The LCR consists of two parts: The proposal would require: That amount would be determined based on the peak cumulative amount within the day period. Notably, the Fed chose not to include GSE-issued securities in Level 1, despite industry lobbying, on the basis that they are not guaranteed by the "full faith and credit" of the U. The proposal requires that the LCR be at least equal to or greater than 1. Summary of originally-proposed changes in Basel Committee language[edit] First, the quality, consistency, and transparency of the capital base will be raised. Provide incentives to strengthen the risk management of counterparty credit exposures Raise counterparty credit risk management standards by including wrong-way risk Third, a leverage ratio will be introduced as a supplementary measure to the Basel II risk-based framework. Put a floor under the buildup of leverage in the banking sector Introduce additional safeguards against model risk and measurement error by supplementing the risk based measure with a simpler measure that is based on gross exposures. Fourth, a series of measures is introduced to promote the buildup of capital buffers in good times that can be drawn upon in periods of stress "Reducing procyclicality and promoting countercyclical buffers". Measures to address procyclicality: Dampen excess cyclicality of the minimum capital requirement; Promote more forward looking provisions; Conserve capital to build buffers at individual banks and the banking sector that can be used in stress; and Achieve the broader macroprudential goal of protecting the banking sector from periods of excess credit growth. Requirement to use long-term data horizons to estimate probabilities of default, downturn loss-given-default estimates, recommended in Basel II, to become mandatory Improved calibration of the risk functions, which convert loss estimates into regulatory capital requirements. Banks must conduct stress tests that include widening credit spreads in recessionary scenarios. Promoting stronger provisioning practices forward-looking provisioning: Advocating a change in the accounting standards towards an expected loss EL approach usually, EL amount: In January, the oversight panel of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision issued a statement saying that regulators will allow banks to dip below their required liquidity levels, the liquidity coverage ratio, during periods of stress. On 11 March, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision released the second of three proposals on public disclosure of regulatory metrics and qualitative data by banking institutions. The proposal requires disclosures on market risk to be more granular for both the standardized approach and regulatory approval of internal models. The Federal Reserve Board itself would conduct tests annually "using three economic and financial market scenarios". Institutions would be encouraged to use at least five scenarios reflecting improbable events, and especially those considered impossible by management, but no standards apply yet to extreme scenarios. Only a summary of the three official Fed scenarios "including company-specific information, would be made public" but one or more internal company-run stress tests must be run each year with summaries published. Credit exposure between the largest financial companies would be subject to a tighter limit". One or more "triggers for remediation" such as capital levels, stress test results, and risk-management weaknesses "in some cases calibrated to be forward-looking" would be proposed by the Board in

4: ICD - ICDCM - International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification

The value of international investments may be affected by currency fluctuations which might reduce their value in sterling. Foreign markets will involve different risks from the UK markets. In some cases the risks will be greater.

Share Basel III is a set of international banking regulations developed by the Bank for International Settlements in order to promote stability in the international financial system. The purpose of Basel III is to reduce the ability of banks to damage the economy by taking on excess risk. Problems with the original accord became evident during the subprime crisis in Economics Basics Basel III and the Banks With that in mind, banks must hold more capital against their assets, thereby decreasing the size of their balance sheets and their ability to leverage themselves. While these regulations were under discussion prior to the financial crisis, their necessity is magnified as more recent events occur. There is also an additional 2. This buffer can be used during times of financial stress, but banks doing so will face constraints on their ability to pay dividends and otherwise deploy capital. Banks will have until to implement these changes, giving them plenty of time to do so and preventing a sudden "lending freeze" as banks scramble to improve their balance sheets. It is possible that banks will be less profitable in the future due in part to these regulations. If financial institutions are perceived as being safer, the cost of capital to banks would actually decrease. Banks that are more stable will be able to issue debt at a lower cost. Basel III and Financial Stability Basel III is not a panacea, and will not single-handedly restore stability to the financial system and prevent future financial crisis. However, in combination with other measures, these regulations are likely to help produce a more stable financial system. In turn, greater financial stability will help produce steady economic growth, with less risk for crisis fueled recessions such as that experienced following the global financial crisis of While banking regulations may help reduce the possibility of future financial crises, it may also restrain future economic growth. This is because bank lending and the provision of credit are among the primary drivers of economic activity in the modern economy. Therefore, any regulations designed to restrain the provision of credit are likely to hinder economic growth, at least to some degree. Nevertheless, following the events of the financial crisis, many regulators, financial market participants and ordinary individuals are willing to accept slightly slower economic growth for the possibility of greater stability and a decreased likelihood of a repeat of the events of and Find out how the Tier 1 capital ratio can be used to tell if your bank is going under. Furthermore, the movements of international financial markets are dependent upon a wide variety of factors, with financial regulation being a large component. Nevertheless, it is possible to generalize about some of the possible impacts of Basel III for investors. It is likely that increased bank regulation will ultimately be a positive for bond market investors. That is because higher capital requirements will ultimately make bonds issued by banks safer investments. At the same time, greater financial system stability will provide a safer backdrop for bond investors, even if the economy grows at a slightly weaker pace as a result. Finally, the effect of Basel III on stock markets is uncertain. If investors value enhanced financial stability more than the possibility of slightly higher growth fueled by credit, stock prices are likely to benefit from Basel III all else being equal. Furthermore, greater macroeconomic stability will allow investors to focus more on individual company or industry research while having to worry less about the economic backdrop or the possibility of broad-based financial collapse. Conclusion These regulations should result in a somewhat safer financial system, while perhaps restraining future economic growth to a small degree. For investors, the impact is likely to be diverse, but should result in safer markets for bond investors and perhaps greater stability for stock market investors. An understanding of Basel III regulations will allow investors to better analyze the financial sector going forward, while also assisting them in formulating macroeconomic opinions on the stability of the international financial system and the global economy. Trading Center Want to learn how to invest? Get a free 10 week email series that will teach you how to start investing. Delivered twice a week, straight to your inbox.

III EUFRIN Plum and Prune Working Group Meeting on Present Constraints of Plum Growing in Europe Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society.

Until this week, at least. An October Shakira concert, a slew of soccer games and the general problems associated with new grass that was installed last spring did the game in. More importantly though, it should serve as a warning shot, or at least a reminder, that as much as the NFL wants to market its game around the globe, it needs to be diligent to assure conditions elsewhere match those here in the States. The players were balking. And so, with that, a dozen years into this the International Series, there was disappointment certainly for the 90, fans in Mexico City who bought tickets. Of course in Los Angeles, Rams fans get a bonus game. Locker rooms are cramped and can spill out into walkways, but the games have been fine. In an effort to deal with that, the soon-to-be-finished Tottenham Hotspur Stadium was designed to include locker rooms that can accommodate large NFL rosters and dedicated areas for medical treatment. The league has two games scheduled there annually starting next year. The NFL could only wish Estadio Azteca, originally constructed for the Olympics although renovated four times since, including could be as plush. The NFL wants to play games in the Mexican capital. Mexico City has a metropolitan population of Unlike London, there are no time zone constraints, which means the city is rich with fans of all NFL teams. As such, the league was pleased with the chance to give Mexican fans not just a regular-season game, but one of the marquee matchups of the season – the Rams v. Teams are willing to give home dates for games of that caliber. Fans know that it matters. There was a proposed season opener between the Rams and the San Francisco 49ers in China. Meanwhile, the league has discussed putting a game in Berlin as a way to gain a foothold in mainland Europe. Ireland, Scotland and Wales have also been cited as potential game locations. So too has a second date in Mexico or even a game in Brazil, where the NFL enjoys considerable popularity. Story Continues And then there are the London games, four of them scheduled for next year alone. It all sounds great in a boardroom. Not everything works though. The NFL is blessed mostly due to U. And all three teams will play in new, state-of-the-art stadiums by What in America can stand up to Shakira and soccer might not elsewhere. It finally blew up on the league. Tough break for Mexico City, a late boon for L. And for the NFL, a lesson to be learned once the humiliation wears off.

6: WHO | International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision (ICD)

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We live in a world that is simultaneously shrinking and expanding, growing closer and farther apart. National borders are increasingly irrelevant. And yet globalism is by no means triumphant. Tribalisms of all kinds flourish. Irredentism abounds. Because of the great increase in the traffic in culture, the large-scale transfer of meaning systems and symbolic forms, the world is increasingly becoming one not only in political and economic terms. This, however, is no egalitarian global village. The pace of global change is extremely rapid, and even those trained to track and analyze it have difficulty keeping up with new developments. However, trends are regularly observed and named, and these new terms become "buzz words" in the lexicons of governments, academia and the media. Such a term is globalization. All levels of society are being reshaped by this process: At the moment there is a serious contradiction between the fact that globalization is in full swing, and the fact that existing processes of global governance lack sufficient power, authority and scope to regulate and direct this process toward beneficial ends. As a result globalization is often disruptive and inequitable in its effects. It has also posed new challenges for existing public institutions while at the same time weakening their autonomy and support; and, paradoxically, provided the means for those it excludes culturally or economically to organize against its subordinating and homogenizing force. Many analysts have pointed to the turbulent nature of this planetary process and to the increasing frequency and variety of reactions to it. Drawing on this literature, this paper first attempts to clarify various aspects of globalization and then considers its potential for generating social conflict and unrest. Subsequently, human needs theory, as developed and applied by John Burton, is used to explore some of the roots of these conflicts and, finally, globalism is put forth as a positive, and potentially corrective, dimension of globalization.

Definitions There are a variety of definitions and descriptions of globalization, which, though overlapping in many respects, do emphasize different dimensions of the process. Globalization as a concept refers both to the compression of the world and intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole. Globalization can thus be defined as the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa. This is a dialectical process because such local happenings may move in an obverse direction from the very distanced relations that shape them. Local transformation is as much a part of globalisation as the lateral extension of social connections across time and space. However, it is in regard to business and economics that the term "globalization" is most frequently invoked. What is referred to here is: The primary vehicles for this process have been the increasing transnationalization of production, and the resulting rise in influence of multinational enterprises, and even more importantly, the explosion in the volume and scope of transactions on international financial markets. In this regard, consider the following commentary on contemporary change in the banking industry: Banking is rapidly becoming indifferent to the constraints of time, place and currency. And one of its most often noted effects is the homogenization of consumer markets around the world, at least in certain areas--the so-called "McDonaldization" of global consumption. Critiques Though often touted as representing the height of economic rationality, globalization has also been portrayed as having a very dark side. Critics repeatedly point out that the contemporary form of globalization, driven by economic power, clearly promotes the hegemony of Western culture and corporations; puts jobs and communities at risk in the rich countries and exploits cheap labor in the poorer countries; increases threats to the environment; and undermines the foundations of democracy and social stability by subjecting national political institutions to forces of economic change beyond their control. It produces concentrations and deprivations which, in the aggregate, constitute an increasingly well-defined global power structure. Claude Ake, a leading African critical thinker, has argued in this regard that: Economic forces are constituting the world into one economy and, to a lesser extent, one political society. Nations participate in global governance according to their economic power, which is coextensive with their rights. Critics also argue that there is a

neo-liberal ideology of globalization which serves to "normalize" the process - to make it seem natural, inevitable and beneficial. Thus, while it is clearly in the particular interest of big multinational and global corporations to be free to move money, factories and goods around the planet seeking access to the cheapest factors of production, the most congenial regulatory environments and the most lucrative markets, the ideology of globalization promotes the belief that the interests of humanity and even of the earth itself will also be best served if world markets are "... Greater income inequality is not the only social failure generated by the success of globalization generally and by NAFTA particularly. Environmental destruction is surely exacerbated with the success of globalization. The greater mobility of capital makes it more and more difficult for citizens of any one political unit to organize and use their government to impose regulations on polluting firms MacEwan, Though one should not necessarily take all this criticism at face value, it does reflect what can go wrong as corporations and capital have acquired the means to move and operate on a much broader scale. Furthermore, it conveys a sense of alarm that the nation-state as an institutional structure cannot cope effectively with these new developments, and, in fact, finds its own priorities and policies heavily influenced, if not dictated, by them. The question then arises, who will articulate and defend the public interest against the global reach of private financial and commercial interests, when the latter go too far? For instance, all but the most laissez-faire of economic thinking argue that governments must intervene to protect the public when markets fail, i. However, efforts to implement such a strategy at the global level, through various multilateral and international institutions, have achieved little. Consequently, world markets have become increasingly concentrated in major sectors. Furthermore, while there is a case to be made for reducing expensive and inefficient government regulatory structures, the lack of adequate regulatory standards applying across borders does provide an incentive for multinational firms to choose less-regulated operating environments, and involves countries seeking foreign investment in a "race for the bottom" competition to see who can provide the most "free" and least regulated business environment The Economist, July In summary, there does appear to be at least "a kernel of truth" in the negative characterization of globalization, and this judgment becomes even more plausible when globalization is evaluated as an "engine" of social conflict. Globalization and Conflict Though the previous discussion is suggestive, the link between globalization and conflict requires further explication. Much of the literature distinguishes between conflicts which focus on issues of culture and identity, and others which appear to be primarily economic, and the discussion that follows adopts this approach while acknowledging that in practice the two elements are interrelated. Conflicts of world views and interests should not, however, be seen as inherently threatening or negative. Indeed many of the tensions of social change are largely unavoidable, and some are undoubtedly creative in their effects. At the same time, however, the analysis which follows suggests that if the human needs and rights issues involved are not adequately addressed, the incidence and intensity of social conflict associated with globalization are likely to increase steadily in the years ahead. The Pace and Scope of Change Social change, in and of itself, has historically been associated with increasing levels of conflict. This has been explored in great depth by P. His study of twelve European countries and empires over the period B. Such periods of change are, by definition, transitional, and are characterized by conflicts of values and interests, which have become widespread and violent. One of the few points of agreement among globalization commentators as diverse as Richard Barnett Barnett and Cavanagh, and Ruud Lubbers Lubbers, is that the spreading and acceleration of globalization is generating change on an unprecedented scale. Following Arnold Toynbee Toynbee, it could be further argued that the conflicts generated by globalization represent a significant early challenge to what he himself saw as an emerging world civilization Toynbee, The Paradox of Reflexivity Several analysts have argued that one of the effects of rapid changes in societies around the world is to increase reflexivity, which, in turn, contributes to the incidence of conflict. Consider this passage from Waters: Social activity is constantly informed by flows of information and analysis which subject it to continuous revision and thereby constitute and reproduce it. The particular difficulty faced by moderns is that this knowledge itself is constantly changing so that living in a modern society appears to be uncontrolled, like being aboard a careening juggernaut These expert systems have, for instance, given rise to a technocratic style of civil administration. Growing reflexivity is, however, undermining trust in expert systems around the globe. In regard to more and more issues there is a feeling that

experts have either failed, or do not have the public interest at heart. Spybey, for instance describes how in "late modern society" there is a: He goes on to state: If, in the nineteenth century, those people who understood it and had access to its benefits rejoiced in the bounty of modernity and its scientific-technological wonders, the people of late modernity are cultured to expect mass consumption but are increasingly sufficiently well informed to develop doubts about its benefits. This is self-reflexivity and it is stimulated by negative experiences shared on a global scale, like for instance the Chernobyl disaster. It is individualism, enabled by mass education and encouraged by posts permissiveness and self-awareness. In a similar vein, James Rosenau has written at length about what he calls the "global authority crisis" and his analysis provides insight into the nature and scope of political conflict in a world of globalized "postinternational politics. If leaders are not able to find more effective means to gather support, people " He goes on to illustrate how crises of this kind interact and "cascade" around the planet: By virtue of the information flows and of the interaction engendered by refugees, traders, terrorists, and other boundary-spanning individuals and groups, authority crises overlap and cascade across collectivities, forming linkages among them on an issue or regional basis *ibid*. Giddens and Rosenau describe a world in which people are more aware, and to some extent more empowered by their access to information and their increased ability to analyze the events shaping their lives. In this picture, populations have become less compliant and more demanding at precisely the time when national political institutions, as described below, are in many cases reducing their budgets and programs. But reflexivity, while aided and stimulated by globalized media and information technology, is also threatened by these same forces. Increasingly powerful media giants diffuse the ideology of globalization, with the effect that: Global marketing, international stock markets, and the availability of nomadic world-wide venture capital complete the scene for the rise of a global market value system. No culture is protected by topography, tradition or just plain disinterest--essentially nobody is out of reach of the extended arm of Globalization. Steingard and Fitzgibbons, Thus, globalization both enlightens and pacifies, both widens horizons and narrows vision. However, it does seem that the globalization narrative of the media is vulnerable to increasing cognitive dissonance as its utopian image of widening prosperity is subverted by images of deprivation and marginalization, and by a rising tide of insecurity and anxiety. Globalization and Identity Another paradoxical effect of intensifying globalization, is that while it seeks to homogenize, is also increases awareness of social heterogeneity. Groups whose identity and solidarity is based on race, ethnicity, religion, language have become increasingly vocal and have used the global media to make their discontent known. This contemporary "ethnic revival" was to some degree "unleashed" by the end of the Cold War. These minorities often see the state as no longer a promoter and protector of domestic interests, but rather a collaborator with outside forces Scholte, The overall effect of these developments has been to increase the salience of cultural diversity issues, both within and across borders, for all the major players in world politics. Several prominent political analysts have argued variations on this theme. Samuel Huntington, for instance, has put forth inter-civilizational conflict as the new "danger" to the dominant powers in world affairs, stating that " Globalization in its contemporary form is the carrier of values which are essentially Western and liberal in character, but they are being aggressively promoted internationally as universal values, the inherent worth of which should be obvious to all right-thinking people. Huntington is explicit about debunking the globalization myth that world culture is Western culture, and argues further that: Such cultural anxieties are welcome fuel to more radical political groups that call for cultural authenticity, preservation of traditional and religious values, and rejection of the alien cultural antigens. Big Macs become in-your-face symbols of American power--political, economic, and military--over weak or hesitant societies and states Fuller, Fuller also argues that, on a shrinking planet, the West cannot escape the secondary effects of these conflicts: Chaos and turmoil in various regions create serious ripple effects that will not leave the rest of the globe untouched: Wars, refugees, embargoes, sanctions, weapons of mass destruction, radical ideology, and terrorism all emerge from the crucible of the failing state order The West will not be able to quarantine less-developed states and their problems indefinitely, any more than states can indefinitely quarantine the dispossessed within their own societies--on practical as well as moral grounds , Fundamentalisms of various kinds are prominent in the conflicts of "cultural reaction. They feel even more threatened now as their national institutions are

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undermined by the international pressures described earlier.

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