

# Global Marketplace

## *Possible Research Topics*

### **Economic Development**

- International trade
- Fair trade
- Trade organizations (NAFTA, EU, ASEAN, OPEC, APEC, Mercosur, etc.)
- Outsourcing and Offshoring (pros and cons)
- Black Market
- Intellectual property rights
- Globalization
  - Economic liberalization
  - Globalization and wage inequality
  - Incidence of increased demands on states to provide social insurance
  - "Americanization" (Coca-Cola, McDonalds, Starbucks)
  - States as agents of globalization (active or passive?)
  - Globalization and the middle class
  - Globalization and health (especially for less-developed countries)
  - Dominance of English language (language loss)
  - Globalization and Armed Conflict

### **Environment**

- Deforestation and environmental degradation; logging for products (teak, for example)
- Pollution due to industrial factories, cars, etc.
- Overuse of natural resources (scarcity of the commons)
- Avian flu
- Kyoto Protocol and carbon dioxide emissions trading (global warming)
- Environmental regulations (highly variable from country to country)
- Genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture
- Energy issues
- Food security
- Water security
- Biodiversity

### **Human Rights**



- Labor laws and standards (child labor, forced labor, sweatshops)
- Corporate responsibility
- Rights of immigrants migrating for labor purposes
- Global sex industry with child and forced prostitution

## Organizations

- World Trade Organization (protests, controversies)
- International Monetary Fund (debt, loans, foreign assistance)
- World Bank
- International Labor Organization
- Multinational corporations and role in economy
- Non-governmental organizations and role in global marketplace

## Politics

- Power structure (who has it, who doesn't)
- Media and advertising (controlling consumption? Encouraging competition?)
- Politics within international financial and economic organizations (WTO, IMF, etc.)
- State policies towards immigrants seeking work
- Security: defense spending, weapons trading, armies in marketplace
- Government subsidies for national products vs. tariffs
- Political transition and its effect on global market
- Global vs. domestic markets (pros and cons)
- Global markets and national sovereignty
- Effect of political instability or disintegration on markets
- Democracy and open markets vs. state-controlled markets
- Power of market over state
- European integration (growing EU members; economic, political and social pros and cons)
- How euro affects EU and non-EU countries; same for US dollar, etc.
- Trade barriers and economic sanctions (Cuba and North Korea for example)
- Asymmetrical threats: piracy and counterfeiting in global economy

## Products

- Pharmaceutical industry ("name" vs. "generic" drugs; copyrights disadvantage poor)
- Privatization of healthcare (rich can pay for quality care, poor cannot)
- Oil
- Water
- "Dirty" trade (blood diamonds for example)



- Agriculture (*GMOs*, fair trade, organic movement, government subsidies)
- Wood processing (deforestation)
- Narcotics (coca, opium, marijuana, tobacco, alcohol, etc.)
- Automotive industry (oil consumption, pollution)
- Regional exports (apparel in India, rubber in Sri Lanka for example)
- Mining industry
- Nuclear technology, nuclear energy
- Weapons
- Toys
- Coffee
- Chocolate
- Clothing

### **Community/Personal Connections**

- Microcredit programs (*Grameen Bank* and others)
- Immigrants and their impact on local communities/workforces
- Global markets and rural poverty
- Community-based development (benefits, consequences)
- Effect of globalization on local, community economic efforts
- Globalization, gender and poverty
- Internet as new marketplace
- Global television and news (censorship—China's *Google* for example)
- Global microstructures (terrorist organizations)