

Forum: General Assembly 3

Issue: The Loss of Indigenous Tribal Culture in the Amazon due to Increased Globalization

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Introduction

Since World War II, our world has become progressively globalized. While increased globalization means that now more than ever, we're all connected all over the globe and companies have started to build an international influence, it also reiterates our constant interdependence of the world's cultures, economies, populations and more due to the international trade in goods, technology, information, and services. It is so entwined into our lives, that even the most remote indigenous tribes find their lives impacted by it.

While globalization does connect the world, the matter is still up for debate since people have different views on the matter. Some say it is a way to even out the playing field in the world so all countries can have equal access to information, services and technology while some say it is an exploitive way for developed countries to take advantage of the third world.

Many countries embrace the process of globalization and industrialization with open arms and have become increasingly more developed than third world countries like Africa and South America, which resist the ideology. Third world countries, as well as tribes in the amazon see globalization and modernization as an imposition on them.

It's important to discuss the impact of globalization on indigenous tribal culture since we're facing a loss of it in the Amazon, and possibly other regions too. For societies and tribes that resist this process, it can be a risk to their place in the modern world.

Definition of Key Terms

Globalization

The process by which businesses or other organizations develop international influence or start operating on an international scale.

Indigenous

Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native.

Tribes

A notional form of human social organization based on a set of smaller groups, having temporary or permanent political integration, and defined by traditions of common descent, language, culture, and ideology.

Developing Country

A poor agricultural country that is seeking to become more advanced economically and socially.

Trade Agreement

A trade agreement is a wide-ranging taxes, tariff and trade treaty that often includes investment guarantees. It exists when two or more countries agree on terms that help them trade with each other.

Agrarian System

An agrarian system is the dynamic set of economic and technological factors that affect agricultural practices. It is premised on the idea that different systems have developed depending on the natural and social conditions specific to a particular region.

Culture

The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

Technology

Machinery and equipment developed from the application of scientific knowledge.

Information

Facts provided or learned about something or someone.

Traditions

The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way.

Land Colonization

The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way.

Hunter-Gatherer Groups

The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way.

Discrimination

The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, sex, or disability.

Reservation Land

A reservation is an area of land managed by a Native American tribe under the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Exploitation

The action or fact of treating someone unfairly to benefit from their work.

Migrants

A person who moves from one place to another, especially to find work or better living conditions.

Cattle Ranching

Ranching is the practice of raising herds of animals on large tracts of land. Ranchers commonly raise grazing animals such as cattle and sheep.

Exemption

The action of freeing or state of being free from an obligation or liability imposed on others.

Highways

A main road, especially one connecting major towns or cities.

Rioting

The violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd.

Rubber Tapping

Rubber tapping is the process by which latex is collected from a rubber tree. The latex is harvested by slicing a groove into the bark of the tree at a depth of one-quarter inch with a hooked knife and peeling back the bark.

Deforestation

The action of clearing a wide area of trees.

Assimilation

The process of taking in and fully understanding information or ideas.

Rights

A moral or legal entitlement to have or do something.

Awareness

Knowledge or perception of a situation or fact.

NGOs

A non-profit organization that operates independently of any government, typically one whose purpose is to address a social or political issue.

Activist

A person who campaigns to bring about political or social change.

Key Issues

Land Colonization

There used to be hunter-gatherer groups which were nomadic and stayed in temporary settlements until the resources in the area were gone, and then they moved on. However, due to land colonization by non-indigenous people, many groups were forced into a more stable lifestyle than they'd prefer and became peasants. Changes like this disrupted their lifestyles and centuries-old traditions. This also makes the people who have called the place "home" for generations, lose control over their own territory.

Discrimination

Indigenous people have a very small population compared to the world which is one of the things that categorizes them as "indigenous". Due to this, they face lots of discrimination in general terms as well as in terms of education, labor market, health care, representation, etc. including representation at a political level which could potentially help their tribes as well as the whole country.

Loss of Culture and Traditions

People that belong to indigenous cultures are at the highest risk of facing cultural loss due to globalization as they don't have the power, resources or influence required to protect their ways and traditions against outsiders who have much more power than them. They also must move away from their tribes to find work and as they integrate into the modern world, the tribal culture is lost.

Languages

This is one side of indigenous culture that sees a huge amount of loss because as indigenous people move away from their home/tribe to find work and learn the more common languages of the world, less and less people continue speaking their native language and even lesser raise their kids with the native language as their first language.

Loss of Territory

Tribal/indigenous people are very possessive and attached to their territory, which is a trait that has been carried on from the olden times. In the current times, the tribal lands are taken away from their people due to the resources they contain. This takes away the traditional means of sustenance from indigenous people and forces them to travel away to find work and sustain themselves.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Brazil

Brazil's constitution recognizes the rights that indigenous people have including the right to live in their own territories and according to their lifestyles and

traditions. They are also responsible to mark the land the indigenous people live on, as well as provide education and health care adapted to their beliefs and traditions. The government has also established the “Fundação Nacional do Índio” (National Indian Foundation) which is responsible for protecting Brazil’s indigenous people’s culture, interests, and rights.

Ecuador

The Indigenous people of Ecuador believe that their country’s government does not do much to protect them and their rights. They have made deals that cause trouble for their indigenous population such as increasing the costs of transporting their good, etc. Situations like this have caused the indigenous population to riot on more than one occasion

Colombia

Colombia’s law recognizes the rights that the indigenous people in their country have. The law guarantees the communities their right to exploit the renewable natural resources from those lands. It also recognizes their cultures and traditions and believes it is their obligation to protect those assets. The Colombian constitution states that tribal and reservation lands cannot be taken away from the tribes they belong to and created a section in elections where 5 representatives who are indigenous people can apply in a fair public senatorial election.

Venezuela

The Indigenous people of Venezuela are under serious threat on many fronts. Legal and illegal mining is destroying their lands. Many have been forced to work

in the mining industry as laborers while others have had to leave their land and move deeper into the forest or leave completely and move to towns and cities instead. Many communities are also being subjected to abuse from people who want to illegally exploit mineral deposits. The government of Venezuela is aware of all of this but has so far done nothing to solve the issues.

The Permanent Forum

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is the UN's central coordinating body for matters relating to the concerns and rights of the world's indigenous peoples. UNPFII is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council. The Forum has the mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. TPF gives recommendations to indigenous people that will help ensure their culture is protected, including languages, traditions, education, and more.

The Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB)

The APIB is Brazil's biggest Indigenous association and represents many of the country's native people. They work to spread awareness about the situation of indigenous rights and aim to claim their demands from the Brazilian government. It was created with the purpose of uniting the people from the different regions.

Cargill

They are a US-based company with a reputation for causing destruction and is one of the biggest organizations to contribute to deforestation, which in return impacts indigenous tribes living in those regions. Cargill is rumored to be involved in the destruction of the Amazon in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, etc. and there have been incidents that point to them not being environment friendly. Although, Cargill themselves claim to be committed to protecting forests and *ending* deforestation while also keeping in mind human rights and respecting the people.

Development of Issue/Timeline

Date	Event	Outcome
13,000-17,000 years ago	The first Siberian wave of migrants migrated to Brazil	They became the oldest recorded indigenous people in Brazil.
< October 1492	Christopher Columbus' voyage to the New World.	Many scholars say that Christopher Columbus' voyage is what started Globalization, although the act of exchanging knowledge, culture, products, ideas, etc. with people travelling nearby happened before Columbus' voyage too.
1879-1913	The Rubber Boom	The amazon was the world's biggest supplier of Rubber, many countries invested in it and lots of deforestation

		<p>occurred because of it. Deforestation means destroying the land that indigenous people depend on for their livelihood and their home.</p>
1950's-1980's	Cattle Ranching	<p>Cattle ranching is one of the other huge causes of deforestation. There was a threefold increase in it during these years even though it had been happening for a long time before that.</p>
1960's	Brazilian Government negative influence	<p>During these years, the Brazilian government approved new subsidies which encouraged cattle ranching in the amazon and they also implemented a tax exemption for large beef producing farms. The problem with this was that more and more companies were interested in this prospect and cattle ranching not only clears the rainforest, but it also takes away the nutrients from</p>

		the soil which means the land in that area has no use anymore. They abandon it and move on to another area to do the same thing all over again.
1972	Public concern	It was in this year that the public became aware of their impact on the rainforest and their impact on the environment and became concerned for it. This happened due to the publishing of a book called “The Limits to Growth” which discussed the rainforest and humanity’s current and future issues on this planet. Experts from various professions came together to discuss this like scientists, educators, industrialists, civil servants, economists, etc.
1970’s	Incentive for industries and damage to rainforest	A huge highway, Trans-Amazonian highway, was built through the forest which connected the forest to

		the farming and breeding economy which not only hurt the forest even more than before due to the cutting down of trees but it also encouraged the expansion of industries here more than before, which would both impact the indigenous population vastly.
1977	Founding of the Union of Rubber Tappers	Francisco Mendes founded the Union of Rubber Tappers which aimed to protect the Amazon. He was concerned with the issues that the indigenous people face that could potentially hurt the entire world.
2019	Indigenous people of Ecuador lead a riot against the government	The government's deal with the International Monetary Fund caused the price of gas to spike by three times while diesel's price too more than doubled. While this was bad for everyone it was the worst for the indigenous population of Ecuador as it increased their

		costs of transporting their goods. This led to a riot and the indigenous leaders leading it said it would not end until a decree eliminating fuel subsidies is repealed.
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Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

The Union of Rubber Tappers/Xapuri Rural Worker's Union

Francisco “Chico” Mendes started a movement as a rubber tapper to save the Amazonian rainforest from being destroyed. He had realized the issues we faced in the present and others we might face in the future due to deforestation and aimed to help stop/reduce it. This indirectly would help indigenous people as some of their biggest issues are the deforestation that industries cause because it not only runs them from their home, but it also ruins and destroys tribal land, and centuries old traditions and culture with it. Chico's death left a huge impact on the world and the legacy he left behind consists of more people joining in the cause that he inspired.

UN and GEF Attempt to help the rainforest

The United Nations, as well as most of the world, has realized that the indigenous people who call the Amazon home are much better guardians to the rainforest than others because it is their home and has been so for generations. This helps the world because deforestation and other damage we do to the

rainforest isn't just bad for the indigenous populations, but also for the world. In spirit of this, the United Nations Environment Program and the Global Environment Facility collaborated to raise \$1.5 Million to aid the indigenous population of the rainforest in addressing the environmental damage done to the Amazon. The project aimed to renovate damaged areas, identify specific regions, and address the preservation challenges that the indigenous population face in helping the Amazon.

The Pachamama Alliance

They have various aims like creating a global community and offering people chances to learn, connect, and create a sustainable future for all and it understands every issue the indigenous population of the amazon face including the destruction of their land, forcible assimilation, and loss of culture and traditions and so has also worked with people in the Ecuadorian Amazon to preserve their lands and culture. They claim to aim for the world to be more just and sustainable by advocating for indigenous rights and raising more awareness by how our day-to-day actions impact the Amazon.

Possible Solutions

Law/Constitution Changes

A major way to help indigenous people with the many issues they face would be to give these populations equal rights just as the regular population of the country. They deserve the same rights as the majority in the country. A solution for this would be for the countries in the Amazon to add laws or change the constitution for it to be more indigenous friendly and help them. It should also

aim to remove any laws or incentives for others that work severely against the interests of indigenous populations.

Social Media

Social Media has become such an important part of our lives nowadays and everything that it has inspired and managed to achieve, shows the power that it has. A reason that the issues indigenous populations face isn't being solved is because no one around the world knows about them. No one knows what they go through. Social Media is such a platform that it ensures everyone has a voice and movements catch fire so easily. If this sort of awareness about these populations and how deforestation impacts the world as well as them was spread, it would be a movement that would inspire change.

Awareness Campaigns

Focusing more on the previous point, a reason for there being no change for the indigenous populations is the lack of awareness in the world. Aside from social media awareness, actual campaigns could be held to educate people in the nearby regions, in those countries itself and the world too. This would result in more awareness in people about the issues that indigenous populations face such as deforestation which destroys their home and ancestral land, discrimination for being a minority which impacts health care, education, representation, etc. and the loss of culture, language, centuries-old traditions etc. because they're forced to leave their own home.

Formation of new NGOs such as the Pachamama Alliance

The Pachamama Alliance has a very good aim and aims to help indigenous populations with their rights, etc. but it does not solely focus on them. An organization which solely focused on indigenous populations would really make a difference as they would have one single aim to achieve. We have already seen in the past that NGOs and organizations like this do help the cause they are fighting for because they raise awareness, work as activists and are willing to go to great lengths to help with the issue.

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