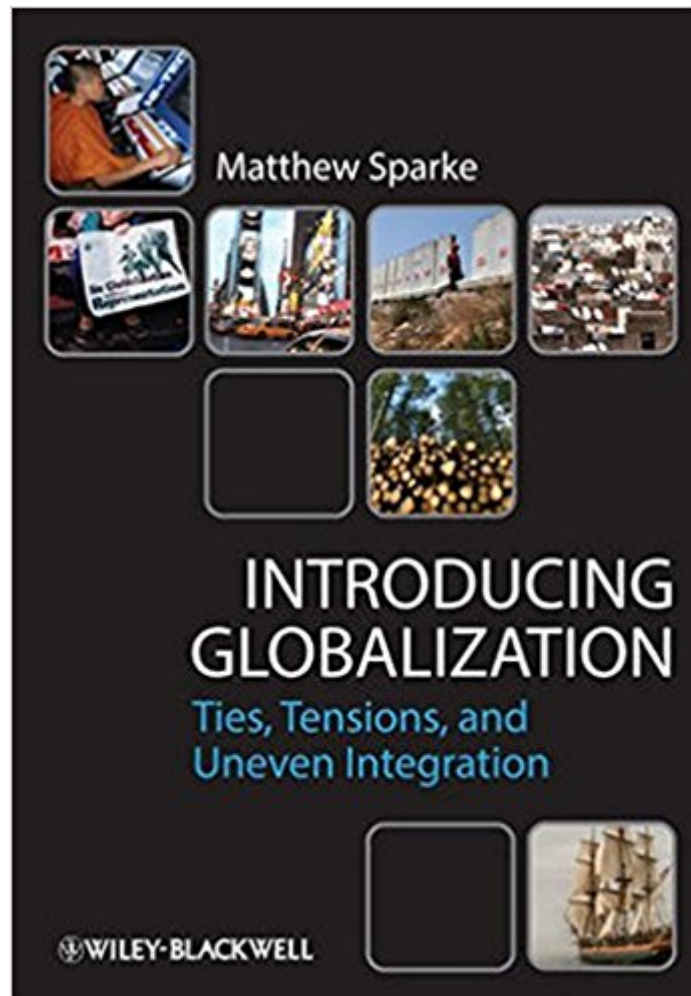




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# Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions, And Uneven Integration



## Synopsis

Designed specifically for introductory globalization courses, *Introducing Globalization* helps students to develop informed opinions about globalization, inviting them to become participants rather than just passive learners. Identifies and explores the major economic, political and social ties that comprise contemporary global interdependency Examines a broad sweep of topics, from the rise of transnational corporations and global commodity chains, to global health challenges and policies, to issues of worker solidarity and global labor markets, through to emerging forms of global mobility by both business elites and their critics Written by an award-winning teacher, and enhanced throughout by numerous empirical examples, maps, tables, an extended bibliography, glossary of key terms, and suggestions for further reading and student research Supported by additional web resources

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## Customer Reviews

"A comprehensive overview of the topic of globalization it is clearly written and provides a good framework for students a fine contribution to the emerging body of scholarship that seeks to weigh the arguments about globalization's spatiality."

AAG Review of Books – “Sparke models inquiry into taken-for-granted concepts or events through rich understanding and questioning. More importantly, he reframes spatial theory as the starting point of social studies conversations about globalization. Rather than accept the inevitability of globalization, he depicts the inevitability of inequity. He examines how inequities become actualized in lives through geopolitical and geoeconomic infrastructure. He encourages us to reconsider the relationships between disciplines, contending that disciplined inquiry enables simplistic understanding. He allows geography and spatial theory to be a way of understanding the world, a lens that resonates across the social studies. The book importantly segments a variety of explanatory moments to allow readers without a strong economics background to understand economic principles. It is a lack of economic understanding that makes global policy discussions unintelligible to the general public. In the process, he ultimately constructs the globally minded citizen. While his brand of global thinking (and citizenship) has a problematic Western perspective, it also utilizes a critical lens that requires awareness of these contradictions and their implications for ourselves and others. The spatial thinking highlighted throughout this review relies on thinking across the disciplines to attend to how, where, and why places are constructed independently and interdependently across scales and time. Rather than assuming that places are knowable, rejecting the three myths encourages questions about what has been made invisible, how new places come to exist, the kinds of interactions that occur therein, and how they reify and amend cultural and other discourses.” (Theory & Research in Social Education, 19 February 2015)

– “Finally, a globalization text that takes its subject seriously yet simultaneously explores the myths that surround it. Matt Sparke relates the two levels or ways of thinking about globalization as a material phenomenon and as a political project. This not only makes for a refreshingly novel take on globalization, one that other introductory books manifestly fail to achieve as they go one way or the other... it does so in an accessible manner.” – John Agnew, UCLA – “This text is written by an extremely well qualified geographer who has experienced globalization in all its multi-faceted dimensions and has taught generations of his students about its inherent tensions and divisions. Its coverage is extensive and yet detailed; its well-researched content constantly challenges us to think critically about globalization; and its end-of-chapter exercises are great fun to work with. These are all the hallmarks of a superb text. I recommend it wholeheartedly!” – Henry Yeung, National University of Singapore – “Written with passion, lucidity, and rigor, [this is a] rare text, making accessible to a generation of globally-oriented students the complex and urgent debates about globalization and

the empirical and analytical research that can inform such debates. — Ananya Roy,  
University of California, Berkeley

Sparke's book presents a riveting account of the complexities, challenges and opportunities introduced by globalization. Not only does the book tackle the underlying myths and common assumptions surrounding globalization, but it also presents a vast array of transnational empirical examples that allow readers to formulate their own opinion about globalization. Sparke's passion for the subject, interdisciplinary approach, and accessible writing style make this book a must read for anyone teaching, researching, or broadly interested in globalization. In particular, this book is a great text for undergraduate courses in geography, development studies, political science, and economics.

A comprehensive and well written introduction to globalization. Having read several books on the phenomenon I can say this is the best one I've read. Its major strength is that it separates Globalization from globalization, where the former is the 'official' sort of discourse on globalization, and 'small-g' globalization is kept separate as the phenomenon of globalization in itself. Thus, the book does an excellent job of underlining how Globalization is a social construct, and is understood and experienced through the discourse in which it takes place.

This is a very informative book. It is not entertaining. It is not an easy read, unless you like long winded textbooks. But, this book will open your mind to global: health, finance, trade, and law. Before this book I did not understand international law.

Very thorough and provocative account of globalization and neoliberalism. A must - read for any college student looking to enhance their view of a world.

Good quality!

Was listed as close to perfect, was not the case. There was a lot of weird, black mush on the lining of the book. Other than that, arrived early.

Mathew Sparke's new textbook on Globalization does not pull any punches. The author, a professor of Geography and International Studies at the University of Washington, provides a sharp, funny,

and sometimes brutal critique of the Neoliberal institutions that have helped create the Globalized economic world of the 21st century. Sparke contests Margaret Thatcher's famous "TINA" hypothesis that "there is no alternative to Globalization" and states that economic Globalization was a self-fulfilling prophecy - if it wasn't for active participation by nation states, particularly the US and Great Britain, it is entirely possible that the free-trade system would not have evolved nearly as rapidly as it has (it at all). Sparke saves his harshest criticism for Thomas Friedman who, Sparke believes, distorts the reality of Globalization by stating that the "world is flat", the "playing field" of competition has been leveled, and that opportunity now flows freely across borders. Sparke bluntly accuses Friedman of being an elitist who, in the words of Vandana Shiva, has "reduced the world to the friends he visits, the CEOs he knows, and the golf courses he plays at. ... he shuts out the brutality of exploitation and inequality and the social and ecological externalities of economic globalization". Ouch. Sparke's textbook is meant for a "Globalization 101" class that is, perhaps, taught by a slightly left of center professor (obviously a bit of a redundancy, but still). The chapters are cleverly divided into large themes such as "Money", "Law", "Commodities", and "Health" allowing the book to cover an extremely broad range of topics. The chapters on "Governance" and "Space" are particularly innovative as the author touches on issues that are not often discussed in standard textbooks on Globalization such as the changing role of universities and their contribution to creating a new generation of "global citizens" and "global entrepreneurs". The book is also full of graphs, illustrations, and pictures that make the reading more enjoyable as well as anecdotes that help the bored college freshmen stay awake while reading it. The author was already teaching at the University of Washington during the 1999 Seattle protests against the WTO and the spirit of those tumultuous uprisings is evident within the book. This text, however, provides a much needed intellectual gravitas to the opponents of Globalization and helps codify the case against Neoliberalism (and explains exactly what Neoliberalism actually means). I read this book in Grad school and seriously regretted not having this type of textbook as an undergrad. I don't know how many undergrads will change their views based on Sparke's iconoclastic book, but I am certain that it will lead many a college student to begin thinking differently about the world at large. And, after all, isn't that what college is supposed to be all about?

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