

7th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBALIZATION & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

August 22-24, 2025
New York, USA

CONFERENCE PROCEEDING BOOK

EDITOR
Prof. Dr. Ananda MAJUMDAR





**7th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
GLOBALIZATION & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**
August 22-24, 2025 / New York, USA

THE PROCEEDINGS BOOK

EDITOR

Prof. Dr. Ananda MAJUMDAR

Layout Editor

Iskender Emre Gul

13.10.2025

ISBN: 979-8-89695-195-7

<https://www.iksadsummit.org/>

Copyright © Liberty

Liberty Publishing House
Water Street Corridor New York, NY 10038
www.libertyacademicbooks.com

+1 (314) 597-0372

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED NO PART OF THIS BOOK MAY BE REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM, BY PHOTOCOPYING OR BY ANY ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL MEANS, INCLUDING INFORMATION STORAGE OR RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS, WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM BOTH THE COPYRIGHT OWNER AND THE PUBLISHER OF THIS BOOK.

© Liberty Academic Publishers 2025

The digital PDF version of this title is available Open Access and distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial 4.0 license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>) which permits adaptation, alteration, reproduction and distribution for noncommercial use, without further permission provided the original work is attributed. The derivative works do not need to be licensed on the same terms.

CONFERENCE ID

CONFERENCE TITLE

7th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBALIZATION & INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS

DATE & PLACE

August 22-24, 2025 / New York, USA

ORGANIZATION

IKSAD INSTITUTE

iksadinstitute.org

iksad.org.tr

iksadyayinevi.com

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Prof. Dr. Akbar VALADBIGI

Dr. Mustafa Latif EMEK

Dr. Ekaterine LOMIA

Dr. Mariam RASULAN

Dr. Chandrasekharan PRAVEEN

Total Number of Accepted Papers - 22

Total Number of Papers from Türkiye - 1

Total Number of Papers from Other Countries - 21

PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES (12)

*Bangladesh, India, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal,
Romania, Türkiye, USA, Vietnam*



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE / PROFESSOR LIST

Dr. Ana CAMPINA

Professor, Fernando Pessoa University

Dr. Arzu AL

Professor, Marmara University

Dr. Atul KUMAR

Professor & Head (Research) Dr. D. Y. Patil B-School, Pune, India

Dr. Chandrasekharan PRAVEEN

Former Principal Institute of Advanced Study in Education

Dr. Elenor ALVIRA HENDRICKS

Professor, Somerset East, South Africa University of Fort Hare

Ms. Guilherme Alves Grubertt

Professor, Doutorando em Educação Física - UEL

(Universidade Estadual de Londrina)

Dr. Gulzar IBRAHIMOVA

Professor, Baku Euroasia University

Dr. Guray ALPAR

Professor, Major General, IKSAD Institute

Dr. Kabo DIRADITSILE

Professor, Botswana Waseda University, Graduate School of Social Sciences.
Tokyo, Japan

Dr. Ludmila MEDVEDEVANYA

Professor. , Russian Academy of Sciences

Dr. Mustafa Latif EMEK

Professor, Manhattan School of Economics

Dr. Orhun Burak SOZEN

Professor, Gaziantep University



Dr. Petra PELLETIER

Professor, The University of Paris

Dr. Renu Susan Samuel

President, Institution's Innovation Council, MoE, MHRD

Dr. Salih OZTURK

Professor, Namık Kemal University

Dr. Tamalika SULTANA

Professor , Dacca University of Bangladesh

Dr. Tauseef Ahmad

Professor, Southeast University, China

Dr. Zhihuan MENCHUANG

Professor, Renmin University of China





7th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBALIZATION & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

August 22-24, 2025 / New York, USA

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Zoom Meeting ID: 833 1287 1999

Zoom Passcode: 242424

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83312871999?pwd=77qC7o2HkhP9ibljuDG7CUW7Sr7E68.1>

Important, Please Read Carefully

- To be able to attend a meeting online, login via <https://zoom.us/join> site, enter ID “Meeting ID or Personal Link Name” and solidify the session.
- The Zoom application is free and no need to create an account.
- The Zoom application can be used without registration.
- The application works on tablets, phones and PCs.
- The participant must be connected to the session 5 minutes before the presentation time.
- All congress participants can connect live and listen to all sessions.
- Moderator is responsible for the presentation and scientific discussion (question-answer) section of the session.

Points to Take into Consideration - TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Make sure your computer has a microphone and is working.
- You should be able to use screen sharing feature in Zoom.
- Attendance certificates will be sent to you as pdf at the end of the congress.
- Requests such as change of place and time will not be taken into consideration in the congress program.

**Before your login to Zoom please indicate your hall number, name and surname
exp. H-1, Mosharaf Hossain**



24.08.2025 / ONLINE SESSION / HALL-1



NEW YORK LOCAL TIME



09⁰⁰ : 11⁰⁰



ANKARA LOCAL TIME



16⁰⁰ : 18⁰⁰

HEAD OF SESSION: Ananda MAJUMDAR

TOPIC TITLE	AUTHORS	AFFILIATION
POSTCOLONIAL PERSPECTIVE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: A THEORETICAL ANALYSIS	Mosharaf Hossain	University of Rajshahi
THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON FOREIGN POLICY: NAVIGATING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	Prof. Dr. Ananda MAJUMDAR	MacEwan University
RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE ON MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY	Dr. Hoang Thi My Nhi	Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences
BETWEEN PROFIT AND PROTECTION: GLOBAL MARKETS AND THE VIOLATION OF CHILD RIGHTS	Mohd Kaif Qurratul Ain Ali Sadaqat Ali Abdul Hannan	Aligarh Muslim University
REDEFINING THE TRANSATLANTIC ALLIANCE: FROM INTERDEPENDENCE TO AUTONOMY IN THE TRUMP ERA	Prof. Dr. Cristian Constantin POPESCU Cristian Romeo SPĂTARU	Alexandru Ioan Cuza University



24.08.2025 / ONLINE SESSION / HALL-2



NEW YORK LOCAL TIME



09⁰⁰ : 11⁰⁰



ANKARA LOCAL TIME



16⁰⁰ : 18⁰⁰

HEAD OF SESSION: Assist. Prof. Dr. Viola Makhzoum

TOPIC TITLE	AUTHORS	AFFILIATION
MECHANIZATION AND EXTENSION SERVICES IN THE ERA OF BUHARINOMICS: MYTH OR MOMENTUM?	Sanusi Mohammed SADIQ Invinder Paul SINGH Mohammed Makarfi AHMAD	Dutse Federal University Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University Bayero University
TRADE GLOBALIZATION AND ITS DIFFERENTIAL IMPACT ON WOMEN'S WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION: A CROSS-REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF POLICY INTERVENTIONS AND OUTCOMES (1995–2025)	Assistant Professor Tuhina Sinha Assistant Professor Priya Chaudhuri	Amity University
THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: A CASE STUDY OF THE RUGOVA REGION, MUNICIPALITY OF PEJA, KOSOVO	Selvije Lajqi Soreja Adzajlic	University Haxhi Zeka
GREEN LOGISTICS FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN MALAYSIA: A THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF DRIVERS, PRACTICES, AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES	Sharipah Khadijah S. Hashim	Politeknik Tuanku Sultanah Bahiyah
LAW, POLITICS, AND PROTEST: LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IN NIGERIA	Fatunmbi Joel Oluwafemi	Federal Polytechnic Ilaro



24.08.2025 / ONLINE SESSION / HALL-3



NEW YORK LOCAL TIME



09⁰⁰ : 11⁰⁰



ANKARA LOCAL TIME



16⁰⁰ : 18⁰⁰

HEAD OF SESSION: Prof. Dr. Arzu AL

TOPIC TITLE	AUTHORS	AFFILIATION
GEOPOLITICAL RISK MANAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS: A STUDY	Assistant Professor Jayashankar J Adhithya M N	DC School of Management and Technology
THE SHINZO ABE ERA AND JAPAN'S POLITICAL ECONOMY (2012-2020): STRATEGY, CRISIS, AND TRANSFORMATION	Prof. Dr. Arzu AL Gülperi KÜÇÜKKARACA	Marmara University
COMPETITIVENESS OF THE OLIVE OIL INDUSTRY IN MEDITERRANEAN BASIN COUNTRIES	Nuno Baptista Fernando Mata Maria Dos-Santos Natacha Silva	Polytechnic University of Leiria
ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT SPENDING	Natacha Silva Maria Dos-Santos Nuno Baptista	Polytechnic University of Leiria



24.08.2025 / ONLINE SESSION / HALL-4



NEW YORK LOCAL TIME

09⁰⁰ : 11⁰⁰



ANKARA LOCAL TIME

16⁰⁰ : 18⁰⁰

HEAD OF SESSION: Prof. Dr. Cristina Raluca Gh. Popescu

TOPIC TITLE	AUTHORS	AFFILIATION
COLONIALITY AS A GEOPOLITICAL TOOL IN A REALIST GLOBAL ORDER	Joseph Chinedu Ofobuike	Nnamdi Azikiwe University
MATHEMATICAL MODELING IN GLOBALIZATION AND FOREIGN POLICY DECISION-MAKING	Assist. Prof. Dr. M. Deepika Assist. Prof. Dr. R. Sumathi Assist. Prof. Dr. R. Prakash Assist. Prof. Dr. R. Sathish Kumar Assist. Prof. Dr. S. Kalaiselvan	Rathinam Technical Campus, Coimbatore
NIGERIA-CHINA FOREIGN RELATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF 2 KINGS 16:7-9	Dr. Favour C. Uroko	University of Nigeria
BEYOND BORDERS: GLOBALISATION AND AFRICA'S QUEST FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT	Fatunmbi Joel Oluwafemi	Federal Polytechnic Ilaro



24.08.2025 / ONLINE SESSION / HALL-5



NEW YORK LOCAL TIME



09⁰⁰ ; 11⁰⁰



ANKARA LOCAL TIME



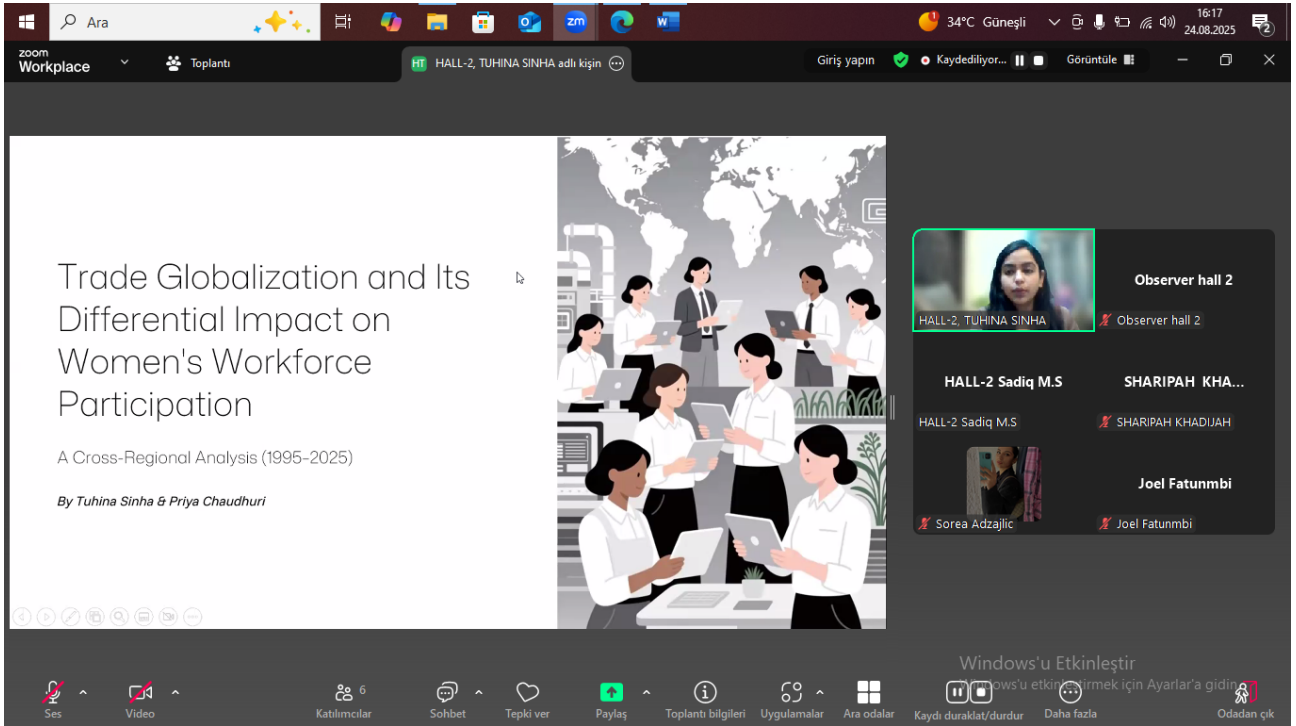
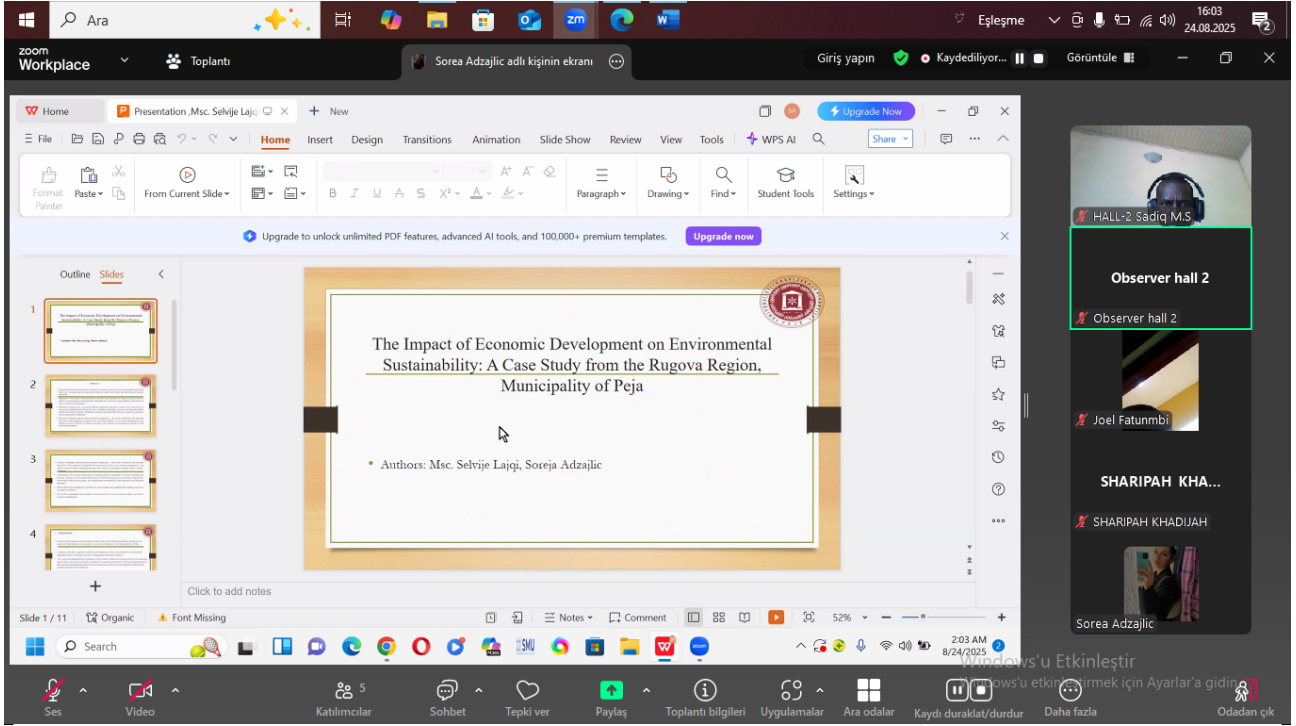
16⁰⁰ ; 18⁰⁰

HEAD OF SESSION: Assist. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Bechir Rezgui

TOPIC TITLE	AUTHORS	AFFILIATION
ECONOMIC RETURNS TO MIGRATION: A QUANTITATIVE STUDY OF HOUSEHOLD REMITTANCE FROM DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS	Gazi Abu Horaira Rabiul Islam Ariful Islam	Universiti Utara Malaysia
GLOBALIZATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION THROUGH ACADEMICS: CHALLENGES AND COPING STRATEGIES	Dr. Irfan Bashir Dr. Yasira Waqar Dr. Afshan Naseem Dr. Fariha Gul Dr. Amna Arif Dr. Ayesha Sami Dr. Aqila Rafique Dr. Abdul Malik	University of Management and Technology
FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN CENTRAL ASIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION	Asel Pazylova	Lecturer, Osh Technological University
THE EVOLUTION OF DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES AND FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD	Satish Kumar Singh	Central University of Punjab



CONFERENCE PHOTOS



zoom Workplace Toplantı SK SHARIPAH KHADIJAH adlı kişinin Giriş yapın Kaydediliyor... Görüntüle 16:32 24.08.2025

GREEN LOGISTICS FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN MALAYSIA

PRESENTED BY: SHARIPAH KHADIJAH S.HASHIM MALAYSIA

AUGUST, 2025

SHARIPAH KHADIJAH

Observer hall 2

HALL-2 Sadig M.S.

Joel Fatunmbi

Windows'u Etkinleştir

Ses Video Katılımcılar Sohbet Tepki ver Paylaş Toplantı bilgileri Uygulamalar Ara odalar Kaydı duraklat/durdur Daha fazla Odadan çık

zoom Workplace Toplantı - HALL 5 Giriş yapın Kaydediliyor... Görüntüle 16:34 24.08.2025

Observer Hall-5

Hall 5- Gazi Abu Honaire

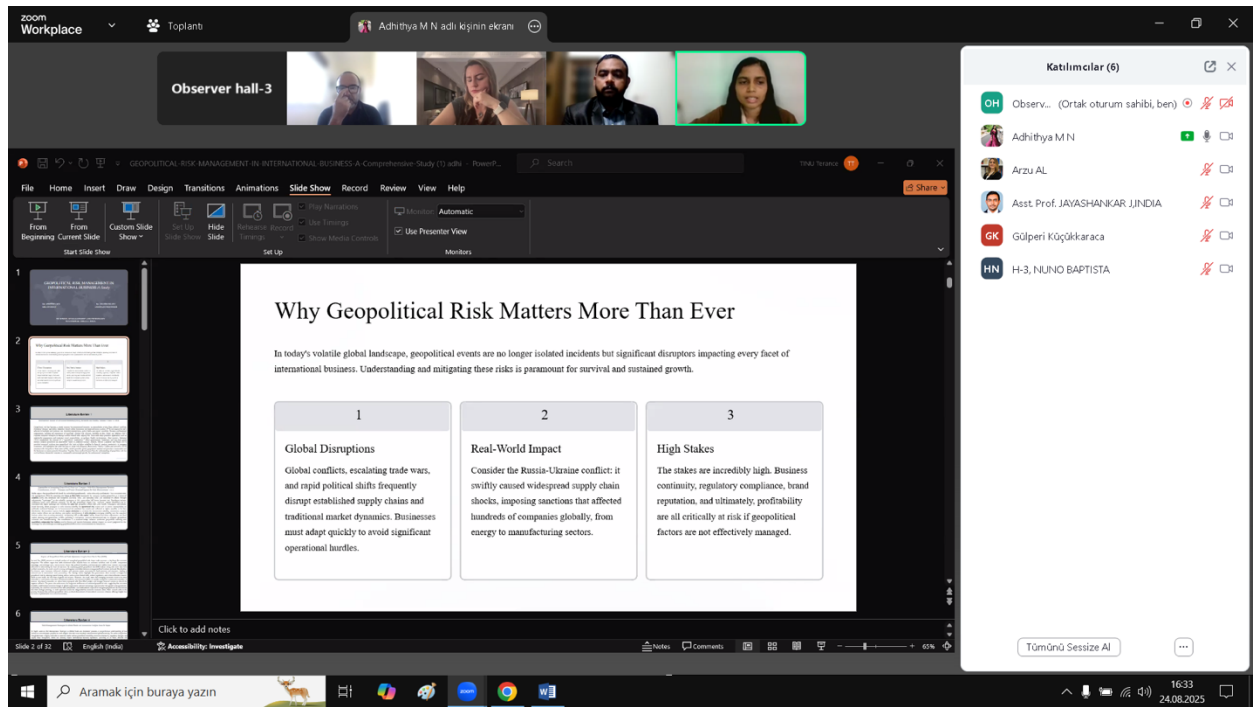
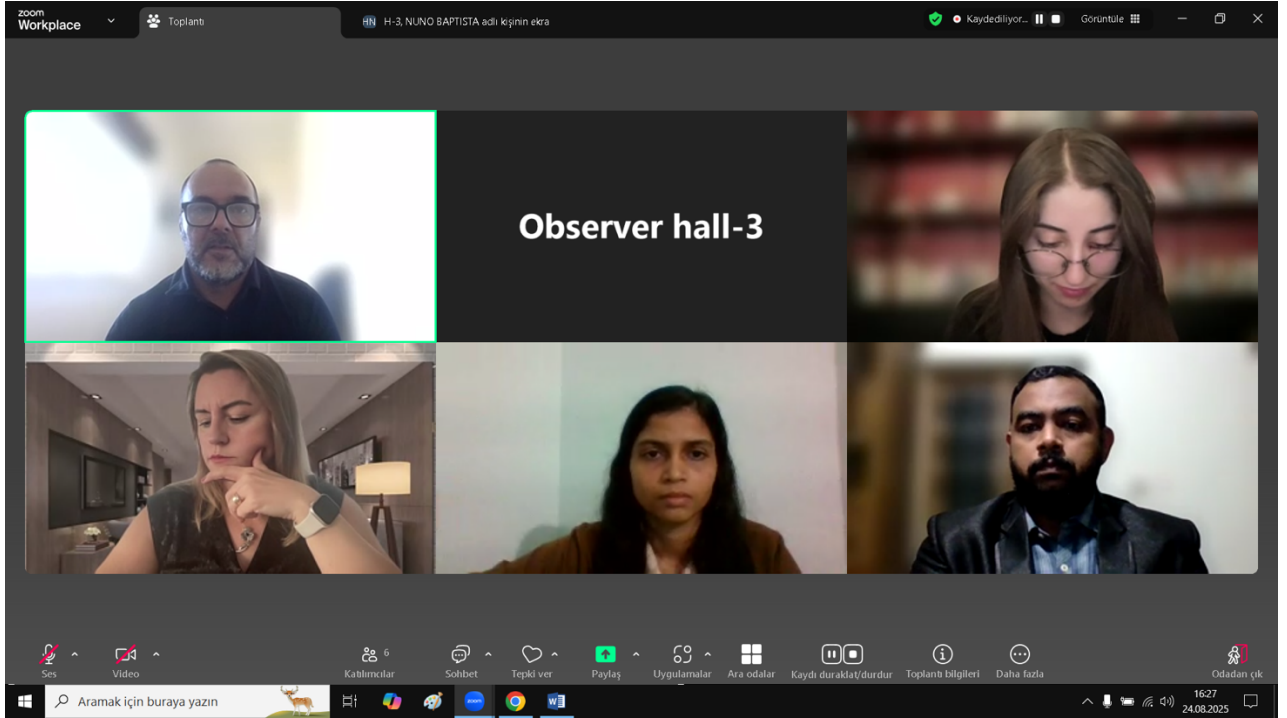
Dr Afshan Naseem

Aşel Pazylova

Paylaş (Alt+S) Uygulamalar Ara odalar Kaydı duraklat/durdur Beyaz Tahtalar Dokümanlar Daha fazla Odadan çık







Observer hall-3

Introduction

This study adopts a micro lens to examine the determinants of competitiveness of olive oil producing companies in Spain, Italy and Portugal.

Enriches the study of business competitiveness and by focusing on a traditional sector that is economically significant for Mediterranean Basin countries.



Aramak için buraya yazın

16:50
24.08.2025

Observer hall-3



H-3, NUNIO BAPTISTA

Aramak için buraya yazın

16:27
24.08.2025



INDEX

Abstract

POSTCOLONIAL PERSPECTIVE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: A THEORETICAL ANALYSIS	Mosharaf Hossain	1
RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE ON MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY	Dr. Hoang Thi My Nhi	2
BETWEEN PROFIT AND PROTECTION: GLOBAL MARKETS AND THE VIOLATION OF CHILD RIGHTS	Mohd Kaif Qurratul Ain Ali Sadaqat Ali Abdul Hannan	3
TRADE GLOBALIZATION AND ITS DIFFERENTIAL IMPACT ON WOMEN'S WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION: A CROSS-REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF POLICY INTERVENTIONS AND OUTCOMES (1995–2025)	Assistant Professor Tuhina Sinha Assistant Professor Priya Chaudhuri	4
GREEN LOGISTICS FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN MALAYSIA: A THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF DRIVERS, PRACTICES, AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES	Sharipah Khadijah S. Hashim	5
LAW, POLITICS, AND PROTEST: LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IN NIGERIA	Fatunmbi Joel Oluwafemi	6
GEOPOLITICAL RISK MANAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS: A STUDY	Assistant Professor Jayashankar J Adhithya M N	7
COMPETITIVENESS OF THE OLIVE OIL INDUSTRY IN MEDITERRANEAN BASIN COUNTRIES	Nuno Baptista Fernando Mata Maria Dos-Santos Natacha Silva	8
ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT SPENDING	Natacha Silva Maria Dos-Santos Nuno Baptista	9
COLONIALITY AS A GEOPOLITICAL TOOL IN A REALIST GLOBAL ORDER	Joseph Chinedu Ofoibu	10
MATHEMATICAL MODELING IN GLOBALIZATION AND FOREIGN POLICY DECISION-MAKING	Assist. Prof. Dr. M. Deepika Assist. Prof. Dr. R. Sumathi Assist. Prof. Dr. R. Prakash Assist. Prof. Dr. R. Sathish Kumar Assist. Prof. Dr. S. Kalaiselvan	11
NIGERIA-CHINA FOREIGN RELATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF 2 KINGS 16:7–9	Dr. Favour C. Uroko	12
BEYOND BORDERS: GLOBALISATION AND AFRICA'S QUEST FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT	Fatunmbi Joel Oluwafemi	13
ECONOMIC RETURNS TO MIGRATION: A QUANTITATIVE STUDY OF HOUSEHOLD REMITTANCE FROM DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS	Gazi Abu Horaira Rabiul Islam Ariful Islam	14
GLOBALIZATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION THROUGH ACADEMICS: CHALLENGES AND COPING STRATEGIES	Dr. Irfan Bashir Dr. Yasira Waqar Dr. Afshan Naseem Dr. Fariha Gul Dr. Amna Arif Dr. Ayesha Sami Dr. Aqila Rafique Dr. Abdul Malik	15
FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN CENTRAL ASIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION	Aset Pazylova	16
THE EVOLUTION OF DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES AND FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD	Satish Kumar Singh	17



Full Text

THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON FOREIGN POLICY: NAVIGATING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	Prof. Dr. Ananda MAJUMDAR	19
REDEFINING THE TRANSATLANTIC ALLIANCE: FROM INTERDEPENDENCE TO AUTONOMY IN THE TRUMP ERA	Prof. Dr. Cristian Constantin POPESCU Cristian Romeo SPĂTARU	27
MECHANIZATION AND EXTENSION SERVICES IN THE ERA OF BUHARINOMICS: MYTH OR MOMENTUM?	Sanusi Mohammed SADIQ Invinder Paul SINGH Mohammed Makarfi AHMAD	44
THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: A CASE STUDY OF THE RUGOVA REGION, MUNICIPALITY OF PEJA, KOSOVO	Selvije Lajqi Soreja Adzajlic	58
THE SHINZO ABE ERA AND JAPAN'S POLITICAL ECONOMY (2012-2020): STRATEGY, CRISIS, AND TRANSFORMATION	Prof. Dr. Arzu AL Gülperi KÜÇÜKKARACA	66



ABSTRACTS



POSTCOLONIAL PERSPECTIVE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: A THEORETICAL ANALYSIS

Mosharaf Hossain

M.A. at Department of English, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

E-mail: mosharafedru175@gmail.com

ORCID: 0009-0002-4051-7496

ABSTRACT

Postcolonialism analyzes the experiences of societies, governments, and populations in formerly colonized territories concerning international relations. Postcolonial researchers do not imply that the power of colonial rule have entirely vanished. As we can see, It underscores imperial histories in establishing a colonial worldview and postcolonialism seeks to comprehend the world both in its current state and in its ideal form. We see the discrimination of global power and economic distribution. Postcolonialism, by addressing such challenges, poses distinct inquiries compared to other International Relations theories, facilitating not just alternative interpretations of history but also diverse viewpoints on current events and issues. To comprehend postcolonialism more effectively, we might examine the discourses that render specific power dynamics appear natural or unavoidable. International relationship is also defined by the dynamics of power. It transcends the empirically verifiable and fact-based investigations characteristic of conventional international relations theories like realism and liberalism. Postcolonialism posits that to comprehend the emergence and perpetuation of global class relations, it is essential to examine the rationale for the normalization of these connections. By meticulously examining the manifestation of these global elements in particular contexts, postcolonialism offers a significant another framework that analyzes the reality of power relations.

Keywords: postcolonialism, international relation, IR theories, power



RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE ON MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

PHD. Hoang Thi My NHI

Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies (IAPS)

Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS)

Email: mynhi.vass@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Malaysia's foreign policy is characterized by a commitment to an independent, principled, and pragmatic approach, prioritizing national interests, regional stability, and international cooperation. It is heavily influenced by national religion. Islam as the official religion of Malaysia enshrined in its constitution plays important role in foreign policy as tool in pursuing national interest in the realm of foreign relations at the international levels. The article focuses on Malaysia's foreign policy is shaped by a complex interplay of domestic and international and aspects of Malaysia's foreign policy influenced by religion. On that basis, the challenges and proposes solutions for refining Malaysia's foreign policy.



BETWEEN PROFIT AND PROTECTION: GLOBAL MARKETS AND THE VIOLATION OF CHILD RIGHTS

Mohd Kaif¹

Qurratul Ain Ali²

Sadaqat Ali³

Abdul Hannan⁴

^{1,2,3,4}Aligarh Muslim University

ABSTRACT

In an era of rapid globalization, the pursuit of economic growth and competitive advantage has often come at the cost of ethical labor practices, particularly affecting vulnerable populations such as children. This paper critically examines how global market dynamics—especially multinational supply chains—facilitate and normalize the violation of child rights in developing countries. Drawing upon field observations from urban and semi-urban communities in India, including children working in tea shops, factories, and informal sectors, the study explores how poverty, lack of educational access, and ineffective regulatory mechanisms push children into exploitative labor.

Despite international frameworks like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and ILO Conventions, child labor continues to be embedded in the global economic system, shielded by corporate opacity and weak state enforcement. The paper argues that global markets prioritize profit over protection, often outsourcing production to regions where child labor is invisible, unregulated, or informally accepted. Through qualitative case analysis and policy review, the paper highlights the gaps between global ethical standards and ground realities, questioning the effectiveness of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) frameworks and international aid mechanisms.

Keywords : Child Labor, Globalization, Human Rights, Supply Chains, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)



TRADE GLOBALIZATION AND ITS DIFFERENTIAL IMPACT ON WOMEN'S WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION: A CROSS-REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF POLICY INTERVENTIONS AND OUTCOMES (1995–2025)

Ms. Tuhina Sinha

Assistant Professor-1 Amity University Jharkhand, Ranchi, India
E-mail: tuhinasinha03@gmail.com, ORCID: 0009-0001-3937-4611

Ms. Priya Chaudhuri

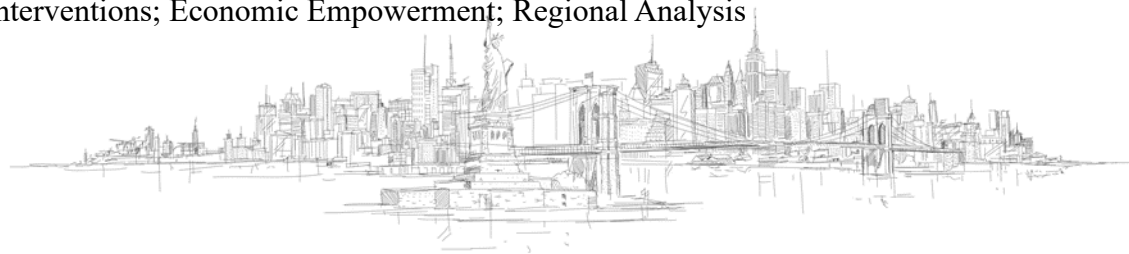
Assistant Professor, Amity University Jharkhand, Ranchi, India
E-mail: pchaudhuri@rnc.amity.edu, ORCID: 0009-0008-7745-3282

ABSTRACT

The nexus between trade globalization and gendered labor outcomes has garnered increasing scholarly and policy interest, yet systematic, cross-regional analysis of its differential impact on women's workforce participation remains limited. This study addresses a critical research gap by evaluating how trade-driven globalization has shaped, facilitated, or hindered women's labor force engagement across varying economic and political contexts from 1995 to 2025. While globalization is often associated with broader economic growth and integration, its outcomes for women have been heterogeneous in nature, being marked by gains in formal employment in some regions and deepened informality and vulnerability in others. This disparity necessitates a nuanced investigation into how national and transnational trade frameworks, combined with domestic policy responses, have mediated gender-specific labor outcomes over time. The central objective of this research is to empirically assess the causal relationship between trade liberalization and women's workforce participation, while also examining the effectiveness of policy interventions, such as labor market reforms, gender-focused trade policies, and social protection mechanisms in shaping inclusive economic outcomes. Using a mixed-method approach, the study combines quantitative data analysis of labor force surveys, World Bank and WTO datasets, with qualitative policy reviews from selected countries in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and the European Union. This comparative framework enables the identification of regional divergences and convergences in labor market trends and policy effectiveness. Key findings reveal that while trade openness has facilitated increased female labor force participation in export-oriented sectors in East Asia and parts of Latin America, it has also reinforced gender segmentation and wage disparities in regions where social safety nets and gender-sensitive policies remain weak. Moreover, policy interventions such as conditional cash transfer programs, maternity benefits, and skills development have demonstrated varying degrees of success depending on local governance structures and institutional capacity.

The study concludes by advocating for a recalibration of trade and labor policies to explicitly integrate gendered economic considerations, including impact assessments and enforceable gender parity clauses in trade agreements. These reforms are crucial for ensuring that globalization functions not merely as an engine of economic growth but as a mechanism for substantive gender equality and women's economic empowerment on a global scale.

Keywords: Trade Globalization; Gender Equality; Labor Force Participation; Policy Interventions; Economic Empowerment; Regional Analysis



GREEN LOGISTICS FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN MALAYSIA: A THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF DRIVERS, PRACTICES, AND STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

Sharipah Khadijah S.Hashim

Politeknik Tuanku Sultanah Bahiyah, Malaysia

Email: sharipahkhadijah@ptsb.edu.my

ABSTRACT

As global sustainability imperatives reshape supply chain practices, Malaysia's logistics sector is under pressure to align with environmental goals. National policies such as the Green Technology Master Plan and carbon neutrality targets by 2050 underscore the urgency of transitioning to green logistics, particularly in an emerging economy context.

This study aims to explore the key drivers, practices, and outcomes of green logistics implementation in Malaysia, with a focus on understanding the enablers and barriers that influence adoption across different firm sizes and sectors.

A thematic analysis was conducted using the Drivers–Practices–Outcomes (DPO) framework. The study synthesizes insights from policy documents, empirical findings, and industry reports to identify core internal and external factors, operational practices, and sustainability outcomes.

Four main themes emerged: (1) internal drivers such as leadership commitment and digital readiness; (2) external enablers including regulatory incentives and market demand; (3) green logistics practices like fleet electrification, sustainable warehousing, and digital monitoring; and (4) strategic outcomes such as reduced emissions, cost savings, and enhanced brand equity. Multinational firms demonstrate stronger adoption, while SMEs face persistent barriers related to financing, technical skills, and compliance complexity.

Malaysia's transition to sustainable logistics is progressing, though unevenly. Strategic integration of green technologies and stakeholder collaboration is essential for broader adoption, especially among SMEs. The study offers practical recommendations for aligning national policy with global ESG standards and highlights the relevance of Malaysia's experience for other developing economies.

Keywords: Green Logistics, Sustainability, Malaysia, DPO Framework, SMEs, SDGs.



LAW, POLITICS, AND PROTEST: LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IN NIGERIA

Fatunmbi Joel Oluwafemi

Federal Polytechnic Ilaro, Nigeria

E-mail: fatunmbij Joel@gmail.com

ORCID: 0009-0007-5210-437X

ABSTRACT

In democratic societies, protest functions as a vital instrument of political engagement and civic accountability. In Nigeria, however, the legal and political responses to civil disobedience often reflect a persistent tension between the imperatives of state security and the protection of civil liberties. This paper critically examines how Nigerian law interacts with political power in regulating and responding to acts of civil disobedience, including movements such as #EndSARS, labour strikes, and student uprisings. Drawing on constitutional law, political theory, and international human rights standards, the study interrogates the extent to which legal instruments have been employed to either suppress or legitimize dissent. The paper argues for a recalibration of legal responsibility that aligns with democratic norms, promotes accountability, and protects the civic space in Nigeria's evolving postcolonial governance. The study contributes to the broader discourse on law, governance, and civil resistance in transitional democracies.

Keywords: Civil Disobedience, Legal Responsibility, Protest, Political Power, #EndSARS, Civic Space, Human Rights, Nigerian Constitution, Governance, Postcolonial State



GEOPOLITICAL RISK MANAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS: A STUDY

Ms. Adhithya M N¹

MBA Student, Dc School Of Management And Technology,
Trivandrum, Kerala, India.

E-mail: adhithya503@gmail.com

Mr. Jayashankar.J²

Assistant Professor, Dc School Of Management And Technology,
Trivandrum, Kerala, India.

E-mail: jayapoliceshankar@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Geopolitical risk management has become a critical component of international business strategy in the 21st century. As global markets become increasingly interconnected, businesses face heightened exposure to risks stemming from political instability, regulatory changes, conflicts, and diplomatic tensions. This study examines the importance of identifying, assessing, and mitigating geopolitical risks for multinational corporations operating across diverse regions. By analysing case studies and current geopolitical trends, the study highlights strategies employed by leading firms to navigate uncertainties and protect their global operations. Key approaches such as political risk insurance, scenario planning, diversification, and the integration of local expertise are explored to demonstrate their effectiveness in safeguarding business interests. This paper underscores the need for proactive geopolitical risk management in an era marked by rapid political shifts and global interconnectedness, providing actionable insights for international business leaders.

Keywords: Geopolitical Risk, International Business, Risk Management, Political Instability, Multinational Corporations, Scenario Planning, Political Risk Insurance, Global Trade, Strategic Diversification, Cross-Border Operations.



COMPETITIVENESS OF THE OLIVE OIL INDUSTRY IN MEDITERRANEAN BASIN COUNTRIES

Nuno BAPTISTA

Polytechnic University of Leiria, Portugal

ORCID: 0000-0001-7130-0543

E-mail: nbaptista@escs.ipl.pt

Fernando MATA

CISAS – Centre for Research and Development in Agri-food Systems and Sustainability,
Polytechnic University of Viana do Castelo, Portugal

E-mail: fernandomata@ipvc.pt

Maria DOS-SANTOS

Polytechnic University of Lisbon, Portugal

ORCID: 0000-0002-1992-0419

E-mail: msantos@escs.ipl.pt

Natacha SILVA

Polytechnic University of Bragança, Portugal

ORCID: 0000-0002-6014-5602

E-mail: natachasilva@ipb.pt

ABSTRACT

This study assesses the explanatory power of key variables influencing the competitiveness of olive oil producing companies in Spain, Italy, and Portugal, using asset profitability as a proxy for competitiveness. The independent variables analyzed include indicators of liquidity, financial stability, debt levels, capital structure, operational efficiency, productivity, risk, and overall economic performance. These variables were derived from the financial data of 564 companies, sourced from the Orbis Europe database. The regression analysis reveals that the most significant predictors of competitiveness are financial autonomy, asset turnover, EBIT margin, and staff productivity. Accordingly, the competitiveness of olive oil producers in these three countries can be effectively explained by a limited set of financial and operational indicators. This research contributes to the academic understanding of competitiveness in the olive oil sector and offers a valuable framework for implementing management control tools and performance monitoring systems. The findings may be of practical use to managers, industry associations, and public agencies seeking to enhance the competitiveness of the sector.

Keywords: Globalization, Competitiveness; Firm level; Olive Oil; Europe; Spain; Italy; Portugal



ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Natacha SILVA

Polytechnic University of Bragança, Portugal

ORCID: 0000-0002-6014-5602

E-mail: natachasilva@ipb.pt

Maria DOS-SANTOS

Polytechnic University of Lisbon, Portugal

ORCID: 0000-0002-1992-0419

E-mail: msantos@escs.ipl.pt

Nuno BAPTISTA

Polytechnic University of Leiria, Portugal

ORCID: 0000-0001-7130-0543

E-mail: nbaptista@escs.ipl.pt

ABSTRACT

The existing literature has yet to reach a consensus on the impact of economic globalization on government spending in developing countries, particularly in the case of Pakistan. This study aims to address this gap by examining the effects of globalization and democracy on Pakistan's aggregate social expenditure over the period 1972–2018. The analysis employs the Johansen Cointegration technique and a Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) to explore both short- and long-term dynamics. The empirical findings reveal that globalization is negatively associated with social spending, whereas democracy exerts a positive influence on such expenditures. Additionally, the results indicate that debt servicing obligations and inflation adversely affect social spending. In contrast, higher levels of economic development and rising unemployment are positively and significantly correlated with long-term increases in social expenditure. These findings offer valuable insights for policymakers seeking to promote economic and social sustainability in Pakistan.

Keywords: Democracy; Econometric models; Globalization, Social Expenditures.



COLONIALITY AS A GEOPOLITICAL TOOL IN A REALIST GLOBAL ORDER

Joseph Chinedu Ofobuikwe

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.

E-mail: jofobuikwe@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research explores the concept of coloniality of power within the framework of global power relations. It examines how coloniality operates at the global stage and its implications for the interactions between nations, especially between the global north/south divide. While the contemporary world is ideally structured on the principles of sovereign equality and independence, the fact of the differing strength among nations opens up avenues for the dispossession, control and exploitation of the weak by the strong. Using an analytical approach, this research argues that this dispossession and control is simply coloniality, operating as a geopolitical instrument in ways that align with realist assumptions about power, interest, and competition in international relations. This situation enables powerful states to maintain hierarchical control over weaker nations through economic, epistemic, and institutional mechanisms, which maximizes the influence and development of nations in the global north, while limiting and exploiting the of nations in the global south through the rhetoric of global governance. The paper concludes that a decolonial turn that can reverse this state of affair must essentially involve a strong alliance of nations in the global south showing strong political will to assert their self-determination to develop beyond colonial rhetoric.

Keywords: Coloniality, decoloniality, realist international system, global north, global south, development.



MATHEMATICAL MODELING IN GLOBALIZATION AND FOREIGN POLICY DECISION-MAKING

Dr. M. Deepika¹, Dr. R. Sumathi², R. Prakash³, R. Sathish Kumar⁴

^{1,2,3,4}Assistant Professor, Department Mathematics, Rathinam Technical Campus, Coimbatore,
Tamilnadu, India

Dr. S. Kalaiselvan^{5}*

^{5*}Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Rathinam Technical Campus, Coimbatore,
Tamilnadu, India

*Corresponding Author: kalaichem82@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

In an increasingly interconnected world, mathematics plays a crucial yet often underappreciated role in shaping foreign relations and understanding the dynamics of globalization. This paper explores the application of mathematical tools—including game theory, network analysis, optimization, and statistical modeling—in the formulation and analysis of foreign policy, trade agreements, international conflicts, and diplomatic strategies.

The study demonstrates how game-theoretic models simulate strategic interactions among nations, enabling policymakers to forecast outcomes in diplomacy and conflict resolution. Graph theory and network analysis are utilized to map global trade routes, alliances, and migration flows, revealing underlying structures of power and influence. Linear programming and optimization methods help in resource allocation for international aid, disaster relief, and sustainable development. Moreover, the paper delves into predictive analytics and big data modeling, which aid in detecting patterns in global finance, epidemiology, and transnational crime—areas that directly influence foreign policy. Through real-world case studies, the research highlights the indispensable role of mathematical modeling in addressing global challenges with precision, transparency, and scalability. Ultimately, this interdisciplinary investigation advocates for the integration of quantitative reasoning in international studies curricula and global policy development, reinforcing the foundational role of mathematics in understanding and shaping our globalized future.

Keywords: Mathematical modeling, game theory, network analysis, globalization, foreign policy, optimization, international relations.

Reference

1. Dixit, A. K., & Nalebuff, B. J. (2008). *The Art of Strategy: A Game Theorist's Guide to Success in Business and Life*. W.W. Norton & Company. A foundational book on game theory applied to strategy, including diplomatic scenarios.
2. Myerson, R. B. (1991). *Game Theory: Analysis of Conflict*. Harvard University Press. Provides rigorous game-theoretic frameworks for international conflict and cooperation.
3. Jackson, M. O. (2010). *Social and Economic Networks*. Princeton University Press. Covers network theory with applications in economics, politics, and global trade.
4. Newman, M. E. J. (2018). *Networks*. Oxford University Press. A comprehensive resource on graph theory and its real-world applications in global systems.



NIGERIA-CHINA FOREIGN RELATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF 2 KINGS 16:7-9

Favour C. Uroko (Ph.D)

Department of Religion and Cultural Studies, Faculty of the Social Sciences

University of Nigeria, Nsukka

E-mail: Favour.uroko@unn.edu.ng

ABSTRACT

This study examines Nigeria-China foreign relations in the light of 2 Kings 16:7–9, drawing parallels between biblical diplomacy and contemporary international alliances. The aim is to critically evaluate the implications of Nigeria's deepening ties with China through the theological and ethical lens provided by King Ahaz's alliance with the Assyrian Empire in 2 Kings 16:7–9. The biblical text recounts Ahaz's political desperation, leading him to seek help from a foreign superpower, thereby compromising the sovereignty and spiritual identity of his nation. This passage provides a critical framework for assessing Nigeria's economic dependence on China, particularly through large-scale loans, infrastructure deals, and political alignment. The methodology adopted for this research is a contextual biblical hermeneutics approach, incorporating theological exegesis of the biblical text alongside qualitative content analysis of Nigeria-China bilateral relations. Historical-critical methods and socio-political contextualization were employed to compare ancient Judah's political decisions with Nigeria's modern diplomatic patterns. The statement of the problem lies in understanding whether Nigeria's increasing dependency on Chinese loans and infrastructure support could lead to a subtle erosion of economic independence, sovereignty, and national values—mirroring the unintended consequences of Ahaz's alliance with Assyria. Findings indicate that while foreign partnerships can offer short-term benefits, they may also involve long-term costs such as unsustainable debt, loss of national control over key assets, and strategic vulnerability. The study concludes that biblical insights caution against alliances rooted in desperation or fear and encourages Nigeria to pursue balanced, transparent, and mutually beneficial international relationships that preserve national dignity and future autonomy.



BEYOND BORDERS: GLOBALISATION AND AFRICA'S QUEST FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Fatunmbi Joel Oluwafemi

Affiliation: Federal Polytechnic Ilaro, Nigeria

E-mail: fatunmbijoe1@gmail.com

ORCID: 0009-0007-5210-437X

ABSTRACT

Globalisation has redefined the flows of trade, culture, and diplomacy, breaking down borders and shaping new forms of interdependence. Yet Africa's experience of globalisation remains marked by paradox. On one hand, globalisation has opened unprecedented opportunities—access to wider markets, digital innovation, and strategic partnerships. On the other hand, it has often deepened structural inequalities, reinforced dependency on foreign economies, and exposed local industries to unfair competition. This paper critically examines Africa's place in the global order by exploring how African nations navigate the tensions between integration and sovereignty. Drawing on examples such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Africa's growing digital economies, and emerging south-south cooperation, the study argues that Africa is not merely a passive recipient of global forces but an active contributor capable of shaping global norms. The paper concludes by proposing pathways for inclusive development that leverage Africa's indigenous resources, policy innovation, and diplomatic agency—pushing the continent beyond borders toward a more equitable global future.

Keywords: Globalisation, Africa, Inclusive Development, Political Economy, Foreign Relations.



ECONOMIC RETURNS TO MIGRATION: A QUANTITATIVE STUDY OF HOUSEHOLD REMITTANCE FROM DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

Gazi Abu Horaira

School of International Studies, Universiti Utara Malaysia

E-mail: horairajnu2009@gmail.com

ORCID: 0000-0002-7526-812X

Rabiul Islam

School of International Studies, Universiti Utara Malaysia

E-mail: rabiul@uum.edu.my

ORCID: 0000-0002-9497-0715

Md. Ariful Islam

Department of Economics, Islamic University, Kushtia, Bangladesh.

E-mail: arif.eco.iu986@gmail.com

ORCID: 0000-0003-1103-9763

ABSTRACT

International migration has become a central feature of Bangladesh's socio-economic landscape, playing a vital role in household livelihood strategies. Since the 1980s, the country has experienced a notable increase in large-scale labour migration, particularly to international destinations. This study investigates the differences in financial remittance received by households from domestic versus international migrants. Remittances are assessed based on their monetary value, whether in cash or kind. To explore these dynamics, the study employs an Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression model, utilising secondary data from the Bangladesh Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022, provided by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). Migration is categorised into two types: domestic and international. The distinction primarily lies in associated costs such as passport issuance, visa processing, transportation, and accommodation, which are typically incurred in international migration. Although internal remittances often flow from urban to rural or peri-urban regions are significant, the term "remittance" is more commonly associated with transfers from abroad. The findings indicate that households receive substantially higher remittance amounts from international migrants compared to domestic ones. This trend suggests that international migration is often perceived as a more viable economic strategy. Furthermore, the analysis reveals that migrants with higher educational attainment tend to remit more to their households, regardless of their migration destination.

Keywords: Bangladesh, Remittance, Expenditure, Household, Consumption, Remittance Flows.



GLOBALIZATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION THROUGH ACADEMICS: CHALLENGES AND COPING STRATEGIES

*Dr Irfan Bashir*¹

¹Dept. Of Education. University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan

*Corresponding Author: irfanbashir@umt.edu.pk

*Dr Yasira Waqar*²

*Dr Afshan Naseem*³

*Dr Fariha Gul*⁴

*Dr Amna Arif*⁵

*Dr Ayesha Sami*⁶

*Dr Aqila Rafique*⁷

*Dr Abdul Malik*⁸

^{2,3,4,5,6,7,8} Dept. Of Education. University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

The research aims to explore the challenges, opportunities and coping strategies for Internationalization and globalization of academics involving international students studying at universities of developing countries of Asia. The primary objective was to identify the various challenges faced by international students and the strategies they used to overcome these challenges thus paving a path for creating link between the host country and their homeland. A case study approach was utilized to conduct an in-depth investigation in Pakistan. Ten international students from different countries participated in the study. Data were collected using semi-structured interviews, guided by an interview protocol. The data were then analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings revealed that the international students encountered a range of expected and unexpected challenges, including linguistic and communication difficulties, cultural adaptation issues, academic navigation and adaptation, systemic and administrative barriers, and personal and emotional resilience. To address these challenges, participants employ several strategies, such as self-management techniques and seeking external assistance. The study highlights the need for a comprehensive support system for international students in Pakistani universities and related ministries to facilitate their adaptation and success.

Keywords: Academic Challenges, Coping Strategies, Cross Cultural Academics, Higher Education, International Students, Globalization, Internationalization



FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN CENTRAL ASIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION.

Asel Pazylova

Lecturer, Osh Technological University, Department of Economics and Finance (Kyrgyzstan)

E-mail: aselsuyumbaevna@gmail.com

ORCID: 0009-0004-8711-4613

ABSTRACT

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is widely recognized as a critical driver of economic growth, technology transfer and regional integration. In Central Asia, the role of FDI has become increasingly important in the context of globalization, as countries seek to diversify their economies and strengthen regional ties. According to UNCTAD's World Investment Report (2024), FDI inflows to Central Asia reached nearly \$45 billion in 2023, reflecting growing interest from China, Russia, the EU and Gulf states. Despite this positive trend, the region faces persistent challenges, including political instability, weak institutional frameworks, limited infrastructure and regulatory uncertainty, which constrain sustainable investment.

Regional integration initiatives such as the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have amplified both opportunities and complexities for cross-border investments. The World Bank highlights that improved connectivity and trade facilitation under these frameworks could raise regional GDP by 3–5% over the next decade. However, uneven development, geopolitical rivalries and environmental risks pose significant barriers to coordinated investment strategies.

This paper examines the dynamics of FDI in Central Asia by analyzing trends, challenges and policy responses that shape the region's investment climate. It argues that targeted reforms in governance, infrastructure development and investment regulation are essential to attract quality, sustainable FDI that promotes inclusive growth and deeper regional integration. By leveraging globalization's opportunities while mitigating its risks, Central Asian economies can transform FDI from a source of dependency into a catalyst for resilient and diversified development. The study combines international statistical data with policy analysis to offer recommendations for governments, investors and regional organizations seeking to enhance FDI's developmental impact in the region.

Key words: Foreign Direct Investment, Central Asia, Regional Integration, Globalization, Economic Development.



THE EVOLUTION OF DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES AND FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Mr. Satish Kumar Singh

Research Scholar, Department of Law, School of Legal Studies, Central University of Punjab,
India.

E-mail: skcupb001@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The expanding influence of international law in an increasingly interconnected world has greatly influenced the evolution of diplomacy and foreign policy over time. The structures and principles of international law have become crucial in transforming the norms, practices, and ethical bounds of diplomacy as state and non-state actors navigate complex geopolitical scenarios. These dynamics have been exacerbated by globalisation, which has increased interdependence among nations, accelerated cross-border issues, and compelled countries to ensure that their national interests align with their obligations under international law. This article examines how, while adhering to the guidelines established by international law, diplomacy and foreign policy have evolved and continue to do so today. It examines how legal instruments such as treaties, conventions, and customary international law serve to establish guidelines for diplomat's conduct, resolve disputes, promote cooperation, and safeguard state's sovereignty and legal equality. The study pays particular attention to the impact of international trade law, environmental law, and human rights legislation on the priorities of diplomacy and foreign policy. Using a doctrinal and analytical approach, the study examines significant shifts in international diplomacy, the emergence of legal diplomacy, and the shifting balance between rule-based participation and realpolitik. Legal standards have either restricted or permitted state's actions on significant foreign policy issues, as case studies demonstrate. The analysis demonstrates that international law can be used as a strategic tool in diplomatic negotiations in addition to preventing biased actions. The study concludes by demonstrating the significance of laws in forming diplomatic ties in a globalised world and their continued relevance as diplomacy evolves.

Keywords: International Law, Diplomacy, Foreign Policy, Globalization, Legal Diplomacy.



FULL TEXTS



THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON FOREIGN POLICY: NAVIGATING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Ananda Majumdar

Prof. Dr. , Harvard University

ORCID: 0000-0003-3045-0056)

E-mail: anandamajumdar2@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This essay examines the impact of globalization on foreign policy, with a focus on shifts in international relations, the evolving roles of diplomats, and the consequences of technological and economic interdependence. Using a literature review of scholarly sources, it examines historical and current examples of globalization-driven shifts in foreign policy. A comparative analysis reveals differences among countries' strategies. The findings indicate that globalization has transformed the foreign policy landscape, promoting greater cooperation and negotiation over unilateral actions. The increasing role of non-state actors, such as multinational corporations and international organizations, has further complicated diplomatic interactions, creating a more complex foreign policy environment. While globalization encourages collaboration and understanding, it also presents challenges such as the potential loss of sovereignty and the need for complex, multilateral solutions to address global issues. The conclusion emphasizes that globalization has fundamentally changed foreign policy by fostering interdependence, but also presents risks that require careful management by governments. This analysis strikes a balance between theoretical insights and practical implications, highlighting both the benefits and drawbacks, thereby contributing to the broader discussion on globalization and international relations.

Keywords: Globalization, foreign policy, diplomacy, interdependence.

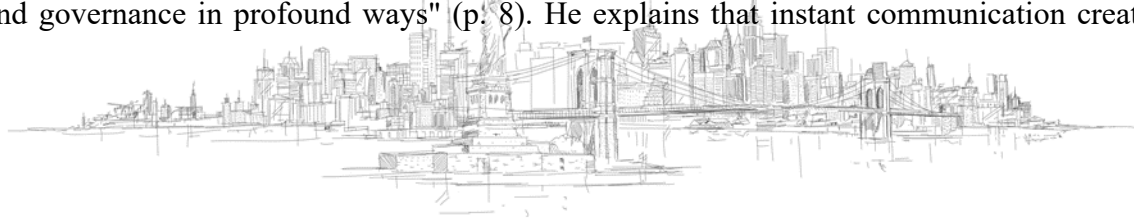


INTRODUCTION

Globalization has a profound impact on foreign policy, fostering cooperation among countries and intensifying their interdependence. This essay examines the impact of globalization on international relations, including its effects on diplomacy, the roles of various actors, and the shifting foreign policy strategies that result from it. The primary concept is that globalization alters traditional diplomatic practices and challenges the authority of states, necessitating new approaches to international governance and collaboration. Understanding these changes is crucial as countries confront global issues such as climate change, economic inequality, and security threats. Research indicates a shift from focusing primarily on state actions to acknowledging the roles of multinational companies and international organizations in global affairs. Scholars note that non-state actors are becoming significant players in shaping policies. Studies on groups like the United Nations and the World Bank highlight how these organizations influence state authority, encouraging countries to work collaboratively. Advancements in technology, especially the internet, create a "global village" that complicates diplomacy. While globalization promotes interaction and cooperation, it also leads to a rise in nationalism, as seen in movements like Brexit and populism in Europe and North America, which often favour national interests over collective goals. This study addresses a gap in research by examining how globalization facilitates the interconnection of countries while also challenging state authority. It looks at historical and current examples of how different nations respond to these changes. The research highlights the need for governments to strike a balance between the benefits of globalization and the potential risks associated with increased interdependence. The study aims to explain how globalization transforms foreign policy and its implications for governance in a connected world. It offers insights into how changing diplomatic practices, influenced by trade and technology, redefine national interests. This perspective enriches the broader conversation about international relations by connecting theories with real-world implications, enabling nations to manage the complex global challenges they face effectively. This study helps us understand globalization as both a driver of cooperation and a concern for national authority. By examining these complexities, scholars, policymakers, and practitioners gain a clearer understanding of international relations in the 21st century. It stresses the need to adapt foreign policy strategies to navigate our interconnected world effectively.

Literature Review

The connection between globalization and foreign policy is complex and involves different viewpoints on how global interdependence changes diplomatic relationships and policymaking. This review highlights the critical contributions in the field, demonstrating the significant impact of globalization on foreign policy. A central theme in this literature is the impact of globalization on state sovereignty. R. R. W. K. Stiglitz (2002) argues that globalization weakens national sovereignty as countries increasingly rely on one another for economic growth. He states that "economic policies in one country can have far-reaching effects on others" (p. 15), highlighting the need for countries to collaborate. S. P. Huntington (1996) supports this view, saying that "the ability of states to act independently is increasingly constrained" (p. 30) due to global connections. The role of non-state actors, such as multinational corporations and international organizations, is also discussed. P. K. Keohane and R. O. Keohane (1997) emphasize that "non-state actors have become essential players in the configuration of global governance" (p. 45). These actors can shape the rules that guide how states behave, changing the landscape of foreign relations. Technology's role in globalization is significant, particularly in the areas of communication and information sharing. M. Castells (2000) sees the internet as a significant change, stating that "the networked society has reshaped the structure of power and governance in profound ways" (p. 8). He explains that instant communication creates a

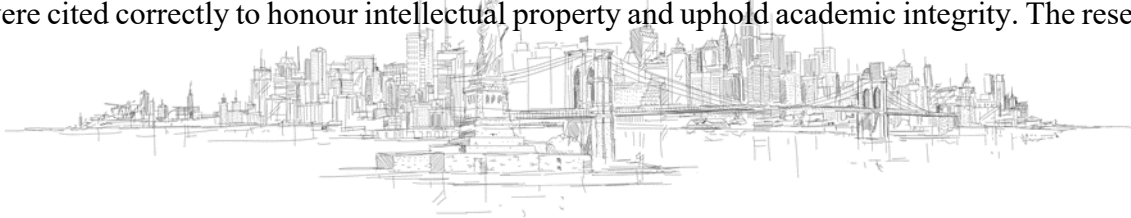


"global village," which reduces the effectiveness of traditional diplomatic methods. A. R. C. Holsti (2004) shows how diplomacy is changing. He points out that "diplomacy is transforming from a state-centric to a multi-actor negotiation process" (p. 236). Diplomats now need to develop new skills to manage a more complex international environment, one influenced by diverse interests and viewpoints. J. A. Ikenberry (2011) examines global governance challenges like climate change and terrorism. He argues that "effective global governance requires cooperation among states and non-state actors to manage complex interdependence" (p. 55). The challenge lies in striking a balance between national interests and global cooperation, which significantly influences foreign policy decisions. Recent literature also discusses the backlash against globalization. P. D. Coburn (2018) notes a rise in nationalist movements responding to globalization threats. He states that "populist leaders leverage anti-globalization sentiments to regain control over domestic policy" (p. 102), challenging the established order and calling for a reassessment of international commitments. This literature shows that globalization has fundamentally changed foreign policy. It drives countries to cooperate more, but also introduces challenges that require new diplomatic strategies. As countries navigate interdependence and the influence of non-state actors, they must shift their foreign policies because traditional approaches are becoming less effective in a multipolar world. This review summarizes the theoretical insights and practical effects of globalization on foreign policy.

Methodology

This study employed a quantitative research design to investigate the impact of globalization on foreign policy. It aimed to identify changes in international relations, the roles of diplomats, and the effects of economic interdependence. The researchers collected data from various academic sources, including journal articles, government reports, and publications from international organizations. The research involved a thorough literature review, with no direct participation from individuals. The analysis drew on scholarly articles and reports from diverse countries to represent a range of geopolitical contexts. Researchers selected sources based on their relevance to themes of globalization and foreign policy, examining both historical and contemporary examples. To gather data, a systematic approach to literature review was followed. Researchers searched relevant online academic databases like JSTOR, Google Scholar, and ProQuest. They used keywords such as "globalization," "foreign policy," "diplomacy," and "interdependence" to find suitable studies. Only studies focusing on the impact of globalization on foreign policy were included. Both qualitative and quantitative analyses were reviewed, while opinion pieces and non-peer-reviewed articles were excluded from the review. They.

Systematically extracted key findings, methodologies, and conclusions from each source for comparison. The study was organized into sections for precise analysis: The Introduction section provided background on globalization and its importance to foreign policy. The Literature Review examined existing research to create a theoretical framework. The discussion section connected the findings to broader implications for international relations and the challenges posed by globalization. Data were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify key themes related to the changing nature of foreign policy in the context of globalization. The analysis included the following steps: a close reading of the collected literature to understand the content and context, identifying and coding key themes and patterns, such as non-state actor involvement, economic interdependence, and changes in diplomatic practices. The themes were grouped to form a straightforward narrative about the impact of globalization on foreign policy, outlining both the benefits and challenges. The researchers held peer discussions to ensure reliable interpretations and validate their findings. Even though the study did not involve human subjects, it addressed ethical considerations throughout the research process. All sources used were cited correctly to honour intellectual property and uphold academic integrity. The research



followed ethical standards for data collection and analysis, ensuring transparency and reproducibility. While they did not need consent from authors or organizations for literature analysis, the researchers aimed to present existing data accurately. This study aimed to investigate the impact of globalization on foreign policy systematically. By conducting a thorough literature review and thematic analysis, the researchers highlighted the complexities and risks associated with increasing interdependence among nations. This approach lays a foundation for future research, underscoring the necessity for ongoing discussions and adjustments in international relations to address the evolving nature of globalization.

Results and Findings

This study examined the impact of globalization on foreign policy and international relations. We reviewed various scholarly sources to gain a deeper understanding of these changes. The research highlighted some critical findings. Firstly, globalization has changed the traditional focus on nation-states in foreign policy. There is now increased interaction with non-state actors, such as multinational corporations and international organizations. In the past, foreign policy was primarily controlled by countries; now, businesses like Apple and Amazon possess significant economic power that can rival that of some states. This shift creates new challenges in diplomacy. International organizations, such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, also play a bigger role in shaping how states behave and in setting global rules. These organizations often operate independently of the countries that comprise them, moving away from the idea of absolute sovereignty and creating a more interconnected global community. Technological advancements, particularly the internet, have transformed the way countries communicate. Instant communication has led to a "global village" effect, altering diplomatic practices and encouraging countries to collaborate rather than act alone.

The study found that globalization has created a complex environment for international relations, where national governments face pressure from global markets and supply chains. The sovereignty of nations is increasingly being challenged; decisions made in one country can have a significant impact on others. This interconnectedness means that governments must collaborate to address global issues. The research noted a significant shift from U.S. dominance to a more multipolar world, with emerging powers such as China, India, and Brazil assuming a larger role in global affairs. This change introduces new development strategies, such as China's Belt and Road Initiative, which challenge traditional Western perspectives. Ultimately, the findings underscored the increasing importance of economic influence and soft power in foreign policy. While military strength remains essential, economic capabilities have become increasingly significant in the context of globalization. The study revealed that countries are grappling with critical global issues, such as climate change and pandemics, underscoring the need for enhanced international cooperation. A key finding was the emergence of new security threats, including terrorism and transnational crime, which utilize global networks. This highlights the importance of countries sharing intelligence and collaborating on legal matters. Global governance efforts, such as those by the Financial Action Task Force, play a crucial role in addressing these challenges. At the same time, the study noted a backlash against globalization. Nationalist movements in places like Europe and North America advocate for greater control over events that occur outside their borders.

Events like Brexit reflect a trend where countries prioritize their own interests over international agreements, which contradicts the idea of deeper global integration that emerged after the Cold War. The findings also revealed that this backlash has led to questioning the legitimacy of international organizations set up after World War II. There is a call for reform, particularly in the UN Security Council and global financial institutions, to better align with today's power dynamics and to include more diverse voices. Overall, the study found that globalization has altered the way countries approach foreign policy and international relations. The influence of



non-state actors has increased, making diplomacy more complex and reducing the power of nation-states. Countries are more interconnected now due to technological advancements and economic ties, which have created new security and governance challenges. The study helps us understand the complicated realities nations face in today's global environment, paving the way for deeper discussions in future chapters.

Discussion

¹Globalization has transformed global interactions and politics in the 21st century, shifting beyond state-centric diplomacy to involve multinational corporations, international organizations, and civil society. This change has created a complex political landscape that diverges from the traditional Westphalian system of sovereign states. ²After World War II, institutions such as the United Nations and the World Bank began to challenge the sovereignty of states. ³The late 20th century witnessed significant technological advances, particularly the rise of the internet, which facilitated instant communication and fostered a ⁴"global village." ⁵Multinational corporations, such as Apple and Amazon, often wield more economic power than many nations, influencing trade and shaping regulations. International organizations establish norms that guide state behaviour, with entities such as ⁶the World Trade Organization and the International Criminal Court playing key roles. Though they derive authority from member states, these organizations have gained independence to shape global politics. As state control wanes, national governments face pressures from global financial markets and supply chains, limiting their economic policy options. ⁷The rise of China, India, and Brazil shifts the world from U.S. unipolar dominance to a multipolar system, with new development models such as China's Belt and Road Initiative emerging. ⁸In the post-World War II era, while military strength remains important, economic influence and soft power are becoming increasingly crucial. ⁹Global issues, such as climate change and pandemics, underscore the need for international cooperation, highlighting the interconnectedness of nations. ¹⁰Terrorism and transnational crime require intelligence sharing and coordinated legal frameworks, as these threats exploit global networks. Efforts by organizations like ¹¹the Financial Action Task Force underscore the need for new global governance to address these challenges effectively. Despite the way globalization has reshaped international relations, a backlash has emerged, marked by

¹ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Paragraph 1st.

² The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. The evolution from international to global politics. Paragraph 2nd.

³ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. The evolution from international to global politics. Paragraph 3rd.

⁴ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. The evolution from international to global politics. Paragraph 3rd.

⁵ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Non-state actors and the redistribution of power. Multinational corporations as political players. Paragraph 1st.

⁶ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Non-state actors and the redistribution of power. International organizations and global governance. Paragraph 2nd.

⁷ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Multipolarity and the changing distribution of global power. The rise of emerging powers. Paragraph 1st.

⁸ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Multipolarity and the changing distribution of global power. The rise of emerging powers. Paragraph 2nd.

⁹ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Global challenges requiring cooperative solutions. Climate change as a paradigm of global interdependence. Paragraph 1st.

¹⁰ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Global challenges requiring cooperative solutions. Terrorism and transnational crime. Paragraph 1st.

¹¹ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Global challenges require cooperative solutions. Terrorism and transnational crime. Paragraph 2nd.



¹²nationalist movements advocating for sovereignty against external influences. ¹³Examples include Brexit and various populist movements in Europe and North America, which prioritize national interests over international commitments. ¹⁴This shift challenges the post-Cold War consensus on deeper integration, prompting societies to rethink which aspects of globalization align with their interests. ¹⁵It has also highlighted legitimacy issues within international institutions established after World War II, leading to calls for reform, particularly of the UN Security Council and international financial organizations, to reflect current power dynamics. Global governance must manage transnational challenges while maintaining democratic legitimacy and embracing diverse political traditions. ¹⁶In the evolving global landscape, leaders must combine traditional diplomacy with cross-sector coalition-building to address shared challenges. The rise of non-state actors has weakened nation-states' control over domestic and international affairs, limiting their sovereignty in areas such as economic policy. ¹⁷Decisions made in one country increasingly impact others due to global supply chains, and the internet complicates state control over culture and information as the world transitions from a unipolar system dominated by the U.S. to a multipolar one with emerging powers like China and India. New development models challenge Western dominance. Power is shifting from military strength to economic influence, technological innovation, and soft power, making factors like foreign investment and technological leadership vital for a nation's global standing. ¹⁸Cyber capabilities become essential for national power, with countries enhancing offensive and defensive operations to control digital infrastructure. ¹⁹Globalization has presented challenges, including carbon emissions and health crises such as COVID-19, which necessitate coordinated international responses, as exemplified by agreements like the Paris Agreement. ²⁰Modern threats, including terrorism and organized crime, necessitate the sharing of intelligence and cooperation among law enforcement, as demonstrated by the Financial Action Task Force. ²¹While globalization continues to reshape international relations, a backlash has emerged, with nationalist movements prioritizing sovereignty over international commitments. ²²This shift raises questions about the effectiveness of post-World War II institutions, prompting reforms in the United Nations Security Council and financial organizations to enhance global governance. The

¹² The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. The Future of global politics in an era of backlash. National resurgence and sovereignty concerns. Paragraph 1st.

¹³ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. The Future of global politics in an era of backlash. National resurgence and sovereignty concerns. Paragraph 1st.

¹⁴ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. The Future of global politics in an era of backlash. National resurgence and sovereignty concerns. Paragraph 2nd.

¹⁵ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. The Future of global politics in an era of backlash. Reforming global governance for legitimacy. Paragraph 1st.

¹⁶ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Conclusion: Navigating complexity in global politics. Paragraph 1st.

¹⁷ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Multipolarity and the changing distribution of global power. The rise of emerging powers. Paragraph 1st.

¹⁸ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Multipolarity and the changing distribution of global power. New forms of power in the digital age. Paragraph 2nd.

¹⁹ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Global challenges require cooperative solutions. Pandemics and global health security. Paragraph 1st.

²⁰ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. Global challenges require cooperative solutions. Terrorism and transitional crimes. Paragraph 1st.

²¹ The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. The Future of global politics in an era of backlash. Paragraph 1st.

²² The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics. The Future of global politics in an era of backlash. Reforming global governance for legitimacy. Paragraph 1st.



evolution of global politics underscores tensions between integration and fragmentation, as well as between cosmopolitanism and nationalism, and between state-centric and networked governance. Navigating these dynamics is essential for effective leadership in the 21st century, involving blending traditional diplomacy with coalition-building across sectors and borders.

Conclusion

Globalization has transformed the way countries approach foreign policy and engage with one another. It has made nations more connected, which can lead to cooperation on global issues, but it also presents challenges, such as preserving state sovereignty and navigating complex negotiations. Non-state actors, including multinational corporations and international organizations, now wield greater influence in global affairs. This shift disrupts traditional diplomacy, compelling countries to adapt their strategies to operate effectively in this evolving environment. While globalization can boost economic growth and offer solutions to serious global problems, it also carries risks, such as a potential loss of independence and a rise in nationalism. Governments must carefully manage the balance between benefiting from globalization and preserving their national sovereignty. Policymakers need to adopt new approaches to reflect the challenges of a connected world. As countries face shared problems such as climate change and economic inequality, it is crucial to develop collaborative frameworks and innovative diplomatic strategies to address these challenges. Understanding these dynamics helps improve discussions on international relations. It equips nations to engage effectively in this complex global environment, ensuring they can maximize the benefits of globalization while addressing its risks. Globalization has changed foreign policy significantly. Countries must now navigate a more interconnected world that presents both benefits and risks. This view differs from older studies, which mainly focused on governments and overlooked the impact of non-governmental groups and global issues. It's essential to recognize that while collaboration can enhance global cooperation, it also necessitates that countries reassess their sovereignty and the way they manage complex international relationships. However, this study has some limitations. It primarily focuses on academic research, which may overlook insights from practitioners in the field and real-life events that could lend depth to the findings. Future research should incorporate real-world data and case studies to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how globalization impacts foreign policy. This would help us better understand the dynamics involved.

REFERENCES

- Impact of Globalization on Foreign Policy*. (2019, September 23). www.ukessays.com. <https://www.ukessays.com/essays/politics/impact-of-globalization-on-foreign-policy.php>
- The Transformative Impact of Globalization on International Relations and Global Politics • BA Notes*. (2023, December 22). BA (Bachelor of Arts) Hub. https://banotes.org/international-relations/impact-globalization-international-relations-politics/#google_vignette
- Lily, L. (2024, September 16). *The Impact of Globalization on International Politics*. Compass Newspaper. <https://www.compassnewspaper.org/the-impact-of-globalization-on-international-politics/>
- Castells, M. (2000). *The Rise of the Network Society*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Coburn, P. D. (2018). *The Nationalist's Dilemma: Globalization and the Rise of Illiberal Democracy*. Cambridge University Press.
- Holsti, A. R. C. (2004). *Tame the American Eagle: The Politics of American Foreign Policy*. Ecco Press.



Huntington, S. P. (1996). *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*. Simon & Schuster.

Ikenberry, J. A. (2011). *Liberal Order and Imperial Ambition: American Power and International Order*. Poli Point Press.

Keohane, R. O., & Keohane, P. K. (1997). *Power and Governance in a Partially Globalized World*. Routledge.

Stiglitz, J. R. W. K. (2002). *Globalization and Its Discontents*. W. W. Norton & Company.



REDEFINING THE TRANSATLANTIC ALLIANCE: FROM INTERDEPENDENCE TO AUTONOMY IN THE TRUMP ERA 2

Cristian Romeo SPĂȚARU

PhD Candidate, The Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration
Department of Economics, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Romania
E-mail: cspataru1970@gmail.com

Cristian Constantin POPESCU

Professor, PhD, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
Department of Economics, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Romania
E-mail: popescu@uaic.ro,

ABSTRACT

Against that backdrop, amid the backdrop of international instability, increasing geopolitical volatility, economic competition, and evolving strategic logic, this article explores the emerging order of the transatlantic relationship between the European Union and the US. Special attention is given to three dimensions (economic interdependence, European strategic autonomy, and the multiple problems in view of the resurgence of the Trump administration). This investigation adopts a multidimensional lens, addressing historical and institutional paths and recent frictions provoked by American unilateralism, protectionist inclinations, and strategic disconnection. Although economic interdependence remains one of the cornerstones of the transatlantic relationship, they are increasingly vulnerable to pressures from aggressive trade policies and the pressure of global technology competition. The EU, in turn, has stepped up its search for such strategic autonomy in fields as defence, energy, and digital transformation – even though it seems constrained, structurally, or from maintaining technological dependencies. The article also identifies a battery of risk scenarios arising from Trump's reinvigorated mandate, including the risk of U.S. disengagement in NATO, escalating trade tensions, and the rollback of multilateral governance frameworks. The economic, strategic, and normative implications, and the potential for cohesion and resilience in the European Union, guided by a qualitative, interpretive method, are the issues the study looks to address. In short, this analysis argues that the transatlantic relationship is irreplaceable but requires a serious recalibration — that European strategic autonomy can function practically alongside transatlantic cooperation to promote global stability in a world where the specter of uncertainty is pervasive both inward and outward.

Keywords: EU-U.S.; Transatlantic partnership; Economic interdependence; Strategic autonomy; International relations



INTRODUCTION

For decades, the US–EU transatlantic partnership was the keystone in the liberal international order. Set against the backdrop of 2025, it is a relationship undergoing a radical reorganization, informed by fragile economic interdependence, European dreams of strategic autonomy, and Donald Trump’s return to the White House. This is the framework for a review of the alliance that has serious ramifications for security, the economy, and global governance.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

As an open and competitive economy and a founding member of the WTO, the European Union is considered a centre for global trade. By its standard commercial policy (Article 207 TFEU), it is looking at ways to expand market access with the help of free trade agreements and investment partnerships. The EU has strong economic relations with all the major actors, including the United States, China, and other major actors, and is the world’s foremost exporter and investor. With the global economy on the path of digitalization and changes in international geopolitics, its trade strategy emphasizes openness, sustainability, resilience, and strategic autonomy, while advancing European values and championing the green and digital transitions, in the face of digital transformation and geopolitical moves. The key partners are the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Switzerland, and Turkey, and trade negotiations are conducted with the European Commission and the European Parliament (European Parliament - Fact Sheets on the European Union: The European Union and its trade partners, 2025).

The following conceptual map outlines the theoretical foundations of the EU–US partnership that underpin this research.

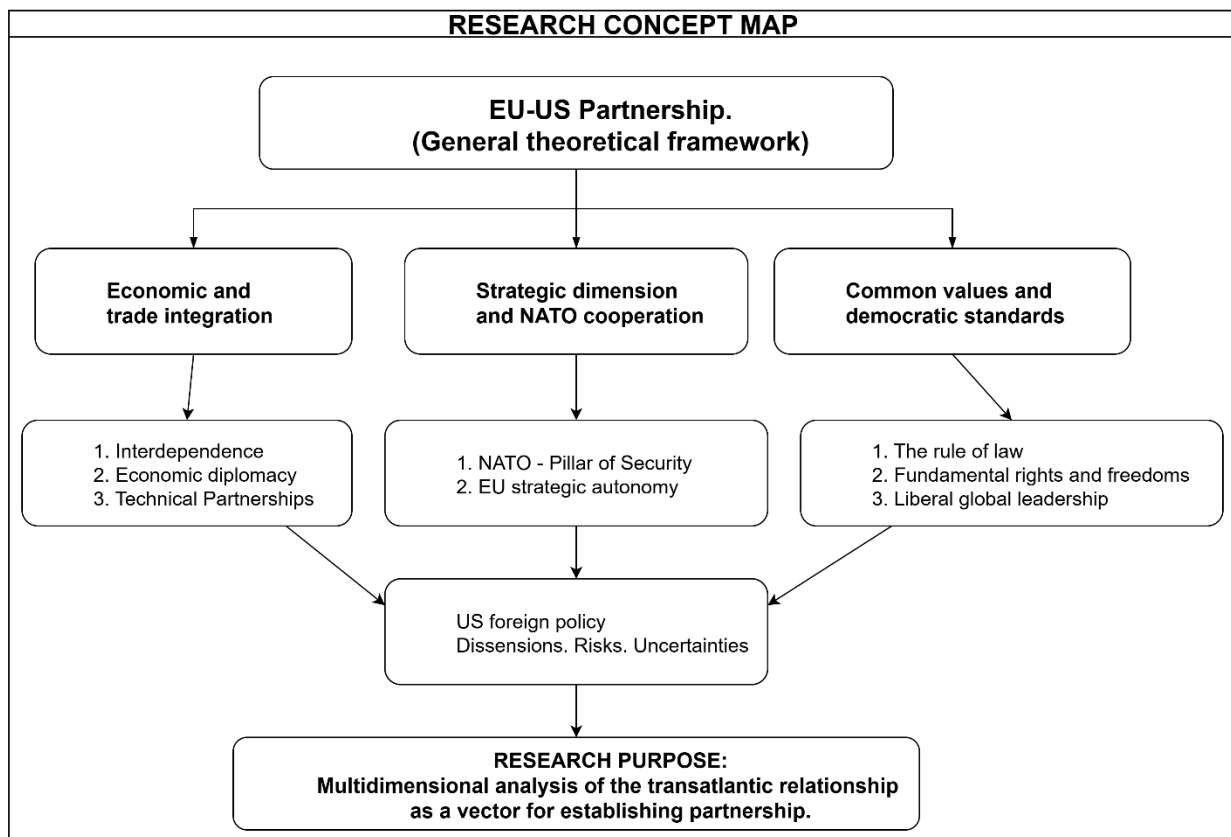


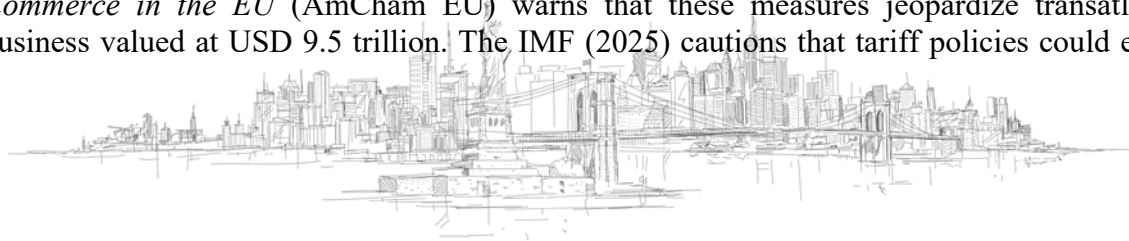
Figure 1. Conceptual map - theoretical foundations of the U.S.-EU partnership

Source: authors' elaboration, 2025



The transatlantic relationship between the European Union and the United States of America has long been studied from a variety of perspectives - economic, strategic, political, and normative. The literature highlights the complexity and multidimensionality of this partnership, as well as the decisive role of democratic values and economic interdependence in strengthening transatlantic cooperation. In this context, Spătaru&Popescu (2024) retain the following: Negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) were launched in 2013 by Obama, Van Rompuy, and Barroso (U.S. Embassy in Romania). The process was stalled during Trump's first term, marked by trade disputes (Airbus–Boeing, U.S. threats of tariffs on European cars, the French digital services tax) and by a “managed trade” approach (T. Gehrke, 2020). Cooperation on standards, beneficial in the context of U.S.-China competition, was not prioritized. In 2020, following Biden's election, the EU proposed a new transatlantic agenda (European Commission, 2020) focused on trade, technology, and WTO reform. The 2021 EU–U.S. summit confirmed a reset in relations. Yet, tensions persisted on sensitive issues such as the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, the AUKUS agreement, which led to the cancellation of France's submarine sale contract, and the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline (Volintiru & Drăgan, 2019; Lišanin, 2021). Several analyses (De Bièvre & Poletti, 2020; Bütke, 2021; Avar & Lin, 2021) emphasized the politicization of trade agreements, the role of private cooperation, and the need for a balanced division of responsibilities. The US-China rivalry and the war in Ukraine define the strategic context. The primary outcome of the 2021 summit was the creation of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC), structured into 10 working groups (European Commission) addressing technology standards, supply chain security, data governance, and SME support. Cooperation is supported by the private sector (Leclerc & Hagemann, 2021) and is seen as a response to U.S.-China competition and Russia's actions in Ukraine (Sharikov, 2022).

We are witnessing, over time, a fluctuating US foreign policy between continuity and discontinuity. A crucial element in analyzing the EU–U.S. relationship is the American foreign policy and its shifts between the Trump and Biden administrations. While Trump's first term marked a relative retreat from multilateralism and a skeptical rhetoric toward traditional alliances, Biden (2021) has proposed a return to U.S. global leadership and cooperation with traditional partners. Despite the shared values and economic interdependence that define the EU-US partnership, the American political context is prone to generating new tensions, especially when Trump returns to the White House. Multiple tensions marked his first administration: criticism of NATO, withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, imposition of tariffs on European products, and blocking of multilateral initiatives. In this context, Fabbrini (2019) argues that the EU might be forced to accelerate its strategic autonomy, including in defense, energy, and technology. These concerns seem to be coming true. With Trump's return, Bergmann (2025) raises questions regarding the extent to which transatlantic relations can revert to a state of normality, given both the unilateralism displayed during his first term and the new initiatives targeting the military sphere and introducing unprecedented protectionist measures. Redefining transatlantic cooperation in the areas of trade, technology, climate, and the transfer of responsibility for European security to European states requires the utmost commitment to prevent the escalation of divergences and the deterioration of alliances painstakingly built over time. In this context, Bergmann advocates for compromise and prudence on both sides as a means of ensuring the continuity of the relationship. Really, the recent return of Donald Trump to the White House led to the reactivation of protectionist tariff policy in 2025, generating significant trade tensions. The new U.S. tariffs target sensitive industries, including steel, aluminum, European wines, and industrial equipment, with a direct impact especially on Germany, the Netherlands, France, and Italy. The *American Chamber of Commerce in the EU* (AmCham EU) warns that these measures jeopardize transatlantic business valued at USD 9.5 trillion. The IMF (2025) cautions that tariff policies could erode

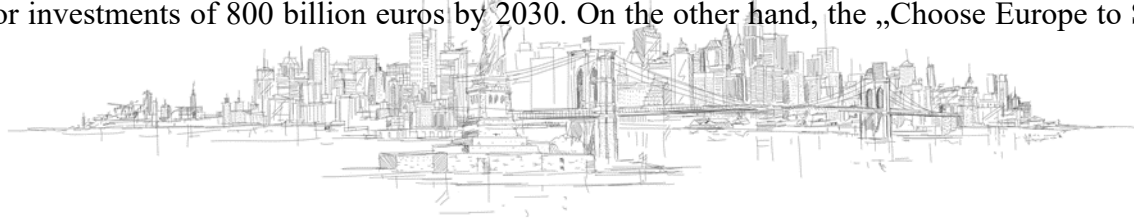


0.7% of annual global GDP if extended to the transatlantic level, especially affecting the open economies of the euro area.

According to KPMG (2025), the fragmentation of global trade and geopolitical risks (Suez, Taiwan, South China Sea) threaten the stability of supply chains, especially in the industrial sectors. The latest *Transatlantic Expansion Barometer* reports an unprecedented decline in European companies' confidence in the U.S. market, partly due to mounting political instability. Growing numbers of transatlantic business leaders identify U.S. tariff uncertainty as the primary strategic barrier to investment. While some firms may consider relocating production to the United States to mitigate tariff exposure, such moves are expected to be costly and slow (Financial Times, 2025). In this context, the risks of strategic decoupling are increasing for the EU. Thus, the green economy, digitalization, and industrial autonomy become EU priorities in front of an increasingly unpredictable American partner (European Commission, 2025, Feb 26). On the other hand, a review of transatlantic economic and trade relations is necessary.

Relevant literature highlights the *economic relationship* between the U.S. and the EU as the largest in the world, with a combined trade and investment volume exceeding USD 2 trillion annually (Hamilton & Quinlan, 2025). According to AmCham EU (2025), American subsidiaries in Europe generate sales four times greater than direct U.S. exports, while European subsidiaries in the U.S. generate sales three times greater than EU exports. According to the latest data, bilateral EU-U.S. trade exceeds €1.5 trillion annually, with an EU trade surplus of €157 billion in 2023. At the same time, the U.S. records a surplus of €109 billion in services provided to the EU, especially in intellectual property and financial services (Bratu, 2025). The transatlantic economic interdependence is further confirmed by the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects (2025), which highlights the complementarity of the industrial structures between the two economies and the resilience of transatlantic supply chains in the face of geopolitical pressures. On the other hand, the EU and the US are key investment partners, with reciprocal flows amounting to €4.7 trillion (2023). American exports to the EU support 2.3 million jobs in the US, while European investments in the US employ 3.4 million people (European Commission, Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security, 2025).

Beyond the economic dimension, the literature also emphasizes the *strategic component of transatlantic relations*. NATO, as the primary framework for military and security cooperation, continues to play a crucial role in the Euro-Atlantic architecture. According to NATO (2022), the partnership with the European Union has undergone significant evolution, particularly in the areas of cyber defense, military mobility, and countering hybrid threats. Biscop (2018) argues that the EU's strategy in the 21st century must balance its geopolitical ambitions with the realities of a transitioning international order. Many articles analyze the tensions between the concept of European strategic autonomy and the need to maintain a strong relationship with the U.S. and NATO. The EU's strategic autonomy represents a response to the weakening transatlantic relationship with the United States and the emergence of a multipolar world order. It reflects the EU's pursuit of the capacity to safeguard its security and assert its interests independently. Member states differ in their views on strategic autonomy: France and partly Germany see it as necessary, while Central and Eastern European countries remain skeptical. However, strategic autonomy does not imply severing ties with NATO or the US; rather, it entails close cooperation alongside the development of the EU's ability to act. The war in Ukraine has highlighted both the EU's reliance on American support and the imperative to strengthen its collective power, including through coordinated political and legislative decision-making (Knutzen, 2022; Helwig, 2023). Strategic autonomy encompasses not only defense but also economic resilience and the promotion of European values. Thus, regarding the EU's strategic autonomy and internal constraints, we remind that the „ReArm Europe Plan" provides for investments of 800 billion euros by 2030. On the other hand, the „Choose Europe to Start



and Scale" strategy aims to develop startups (European Commission, 2025, May 28). However, dependence on American technology (Patriot, HIMARS) and lack of capital limit progress (CRSS, 2025). At the same time, in the given context, should the undisguised admiration between the two leaders, Trump and Putin, give Europeans pause? Here is the chronology of friendly remarks, combining older official or unofficial statements (2007–2024) with recent developments from 2025:

- 2007 – Early admiration. *Larry King Live*: Trump on Putin: “He’s doing a great job in rebuilding the image of Russia and also rebuilding Russia period.” (CNN, 2007)
- 2013 – The “best friend” joke. On Twitter, ahead of the Miss Universe contest in Moscow: “Will Vladimir Putin be my new best friend?” (CNN, 2013)
- 2015 – “He’s a leader.” After Putin calls him “very bright and talented,” Trump responds: “He’s running his country, and at least he’s a leader, unlike what we have in this country.” (CNN, 2015)
- December 2016 – “Very smart.” Praised Putin for delaying retaliation to U.S. sanctions: “Great move on delay (by V. Putin) – I always knew he was very smart!” (CNBC, 2016)
- July 2018 – Helsinki Summit. At the joint press conference: “Our hopes are grounded in America’s desire for friendship, cooperation and peace...” (NPR, 2018)
- June 2019 – “Great guy” at G-20. After meeting Putin in Japan: “He is a great guy... he is a terrific person.” (Reddit, 2019)
- February 12, 2025 – Cordial relationship resumed. First direct call: “very productive”; mutual invitations to a meeting. (Wikipedia, 2025)
- February 18, 2025 – Negotiations through Saudi Arabia. American and Russian officials discuss ending the war and normalizing relations. (The Guardian, 2025)
- February 24, 2025 – Economic discussions. Trump: “major U.S.-Russia economic transactions” in preparation. (The Moscow Times, 2025)

Given that the above list has not undergone an academic review process or rigorous source validation, the information will be classified as belonging to the non-academic domain. Therefore, the cited sources will not be included in the bibliography section. To ensure the utmost analytical accuracy, it is essential to note a significant shift in the tone of the U.S. administration’s foreign policy, which has recently moved from a predominantly cooperative rhetoric to one characterized by explicit pressure for ending the conflict in Ukraine. This evolution culminated in the issuance of a military ultimatum, which expired on 8 August 2025, and in the convening of the *Alaska Summit*, scheduled for 15 August 2025, focusing on the situation in Ukraine and marking the first bilateral meeting held in the United States since 1988.

Last but not least, at the heart of the transatlantic partnership are *common values*: liberal democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental rights. These are not merely symbolic elements but normative foundations that guide international cooperation and define Western identity. Börzel and Risse (2020) argue that these values underpin the capacity of both the EU and the U.S. to influence global governance even in the absence of a “hegemonic state.” Demmelhuber and Youngs (2023) explore the international role of the European Union and the importance of the transatlantic alliance in promoting a liberal order model amid the rise of authoritarian regimes. Whether surprising or not, it has already become a well-known fact that the second Trump administration openly supports European extremist parties that advocate secessionist movements. Smith (2021) examined the interplay between competition and value convergence



between Europe and the U.S., emphasizing the institutional resilience of the partnership despite conjunctural political differences.

Despite the shared values and economic interdependence that define the EU–US partnership, the current American political context is likely to generate new disagreements. Potential tensions include:

- withdrawal of political and financial support for Ukraine;
- erosion of trade cooperation within the TTC (Trade and Technology Council);
- a return to aggressive tariff policies;
- hostile rhetoric towards the EU as an "economic competitor" rather than a "strategic ally."

Recent literature outlines a scenario in which a second Trump administration could not only revive previous disputes but also deepen the fractures between Europe and the US, challenging the very sustainability of the transatlantic partnership.

A recent update (July 27, 2025) from the European Commission appears to ease concerns regarding tariffs temporarily: "We have stabilised on a single 15% tariff rate for the vast majority of EU exports...we have also agreed on zero-for-zero tariffs on several strategic products. This includes all aircraft and component parts, certain chemicals, certain generics, semiconductor equipment, certain agricultural products, natural resources and critical raw materials. And we will keep working to add more products to this list."

Against this backdrop, this research examines the economic and financial aspects of the transatlantic relationship, focusing on trade interdependence, strategic alignment, and the risk of decoupling under renewed U.S. isolationism. This analysis is crucial for understanding Europe's global policy dynamics and guiding proactive strategies for strategic partnerships.

2. METHODOLOGY

Purpose of research

Focusing on the economic and financial dimension and its role in strengthening the EU-US transatlantic partnership, the main aim is to analyze this economic and financial aspect in the context of the current geopolitical situation and the return of the Trump administration.

Research Design

A qualitative and analytical approach is adopted for the current study, with a brief exploratory quantitative component as a secondary supplement.

Data Sources

Primary sources: Official documents from the European Commission and European Parliament, NATO, the U.S. Department of State, and transatlantic economic reports. Secondary sources: Academic articles, international policy studies, editorials, and analyses produced by think tanks.

Period under analysis: 2017–2025, with particular focus on three subperiods:

- Trump Administration 1 (2017–2020),
- Biden Administration (2021–2024),
- from 2025, the Trump 2 administration, with a hypothetical projection for the new Trump term.



Methods and Techniques

The study predominantly employs a descriptive-interpretative method aimed at identifying the connections between economic interdependence and political stability in the EU–U.S. relationship. This is operationalized through the following analytical techniques:

- Document analysis: To extract elements related to public policy and bilateral cooperation,
- Comparative analysis: Examining the differing approaches of the EU and the U.S. in the fields of trade, security, and democratic values,
- Content analysis: applied to speeches, official releases, and strategic reports,
- Quantitative analysis: Based on numerical data derived from official statistics.

Research Questions

Q1: What have been the main dimensions of the EU–U.S. transatlantic partnership in the period 2017–2024?

Q2: How does economic interdependence influence the stability of the political and strategic relationship between the two blocs?

Q3: What are the potential risks and scenarios for the transatlantic relationship under the new Trump administration?

Q4: To what extent can EU strategic autonomy be a viable alternative or merely a complement to the transatlantic alliance?

Q5: Will the protectionist tariff measures of the second Trump administration prove to be a winning bet, or rather a Russian roulette with an uncertain outcome?

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Since Trump's cited trade deficit is the key issue with the EU, we will present a relevant calculation.

Table 1. US trade in goods with the European Union (billions of dollars), 2017-2020 (Trump 1)

US trade in goods with the European Union	Exports goods (billions of dollars)	Imports goods (billions of dollars)	BALANCE (billions of dollars)
Total 2017	283.29	434.87	-151.58
Total 2018	318.49	486.89	-168.40
Total 2019	337.27	515.00	-177.72
Total 2020	232.85	415.43	-182.58
Aggregate value (2017-2020)			-680.28

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the U.S. Census (2025)



In the first Trump mandate (2017-2020), the U.S. experienced a trade deficit in goods with the EU, totaling -\$680 billion.

Table 2. US trade in goods with the European Union (billions of dollars), 2021-2024 (Biden)

US trade in goods with the European Union	Exports goods (billions of dollars)	Imports goods (billions of dollars)	BALANCE (billions of dollars)
Total 2021	272.28	490.34	-218.06
Total 2022	351.03	553.09	-202.06
Total 2023	368.43	576.08	-207.65
Total 2024	369.79	605.66	-235.87
Aggregate value (2021-2024)			-863.64

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the U.S. Census (2025)

In the Biden mandate (2021-2024), the U.S. trade deficit in goods in relation to the EU is increasing to -\$864 billion in aggregate value.

Table 3. US trade in services with the European Union (billions of dollars), 2017-2020 (Trump 1)

US trade in services with the European Union (billions of U.S. dollars)	Exports services	Imports services	BALANCE
Total 2017	260.86	197.80	63.06
Total 2018	270.96	198.18	72.78
Total 2019	287.49	212.14	75.36
Total 2020	185.76	111.35	74.41
Aggregate value (2017-2020)			+285.61

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (2025)

The situation is reversed when we talk about trade in services, where the U.S. is experiencing a trade surplus with the EU, at an agreed total for the period 2017-2020 of +\$286 billion.



Table 4. US trade in services with the European Union (billions of dollars), 2021-2024 (Biden)

US trade in services with the European Union (billions of U.S. dollars)	Exports services	Imports services	BALANCE
Total 2021	206.64	133.80	72.84
Total 2022	248.90	174.21	74.68
Total 2023	262.52	189.23	73.29
Total 2024	294.72	206.13	88.59
Aggregate value (2021-2024)			+ 309.40

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (2025)

The situation is maintained at the trade in services and in the mandate of Biden, where the U.S. registers a trade surplus with the EU, at an agreed total of +\$309 billion.

Total bilateral trade in goods between the EU and the US reached \$975 billion in the most recent year under review (2024). The EU exported goods worth \$606 billion to the US market, while importing \$370 billion; this resulted in a trade surplus in goods for the EU of \$236 billion. Total bilateral trade in services between the EU and the US amounted to \$501 billion in 2024. The EU exported services worth \$206 billion to the US, while importing \$295 billion from the US; this led to a services trade deficit of \$89 billion for the EU. Finally, as highlighted in the literature review, the EU and the US are also critical reciprocal investors. The EU and the U.S. have a deeply integrated economic relationship, characterized by record levels of bilateral trade and investment.

Table 5. U.S. vs. World - Total trade of goods and services (billions of dollars), 2017-2024

	Trump 1 (2017-2020)				Biden (2021-2024)			
U.S.	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Exports of goods and services	2,394.48	2,544.58	2,554.09	2,172.85	2,584.07	3,058.45	3,092.54	3,232.52
Total Imports of goods and services	2,911.42	3,122.08	3,113.36	2,818.89	3,421.34	3,982.17	3,866.74	4,136.06
TOTAL BALANCE G&S	- 516.94	- 577.50	- 559.27	- 646.04	- 837.27	- 923.73	- 774.21	- 903.53

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (2025)



In the period 2017-2020 (during Trump's first term), the USA registered a cumulative trade deficit of goods and services in international trade, with an aggregate value of – \$2,300 billion.

In the period 2021-2024 (Biden), the USA registers a cumulative trade deficit of goods and services in the aggregate value of – \$3,439 billion.

Table 6. US vs. EU_Balance on goods & services (billions of dollars), 2017-2020, 2021-2024

Balance on goods & services (Trump 1) billions of dollars		Balance on goods & services (Biden) billions of dollars	
2017	-89.33 (17.28%)*	2021 (R)	-146.32 (17.47%)*
2018 (R)	-96.57 (16,72%)*	2022 (R)	-128.99 (13.96%)*
2019 (R)	-103.43 (18.49%)*	2023 (R)	-135.40 (17.49%)*
2020 (R)	-109.51 (16.95%)*	2024 (R)	-148.42 (16.40%)*
Aggregate value 2017-2020 (G&S balance)	-398.84 (17.3%)*	Aggregate value 2021-2024 (G&S balance)	-559.13 (16.3%)*

(R) – revised;

**the percentage of the deficit against the EU, compared to the US deficit resulting from the total trade of the US with all countries*

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis – BEA (2025)

It is observed that total trade in goods and services reveals a U.S. trade deficit with the EU, which increases in absolute terms during the Biden administration. However, when expressed as a percentage, the levels remain relatively similar when comparing the two administrations (Trump 1 and Biden).

In contrast, the Trump 2 administration's calculation relies on simple arithmetic regarding the trade deficit with the EU, namely by implementing protectionist tariff measures, specifically an increase in customs duties on goods imported from the EU. And this will, at least in the immediate term, inject more revenue into the U.S. treasury. Moreover, it will force some European manufacturers to move production to the United States, which will then cause increases in domestic employment levels. So far, everything appears favorable for the U.S. administration. Still, it's only half a glass. But what happens next? We will present our reasoning in the answer to research question Q5.



Figure 2 shows the EU's and the U.S.'s share of global goods trade as percentages.

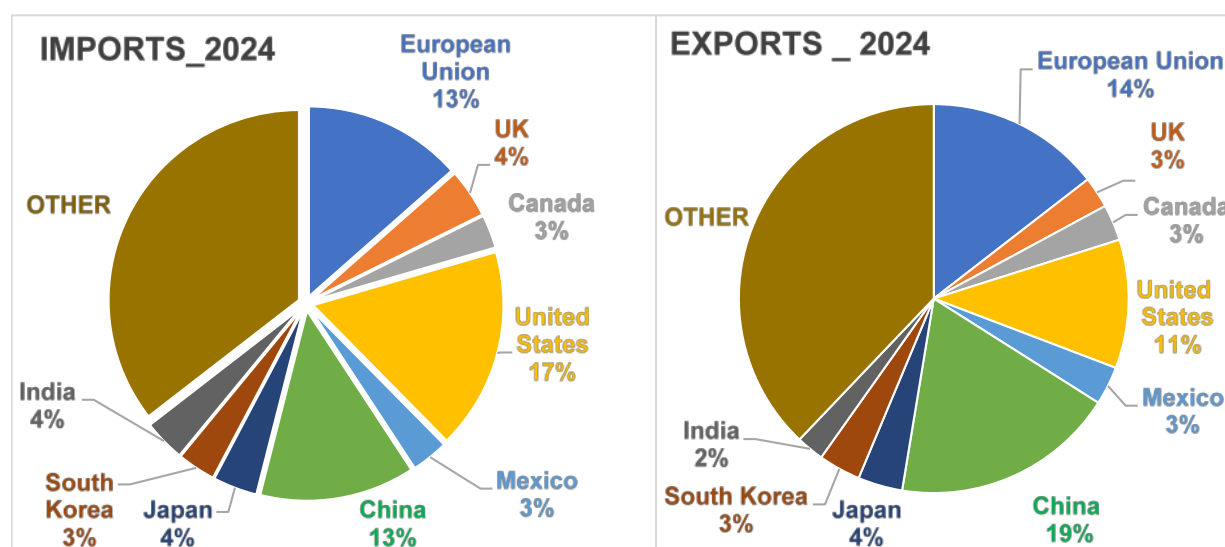


Figure 2. The EU and the United States in global trade in goods

Source: Authors' elaboration based on EUROSTAT data (2025)

We note that the United States is the largest importer of goods, a source of the trade deficit.

Below, we present a value comparison of cumulative trade in goods and services.

Table 7. International trade goods and services (current, trillion of dollars)_2024

2024	UE	U.S.	World
Exports of goods and services	9.85	3.18	32.31
Imports of goods and services	8.99	4.08	31.32
Total Trade	18.84 (29,6%)	7.26 (11,4%)	63.63 (100%)

Source: World Bank, 2025

In 2024, UE and the U.S. jointly accounted for approximately 41% (29.6 + 11.4) of global trade in goods and services (Table 7). Moreover, for the year 2024, World Bank statistics on GDP expressed in constant 2015 prices (\$) indicate that the two economies together contribute 39.7% to the global real GDP, with the United States accounting for \$22.68 trillion and the European Union for \$15.69 trillion, out of a total world GDP of \$96.7 trillion. The data presented gives us an economic and commercial image of the power blocks, but also of the cumulative potential of the two entities.

Answers to the research questions

Most of the answers are found through careful systematization of the relevant literature.

Q1) What have been the main dimensions of the EU–U.S. transatlantic partnership in the period 2017–2024?



The transatlantic partnership has evolved within a multidimensional framework, comprising:

- *Economic dimension*, defined by deep interdependence — mutual EU–U.S. trade and investment exceed USD 2 trillion annually, generating millions of jobs (Hamilton & Quinlan, 2025; AmCham EU, 2025),
- *Strategic dimension*, built on the NATO architecture but strained by European aspirations for autonomy,
- *Normative dimension*, grounded in shared values (democracy, rule of law) but affected by emerging disagreements during the Trump administration,
- *Societal dimension*, where public perceptions and the role of non-state actors shape cooperation,
- *Geopolitical dimension*, shaped by the rise of China and the challenges of a multipolar order.

Q2) How does economic interdependence influence the stability of the political and strategic relationship between the two blocs?

Economic interdependence is indeed a force of cohesion but also a source of tension. So on the one hand, the European Union–U.S. trade and investment network, as it has existed for decades, forms common structural interests for both sides, which reinforce strategic balance. In contrast, trade imbalances (European Union surplus in goods; U.S. dominance in services), unilateral tariff policies, and the threat of industrial decoupling create threats to this balance (FIPRA, 2025; IMF, 2025). Hence, the economic interdependence serves as an “anchor” to maintain the stability of the relationship, but is undermined by either protectionist or aggressive geopolitical actions.

Q3) What are the potential risks and scenarios for the transatlantic relationship under the new Trump administration?

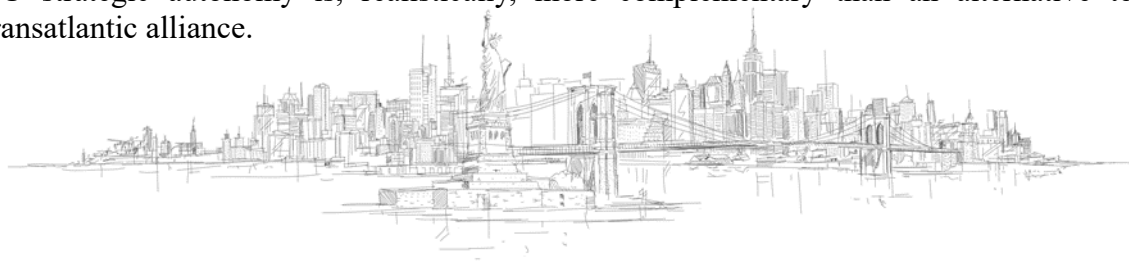
A second Trump term could amplify five significant risks:

- *Tariff risk*: escalation of protectionism (10% - 60% tariffs) with negative impact on European industry (FIPRA, 2025). After the last joint statement, it looks like they'll be reduced by 15%.
- *Weakening of NATO*: possible withdrawal or reduction of U.S. strategic commitment in Europe (Laderman, 2024)
- *Abandonment of support for Ukraine*, with profound implications for the eastern flank and EU unity.
- *Stalemate in digital and technological cooperation* (TTC).
- *Internal political polarization in the EU*, resulting from divergent public perceptions between Eastern and Western Europe, with Eastern Europeans generally having a more favorable view of the Trump administration (Ziare.com, 2025).

In geopolitical terms, Allianz Trade estimates a 45% risk of a global trade war, with cascading effects on the multilateral order (Allianz, 2025, May 20).

Q4) To what extent can EU strategic autonomy be a viable alternative or merely a complement to the transatlantic alliance?

EU strategic autonomy is, realistically, more complementary than an alternative to the transatlantic alliance.



- *Progress in defense* (ReArm Europe: EUR 800 billion by 2030) *and in technological support for startups* (Choose Europe) shows political will for consolidation. However, there are frequent changes of position among member states on the subject of strategic autonomy (Wolf, 2025).
- On the other hand, *technological and financial constraints* (dependence on U.S. Patriot and HIMARS systems, lack of private capital) limit full autonomy (CRSS, 2025).
- Moreover, in the face of shared global threats (China, Russia), *cooperation with the U.S. remains indispensable*, even as the EU develops its international voice.

Thus, strategic autonomy is an essential component of rebalancing the relationship, but not a replacement for the partnership.

Q5: Will the protectionist tariff measures of the second Trump administration prove to be a winning bet, or rather a Russian roulette with an uncertain outcome?

The Trump administration's policy objectives, as described above, aim to enhance tax revenues, stimulate American industry by creating jobs, particularly in the manufacturing sector, and make more advantageous trade deals with America, while potentially reducing costs for consumers in the United States. In the immediate term, this sort of thing is somewhat feasible - at least in terms of raising tax revenues and creating jobs. However, one must ask what the implications would be for prices. For instance, considering the over-tariff of aluminum and steel imports, which are needed by the domestic manufacturing industry, the conclusion is that there is no immediate economic advantage without a strong transfer of production factors to America. Although companies are known to relocate their plants in certain regions, primarily within pharmaceutical production, an underlying observation is that while European exporters remain in the US market, there would be a transfer of the costs (or part of them) from these tariffs to US business customers, and that this would be borne, by US consumers, through inflated prices that only add more fuel to inflationary pressures and diminish purchasing power. This kind of protectionist approach that the Trump administration has promoted is a return to the mercantilist era and defies the idea of a modern economy.

Indeed, the right to be concerned about the growing presence of other superpowers, particularly China, is real, but a trade war with the EU does not seem right for either side. We do not believe it is appropriate to discount the principles established by the founders of capitalist economic theories - the classics, Adam Smith and David Ricardo - who advocated free trade and specialization. Adam Smith introduced the theory of absolute advantage, demonstrating that countries can take advantage of the free market by engaging in trade of goods they produce most economically. David Ricardo made this point in the famous view of comparative advantage, indicating that even among non-powerful countries without actual advantages, they can gain through specializing in the sectors where the relative cost to the government is lowest. Accordingly, free trade and specialization provide efficient utilization of resources, and mutual gains can be gained that increase global wealth. In simple words, free trade is seen as a positive-sum game in which everyone wins.

On the other hand, the Trump administration's trade policy sees a zero-sum game between two parties; in this case, the gain is the loss of one side. The new negotiated tariffs aimed to address the trade deficit with the European Union. For instance, a 15% tariff on \$606 billion of European goods would generate revenue for the US budget. The US-EU trade deficit in 2024, however, stood at about \$148 billion (US-BEA data). The possibility of compensation to the EU of a difference of \$57 billion will, in part, be realized by more exports of energy products and commodities, an issue that the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, has discussed. At its core, the problem is that tariffs will be passed through to American



consumers as increased costs of living, leading to higher prices and inflation, which have adverse side effects, primarily an increase in living costs due to reduced purchasing power.

It is premature to assess whether the strategy adopted by the Trump administration will prove successful. Still, it seems to be a risky bet, the consequences of which will be worth pursuing carefully. The answer to Q5 is still awaited.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The beginning of Trump's second term has stirred instability and volatility in international markets and a rethinking of international trade rules. Will we revert to mercantilism (protectionism) at the expense of the free trade and specialization tenets of Adam Smith and David Ricardo, the founders of capitalist economic theory? Still, the only yardstick for gauging the Trump administration's trade policy is temporal. Scholarly literature highlights how reconfiguring the transatlantic partnership is a strategic imperative, given contemporary geopolitical and economic realities. Even though opinions diverge in areas such as:

- trade — prompted by the Trump administration's protectionist tariffs,
- technology — a space the U.S. advocates for greater deregulation in,
- the environment — with struggles over decarbonization,
- and NATO's future architecture. Both sides need to tackle the differences with accountability.

As EU countries, we ought to promote proactive measures with the United States, including commercial contingency mechanisms (preferential tariffs and reciprocal sectoral agreements), defence capacity reinforcement (co-production of military equipment), continued support for Ukraine and effective sanctions on aggressive Russia, secure protocols for data and technology (common AI-related standards), coordinated management of supply chains and energy. This would guarantee that the EU retains its strategic autonomy in times of geopolitical upheaval while maintaining a stable transatlantic partnership. And the EU must remake itself abroad into an independent actor that negotiates from a position of power. Balancing the need for economic interdependence and stability is also needed; strategic autonomy must be pursued to the fullest extent possible, and the new Trump government's challenges must be tackled pragmatically and with EU unity. We can have this only if the EU actively promotes a stable, coherent global order in a multipolar world.

REFERENCES

1. Allianz Trade (2025, May 20). *Global Survey: Fragmentation and friendshoring: exporters are scrambling to adapt to the trade war*. https://www.allianz-trade.com/en_US/insights/global-survey-2025.html
2. **AmCham EU**. (2025). *Transatlantic business in numbers*. American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union. <https://www.amchameu.eu/publications/transatlantic-economy-2025>
3. **Atlantic Council**. (2024, October 7). *Transatlantic horizons: A collaborative US-EU policy agenda for 2025 and beyond*. <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/report/transatlantic-horizons-a-collaborative-us-eu-policy-agenda-for-2025-and-beyond/>
4. **Avar, Y., & Lin, Y. C.** (2021). Views on the imperative of EU–US relations. *Budapest International Research and Critics Institute-Journal (BIRCI-Journal)*, 4(1), 321–329. <https://doi.org/10.33258/birci.v4i1.1596>



5. **Bergmann, M.** (2025). *The transatlantic alliance in the age of Trump: The coming collisions*. Center for Strategic and International Studies. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/transatlantic-alliance-age-trump-coming-collisions>
6. **Biden, J.** (2021). Why America Must Lead Again: Rescuing U.S. Foreign Policy After Trump. *Foreign Affairs*, 100(1), 64–76.
7. **Biscop, S.** (2018). *European strategy in the 21st century: New future for old power* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429427442>
8. **Bratu, V.** (2025). UE față în față cu SUA [EU face-to-face with the USA]. [Cursdeguvernare.ro](https://www.cursdeguvernare.ro).
9. **Büthe, T.** (2021). Prospects and challenges for transatlantic relations after Trump and Corona. *International Institutions: Politics of International Institutions & Global Governance eJournal*.
10. **CRSS România.** (2025). *Pacea Europei și securitatea României* [Peace in Europe and Romania's security]. Romanian Global News.
11. **De Bièvre, D., & Poletti, A.** (2020). Towards explaining varying degrees of politicization of EU trade agreement negotiations. *Politics and Governance*, 8(1), 243–253. <https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.v8i1.2686>
12. **Demmelhuber, T., & Youngs, R.** (2023). *Strengthening the right to participate: Legitimacy and resilience of electoral processes in illiberal political systems and authoritarian regimes*. European Parliament, Policy Department for External Relations, Directorate General for External Policies of the Union. <https://doi.org/10.2861/781558>
13. **European Commission.** (2020, December 2). *EU–US: A new transatlantic agenda for global change* [Press release]. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2279
14. **European Commission.** (2021, June 15). *EU–US relations: EU–US trade and technology council*. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/june/tradoc_159642.pdf
15. **European Commission.** (2025, February 26). *EU's 2024–2029 priorities: Industrial strategy, green transition, and economic resilience*. Cross-cutting policy. <https://ec.europa.eu>
16. **European Commission.** (2025, May 28), *EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy: 'Choose Europe to Start and Scale'*, Press release.
17. **European Commission.** (2025, July 27). *Statement by President von der Leyen*. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/statement_25_1915/STATEMENT_25_1915_EN.pdf
18. **European Commission.** (2025). *EU trade relations with the United States*. Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security. https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/united-states_en
19. **European Parliament – Fact Sheets on the European Union.** (2025). *The European Union and its trade partners*. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/160/the-european-union-and-its-trade-partners>
20. **Fabbrini, S.** (2019). *Europe's future: Decoupling and reforming*. Cambridge University Press.
21. **Financial Times.** (2025, April 4). *Fraying transatlantic ties will cost companies dearly*. <https://www.ft.com/content/54d1dfe3-7ba6-4838-88a7-fa47bc6bee5c>



22. **FIPRA.** (2025). *What Trump's 2025 return means for US–Europe relations and the global order.* <https://fipra.com/insights/what-trumps-2025-return-means-for-us-europe-relations-and-the-global-order/>
23. **Gehrke, T.** (2020). To integrate trade, technology, and security. Royal Institute for International Relations. <https://www.egmontinstitute.be/transatlantic-trade-isstuck-time-to-integrate-trade-technology-and-security/>
24. **Hamilton, D. S., & Quinlan, J. P.** (2025). *The transatlantic economy 2025* (22nd ed.). Foreign Policy Institute, Johns Hopkins University SAIS/Transatlantic Leadership Network.
25. Helwig, N. (2023). EU Strategic Autonomy after the Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Europe's Capacity to Act in Times of War. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 61(S1), 57-67. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.13527>
26. **IMF.** (2025). *World economic outlook: A critical juncture amid policy shifts.* International Monetary Fund. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2025/04/22/world-economic-outlook-april-2025>
27. **KPMG.** (2025, March 31). *Top geopolitical risks 2025: Opportunities for businesses to navigate uncertainty with confidence* (Publication No. 139887-G). <https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmgsites/xx/pdf/2025/03/top-geopolitical-risks-2025-web.pdf>
28. **Laderman, C.** (2024). With Trump's return, the transatlantic 'great debate' resumes. *Survival*, 66, 7–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00396338.2024.2432189>
29. **Leclerc, J. M., & Hagemann, R.** (2021). Fostering a renewed transatlantic tech relationship. IBM Policy. <https://www.ibm.com/policy/transatlantic-tech-trade-cooperation/>
30. **Lišanin, M.** (2021). Biden administration's transatlantic challenge. *Politika nacionalne bezbednosti*. <https://doi.org/10.22182/pnb.2122021.1>
31. **NATO.** (2022). *Relations with the European Union*. <https://www.nato.int>
32. **Sharikov, P.** (2022). The role of the EU in the US national security strategy. *Scientific and Analytical Herald of IE RAS*. <https://doi.org/10.15211/vestnikieran620221523>
33. **Smit, S., et al.** (2025). *Global economic outlook: Economic conditions outlook 2025*. McKinsey & Company.
34. **Spătaru, C. R., & Popescu, C. C.** (2024). EU–US transatlantic partnership in the context of global competition. *Ovidius University Annals, Economic Sciences Series*, 24(2), 83–91.
35. **Volintiru, C., & Drăgan, G.** (2019). Nous choisissons l'Europe: EU's economic development and current challenges. In *Development in turbulent times* (pp. 61–74). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-11361-2_5
36. Wolf, F. (2025). *Autonomie strategică: Vor rata europenii singura lor șansă?* [Strategic autonomy: Will Europeans miss their only chance?]. **Meta Defense**.
37. **World Bank.** (2025). *Global economic prospects – June 2025*. <https://www.worldbank.org>
38. **World Bank.** (2025). *World development indicators* [Data set]. World Bank. <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>



39. **World Trade Organization.** (2024). *Global trade outlook and statistics.* <https://www.wto.org>
40. **Ziare.com.** (2025). *Cum a influențat întoarcerea lui Trump relațiile transatlantice* [How Trump's return influenced transatlantic relations]. <https://ziare.com/sua/donald-trump-sua-sondaj-europa-1923333>
41. **U.S. Census Bureau.** (2025). *Foreign trade: Balance with the European Union.* <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c0003.html>



MECHANIZATION AND EXTENSION SERVICES IN THE ERA OF BUHARINOMICS: MYTH OR MOMENTUM?

Sadiq, M.S¹

¹Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, FUD, Dutse, Nigeria

E-mail: sadiqsanusi30@gmail.com

ORCID: 0000-0003-4336-5723

Singh, I.P²

²Department of Agricultural Economics, SKRAU, Bikaner, India

ORCID: 0000-0002-1886-5956

Ahmad, M.M³

³Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, BUK, Kano, Nigeria

ORCID: 0000-0003-4565-0683

Sani, B.S⁴

⁴PhD Scholar, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, FUD, Dutse, Nigeria

ORCID: 0000-0001-7773-3796

ABSTRACT

The Buhari administration (2015–2023) in Nigeria introduced a suite of agricultural reform policies aimed at revitalizing the sector, with particular emphasis on mechanization and extension services. This paper critically reviews the implementation and outcomes of these policies within the framework of “Buharinomics”—the economic philosophy associated with President Muhammadu Buhari, assessing whether these initiatives constituted genuine developmental momentum or were largely rhetorical. Drawing on policy documents, national agricultural transformation plans, budgetary allocations, and empirical studies, the paper investigates the scope, scale, and impact of government-led mechanization drives and the revitalization of agricultural extension systems. While the era witnessed policy pronouncements and some structural investments—such as partnerships with foreign equipment suppliers and the deployment of extension agents—implementation gaps, inadequate funding, and bureaucratic inertia limited the overall effectiveness of these programs. The analysis suggests that despite notable initiatives like the Green Imperative Program and the National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy, many promises remained under-delivered, reflecting a disconnect between ambition and execution. The paper concludes that while there was clear policy intent, the Buhari era's achievements in mechanization and extension were more myth than sustained momentum, necessitating a rethinking of institutional frameworks and accountability mechanisms in future interventions.

Keywords: Agriculture, Advisory services, Policy, Nigeria



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Agriculture remains the cornerstone of Nigeria's economy, employing over 70% of the rural population and contributing significantly to food security and poverty reduction. However, productivity in the sector has historically been hampered by limited access to mechanized tools and weak extension services (Takeshima & Lawal, 2020). In response to these longstanding structural deficits, the Buhari administration (2015–2023) undertook a series of agricultural reforms under what many analysts describe as “Buharinomics”—a policy approach combining protectionism, state-led development, and anti-corruption rhetoric (Adeniji & Igwe, 2021).

Buhari's administration rolled out initiatives such as the Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) 2016–2020, aimed at building on the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) of the previous government. The APP emphasized improving access to inputs, mechanization, storage, and extension services as part of the strategy to diversify the economy away from oil dependency (Ojong & Anam, 2018). One of the administration's flagship mechanization programs was the Green Imperative Initiative, a \$1.2 billion bilateral program with Brazil aimed at deploying over 10,000 tractors and 700 Agricultural Equipment Hiring Enterprises (AEHEs) across Nigeria (Takeshima & Lawal, 2020; Ekperiware, 2020; Shaibu, 2023).

Extension services were also prioritized under the National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy (NAEASS), which proposed recruiting and training 75,000 extension agents nationwide (Abdul, 2020). These agents were expected to bridge the knowledge gap between research institutions and smallholder farmers through capacity building, demonstration plots, and technology dissemination.

Despite these initiatives, agriculture during Buhari's tenure was marked by persistent challenges. Farm-level mechanization remained low, hovering at about 0.3 horsepower per hectare, compared to the FAO-recommended minimum of 1.5 hp/ha for meaningful productivity gains (Shaibu, 2023). Likewise, the ratio of extension agents to farmers remained well below the FAO benchmark of 1:800, often averaging 1:10,000 in many states due to underfunding and institutional fragmentation (Etim *et al.*, 2024).

Compounding these technical issues were broader macroeconomic dynamics—such as inflation, insecurity, and border closures—which affected the implementation of these agricultural programs. For instance, the 2019 border closure, aimed at curbing food imports, exacerbated food inflation and underscored the insufficient domestic production capacity despite the push for mechanization (Adeniji & Igwe, 2021; Eborka, 2023).

1.2 Relevance of the Buhari Era

The Buhari years represent a critical juncture in Nigeria's agricultural evolution. For the first time in decades, the federal government attempted a cohesive mechanization agenda and reemphasized public extension systems. Yet, despite laudable blueprints and strategic partnerships, implementation outcomes appear uneven and contested across stakeholders and regions. Scholars and policy analysts continue to debate whether these reforms produced real agricultural transformation or merely reinforced historical patterns of underperformance and political symbolism (Takeshima & Lawal, 2020; Obiakor *et al.*, 2022).

This study therefore seeks to critically interrogate the policy objectives and actual outcomes of Buhari-era interventions, focusing on mechanization and extension services as the analytical entry points into broader agricultural reforms.



1.3 Problem Statement

Despite the Buhari administration's emphasis on repositioning agriculture as a core pillar of national development, Nigeria's performance in agricultural mechanization and extension services remained underwhelming. Mechanization coverage in Nigeria was estimated at less than 1.5 horsepower per hectare (hp/ha) throughout Buhari's tenure—far below the global average of 4.0 hp/ha and the FAO-recommended minimum of 1.5 hp/ha for Sub-Saharan Africa (Shaibu, 2023). This chronic under-mechanization contributed to persistently low yields and high post-harvest losses, particularly among smallholder farmers who dominate the sector.

Equally concerning is the decline in agricultural extension service effectiveness. Though the National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy (NAEASS) aimed to recruit and train over 75,000 extension agents, only a fraction were actually deployed due to fiscal constraints, bureaucratic delays, and unclear federal-state coordination mechanisms (Abdul, 2020). In many regions, the extension-to-farmer ratio remained as poor as 1:10,000, drastically limiting the dissemination of modern farming techniques (Etim *et al.*, 2024).

The flagship Green Imperative Programme, a \$1.2 billion mechanization initiative in partnership with Brazil, also failed to meet rollout targets. While thousands of tractors and equipment hubs were promised, less than 20% of these assets had been procured or distributed by the end of 2022 (Takeshima & Lawal, 2020). Moreover, logistical inefficiencies, corruption in procurement chains, and lack of local manufacturing capacity further constrained the initiative's success (Obiakor *et al.*, 2022).

Additionally, food security worsened under Buhari, despite the implementation of protectionist policies such as land border closures in 2019. The policy, aimed at boosting local production, instead triggered food inflation, reduced access to cross-border inputs, and revealed the fragility of Nigeria's domestic agricultural base (Adeniji & Igwe, 2021; Eborka, 2023).

Given these paradoxes—bold policy pronouncements and underwhelming outcomes—this study asks: Were Buhari-era mechanization and extension service reforms a genuine developmental momentum or merely a political myth cloaked in technocratic language?

1.4 Justification for the Study

There are several compelling reasons for conducting this research at this moment:

1. **Policy Learning and Continuity:** As Nigeria transitions into a new administration, critical evaluation of past agricultural policies is essential for guiding future interventions. A granular understanding of the Buhari era's successes and failures can help policymakers avoid repeating the same systemic errors.
2. **Empirical Accountability:** While Buhari's agricultural programs have been praised in government reports and political rhetoric, independent academic evaluation is sparse. This study provides an evidence-based assessment that cuts through narratives to evaluate policy outcomes on mechanization and extension systems.
3. **Economic Relevance:** Agriculture remains central to Nigeria's diversification agenda, and improvements in mechanization and extension services have a direct impact on rural employment, food security, and poverty reduction. As such, identifying the constraints and opportunities in these subsectors is of national importance.
4. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Nigeria's commitment to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) hinges largely on the agricultural sector's performance. This review highlights how policy-practice gaps in the Buhari era may have hindered progress toward these global goals (Ojong & Anam, 2018).



5. Regional Implications: Given Nigeria's position as a regional agricultural powerhouse, the failure or success of its agricultural modernization programs carries implications for West African food systems and regional trade dynamics.

By addressing these dimensions, this study contributes not only to academic discourse but also to pragmatic policy debates on how to build resilient agricultural systems in the face of climate stress, rural underdevelopment, and economic volatility.

1.5 Research Objectives

1. To assess the level of agricultural mechanization under the Buhari administration.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of agricultural extension services from 2015–2023.
3. To determine whether the reforms represented substantive progress or policy symbolism.

2.0 Theoretical Framework

Understanding the dynamics of agricultural mechanization and extension service reform in the Buhari era necessitates a multi-theoretical lens. This study adopts an interdisciplinary theoretical approach drawing from (1) Modernization Theory, (2) Rogers' Diffusion of Innovations Theory, and (3) the Institutional Theory of Development. Each of these frameworks provides insight into the complex policy, social, and economic structures influencing mechanization and knowledge dissemination in Nigerian agriculture.

2.1 Modernization Theory

Modernization theory, particularly as articulated by Walt Rostow's "Stages of Economic Growth", postulates that societies progress through five developmental stages, culminating in the "age of high mass consumption" (Rostow, 1960). A critical phase within this progression is the "take-off" stage, where investment in technology—including agricultural mechanization—enables productivity surges across sectors.

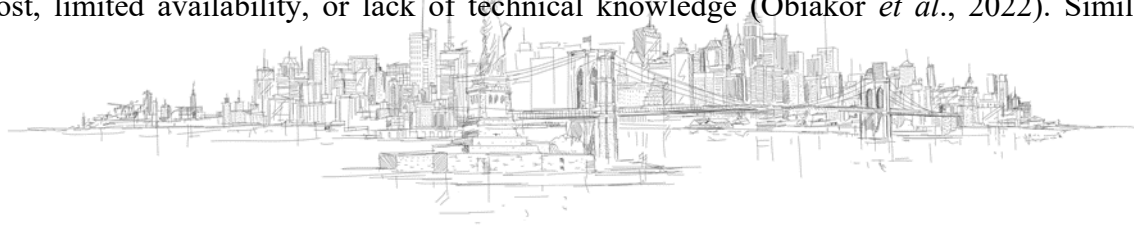
Buhari's agricultural strategy, particularly through the Green Imperative and APP 2016–2020, was explicitly geared toward this kind of structural transformation. The promotion of tractors, tillers, and processing hubs was intended to substitute traditional labor-intensive tools and transition Nigeria's agriculture from a subsistence-based model to a more commercially viable and export-ready sector (Takeshima & Lawal, 2020).

However, critics argue that the take-off was only partially achieved due to the lack of supporting infrastructure, financial inclusion, and policy coherence—factors that modernization theory often assumes will develop organically. In the Nigerian context, this assumption did not hold true, as the state-led drive lacked a robust private-sector interface and failed to build sufficient institutional capacity (Shaibu, 2023).

2.2 Rogers' Diffusion of Innovations Theory

Everett Rogers' Diffusion of Innovations Theory provides a behavioral and communication framework for understanding how new technologies—like tractors or digital advisory platforms—are adopted within farming communities (Rogers, 2003). The theory emphasizes five key factors influencing adoption: relative advantage, compatibility, complexity, trialability, and observability.

In Nigeria, despite the availability of some mechanized technologies, adoption among smallholder farmers remained low. Studies show that even where AEHEs (Agricultural Equipment Hiring Enterprises) were introduced, most farmers could not access services due to cost, limited availability, or lack of technical knowledge (Obiakor *et al.*, 2022). Similarly,



extension agents reported challenges in communicating innovations effectively due to language barriers, mobility issues, and insufficient training (Etim *et al.*, 2024).

Rogers' model thus explains the policy-to-practice disconnect: technologies introduced during the Buhari administration were not always compatible with local contexts or were too complex for rapid integration without tailored training programs and sustained extension services.

2.3 Institutional Theory of Development

Institutional theory highlights the role of formal and informal structures—rules, norms, and routines—in shaping development outcomes. It argues that "isomorphic mimicry"—copying policies that work elsewhere without adapting them to local realities—can result in implementation failure (Andrews, Pritchett & Woolcock, 2017). This framework is particularly useful in analyzing why mechanization and extension service programs under Buhari often underperformed despite appearing sound on paper.

The Green Imperative, for instance, was modeled after Brazil's success with machinery co-operatives and equipment leasing hubs. Yet, Nigeria lacked the enabling institutional conditions—such as strong cooperatives, maintenance infrastructure, and a viable rural credit system—to replicate this model successfully (Takeshima & Lawal, 2020). Additionally, bureaucratic fragmentation between federal and state agricultural bodies further diluted implementation efforts (Abdul, 2020).

Thus, while institutional theory explains the failure of policy transplantation, it also points to the need for adaptive learning, local ownership, and administrative decentralization as prerequisites for successful agricultural transformation.

Collectively, these theories explain why agricultural mechanization and extension services under Buharinomics produced mixed results:

- Modernization theory justifies the government's investment thrust but overlooks institutional and social bottlenecks.
- Diffusion theory highlights farmer-level adoption barriers and the importance of sustained knowledge transfer.
- Institutional theory explains systemic failures due to weak governance, limited accountability, and poor contextual adaptation.

By integrating these lenses, the study provides a holistic understanding of both the ambition and limitations of Buhari-era agricultural policy.

3.0 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework offers a structured representation of how variables and concepts interact within a study. For this research, the framework connects policy intentions, intervention mechanisms, and agricultural outcomes, within the broader political-economic environment shaped by Buharinomics.

The Buhari administration's approach to agriculture can be understood through a *Results-Based Logic Model*, where inputs and activities are designed to generate immediate outputs, intermediate outcomes, and long-term impact.



3.1 Core Constructs

Table 1: Constructs

Concept	Description
Buharinomics	A political-economic ideology under President Buhari characterized by state-driven development, protectionism, and a focus on rural empowerment.
Mechanization Initiatives	Programs such as the Green Imperative and AEHEs meant to improve access to tractors, harvesters, and processing machines.
Extension Services	Deployment and training of agricultural extension agents to bridge the knowledge gap between research and farm practice.
Institutional Support	Governance structures, coordination mechanisms, and budgetary allocations that underpin the implementation of agricultural programs.
Outcomes	Increased farm productivity, technology adoption, reduced post-harvest losses, and improved food security.

Source: Authors' own synthesis, 2025

3.2 Pathways of Interaction

Input Level

- Federal policy initiatives (APP, NAEASS, Green Imperative)
- Capital investment (tractors, hubs, training programs)

Process Level

- Recruitment and training of extension agents
- Deployment of mechanization through AEHEs
- Farmer outreach and capacity-building exercises

Output Level

- Number of functioning tractors and AEHE centers
- Extension agent-to-farmer ratio improvements
- Farmer awareness and demonstration events conducted

Outcome Level

- Improved yields per hectare
- Reduction in manual labor dependency
- Wider technology adoption among rural farmers
- Greater self-sufficiency and resilience in food systems



3.3 Conceptual Framework of Agricultural Modernization Under Buharinomics

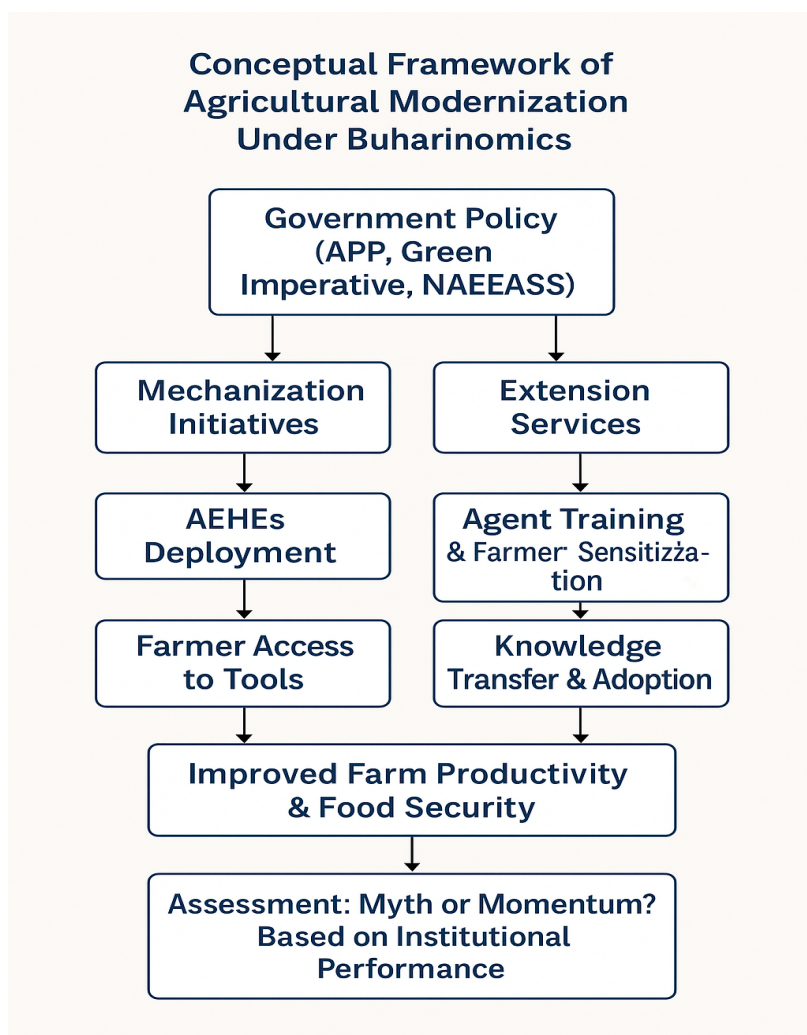


Figure 1: Conceptual framework

Source: Python, 2025

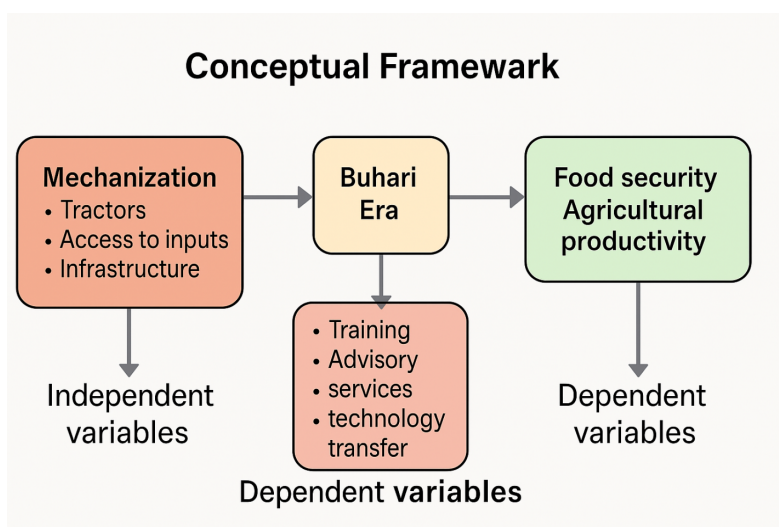
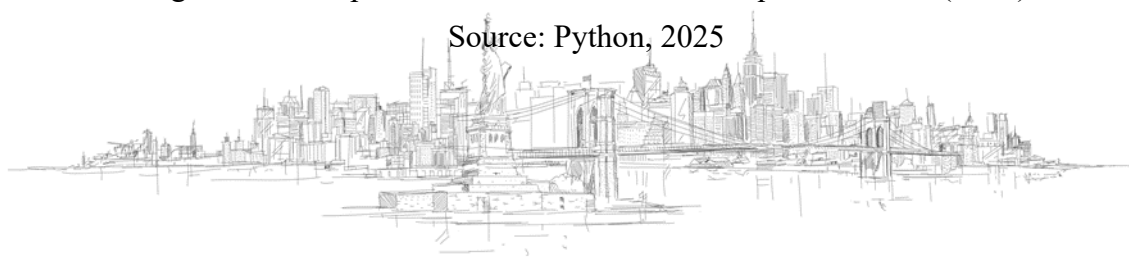


Figure 2: Conceptual framework of structural equation model (SEM)

Source: Python, 2025



3.4 Underlying Assumptions

- That government policy is effectively implemented at both federal and state levels.
- That mechanization and extension are complementary, not isolated.
- That institutional and infrastructural barriers (e.g., road networks, corruption, power supply) are minimized for optimal results.
- That farmer behavior (adoption, investment, engagement) responds to both incentives and education (Ojong & Anam, 2018; Etim *et al.*, 2024).

3.5 Justification of Framework

This conceptual model helps frame the study's core research question: *Were Buhari-era mechanization and extension service reforms mere policy rituals or did they produce tangible outcomes?*

By isolating outputs (number of tractors, agents, trainings) from outcomes (increased adoption, yield gains), the framework supports an analytical evaluation of whether policy translated into practice, and whether the practice delivered real results.

4.0 Research Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative meta-analytical approach to evaluate the scope, effectiveness, and institutional outcomes of agricultural mechanization and extension service reforms in Nigeria under President Muhammadu Buhari (2015–2023). The methodology blends desk-based content analysis, policy evaluation, and comparative performance benchmarking.

4.1 Research Design

A descriptive-explanatory research design is employed to trace the policy lifecycle—from conceptualization to implementation and outcome. This design allows for critical comparison of what was planned (policy intent) versus what was achieved (empirical reality).

This is suitable for unpacking complex governance frameworks and their translation into agricultural interventions, especially in low- and middle-income country (LMIC) contexts like Nigeria (Takeshima & Lawal, 2020).

4.2 Sources of Data

4.2.1 Primary Sources

- Not applicable in this review-based study. No field surveys or original interviews were conducted.

4.2.2 Secondary Sources

Data and materials were gathered from the following:

- Government documents:
 - *Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) 2016–2020*
 - *National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy (NAEASS)*
 - Reports from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)
- International organization reports:
 - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)



- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Peer-reviewed academic literature: Journals indexed in Google Scholar, ResearchGate, and IntechOpen between 2018–2024.
- Grey literature: Academic theses, local evaluation reports, and media policy briefs that provide insight into implementation gaps.

4.3 Sampling Method

A purposive sampling strategy was used to select documents, reports, and peer-reviewed papers that:

- Were published between 2015 and 2024.
- Directly address agricultural mechanization or extension services in Nigeria.
- Reference specific Buhari-era programs such as the Green Imperative or APP.
- Provide either evaluative evidence or qualitative policy analysis.

At least 25 relevant sources were triangulated for the analysis, ensuring coverage from multiple disciplinary perspectives: agricultural economics, rural development, and public policy.

4.4 Data Analysis Technique

4.4.1 Content and Thematic Analysis

A content analysis was used to extract recurring themes, metrics, and gaps. Key themes included:

- Mechanization infrastructure deployment
- Extension workforce performance
- Farmer-level adoption
- Funding and policy implementation gaps

These themes were then analyzed through a thematic coding framework grounded in institutional performance theory and Rogers' innovation diffusion model (Rogers, 2003; Andrews et al., 2017).

4.4.2 Policy Implementation Assessment

The Policy Implementation Gap Model was employed to assess:

- The variance between policy design and implementation outcomes
- Whether observed bottlenecks were due to institutional, fiscal, or social failures

This approach is especially critical in LMIC governance studies where “implementation asymmetry” is common (Andrews *et al.*, 2017; Abdul, 2020).

4.5 Limitations of the Methodology

- Lack of Primary Data: The study does not incorporate firsthand fieldwork, which limits its ability to measure real-time farmer experiences.
- Variability in Data Quality: Some government-reported metrics lacked consistency or verification from independent third-party evaluations.
- Regional Bias: Some reviewed studies focus more on southern states (e.g., Cross River, Ogun) than on northern zones, potentially under-representing regional diversity.



Nevertheless, triangulating multiple authoritative sources helps mitigate these limitations and provides a robust empirical foundation for policy evaluation.

5.0 Results and Discussion

This section presents an evidence-based appraisal of the performance, shortcomings, and institutional bottlenecks of agricultural mechanization and extension service delivery during the Buhari administration. The discussion is organized around five thematic pillars: mechanization progress, extension service reach, institutional capacity, regional and gender disparities, and overall impact on food security.

5.1 Agricultural Mechanization: Ambition vs. Reality

The Buhari administration's flagship mechanization policy—the Green Imperative Programme—was launched in 2019 as a \$1.2 billion public-private partnership with Brazil aimed at delivering over 10,000 tractors, 700 Agricultural Equipment Hiring Enterprises (AEHEs), and 10,000 service technicians nationwide. However, the implementation of this project stalled. According to Shaibu (2023), as of late 2022, less than 2,000 tractors had been deployed, with most states lacking the enabling infrastructure and managerial framework to host AEHEs.

Similarly, the Agricultural Promotion Policy (APP) 2016–2020 included plans to increase mechanization by 30%. However, Takeshima and Lawal (2020) found that mechanization intensity remained at 0.3 hp/hectare, far below the Sub-Saharan Africa average of 1.3 hp/ha and the FAO's threshold of 1.5 hp/ha needed to raise productivity.

Additionally, Buhari-era investments in local machinery production did not take off. Nigeria continued to rely on expensive imports while local fabricators lacked technical and financial capacity (Akinbamowo, 2013; Igoni, 2018).

Conclusion: While policy intent was robust, the absence of decentralized planning, infrastructure, and institutional accountability led to poor outcomes in mechanization delivery.

5.2 Extension Services: Poor Reach and Sustainability

The National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy (NAEASS) promised to train and deploy 75,000 extension agents by 2022. Yet, government figures show only about 15,000 agents were recruited, and less than 10,000 were active by 2023 (Etim *et al.*, 2024). The result was a national extension-to-farmer ratio of 1:10,000, well below the recommended 1:800.

Moreover, several agents were not paid, poorly equipped, and rarely received refresher training. A field study in Cross River revealed that female agents were disproportionately underutilized due to gender stereotyping and institutional biases (Etim *et al.*, 2024). Others noted that agent mobility was severely constrained by lack of motorcycles, allowances, or digital tools (Abdul, 2020).

Observation: The centralization of extension reforms at the federal level, with inadequate state collaboration, hampered service delivery. Poor digitalization also limited outreach, especially during COVID-19.

5.3 Institutional Bottlenecks and Policy Incoherence

Implementation weaknesses stemmed not only from funding gaps but also from institutional dysfunctions. The Buhari administration often replicated global best practices—such as Brazil's tractor-leasing model—without adapting to Nigeria's fragmented agricultural governance. According to Andrews *et al.* (2017), this is a case of *isomorphic mimicry*, where policies are copied without building matching capacities.



For instance, many AEHE centers were established without consultations with state agencies or cooperative societies, leading to poor utilization (Shaibu, 2023). The FMARD and state Ministries of Agriculture operated in silos, with overlapping functions and unclear responsibilities, especially in equipment maintenance and extension training (Ojong & Anam, 2018).

5.4 Regional Disparities and Gender Gaps

Mechanization access and extension coverage varied across regions. Southern states like Ogun and Cross River performed better due to relative peace and more responsive subnational governance (Obiakor *et al.*, 2022). Conversely, North-East and North-West states—plagued by insecurity—saw disrupted farming activities and lower program coverage (Eborka, 2023).

In terms of gender, Etim *et al.* (2024) found that female farmers were less likely to benefit from both extension training and mechanized services, particularly in patriarchal communities. Cultural norms, land access limitations, and a lack of gender-sensitive programming reinforced this gap.

Insight: Agricultural modernization during Buharinomics failed to integrate inclusion and localization, reinforcing old inequalities while introducing new inefficiencies.

5.5 Impact on Food Security and Agricultural Output

Despite efforts to promote domestic production, food security indicators deteriorated during the Buhari era. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported food inflation surpassing 22% in 2021, partly due to the 2019 land border closures, insecurity, input price spikes, and ineffective mechanization scaling (Adeniji & Igwe, 2021; Eborka, 2023).

Cassava and maize production saw some regional improvements, especially where extension services were functional (Tanko *et al.*, 2019). But across the country, poor access to irrigation, mechanized services, and certified seeds kept yields below targets.

Additionally, Buhari's Anchor Borrowers' Programme (ABP) suffered from poor recovery rates, politicized allocations, and low impact on mechanization access (Ekperiware, 2020). In many cases, farmers who received loans still hired labor manually due to a lack of access to equipment or AEHE facilities.

5.6 Summary Table of Key Outcomes

Metric	Target	Actual (2015–2023)	Outcome	Source
Tractors under Green Imperative	10,000	~1,800 (18%)	delivered	Shaibu (2023)
Extension (NAEASS goal)	agents 75,000	~15,000 <10,000 active	recruited;	Etim <i>et al.</i> (2024)
Mechanization density	≥1.5 hp/ha	0.3 hp/ha achieved		Takeshima & Lawal (2020)
Food inflation (target: <10%)	(target: <10%)	22% peak in 2021		NBS; Okoro (2021)



Extension-farmer ratio	1:800	(FAO benchmark)	1:10,000	(national average)	Abdul (2020)
Gender parity in extension access	40%	female participation	<25% in most zones		Etim <i>et al.</i> (2024)

Source: Authors' synthesis, 2025

6.0 Conclusion

This review examined the agricultural modernization agenda of the Buhari administration (2015–2023) with a specific focus on two critical components: mechanization and extension services. Drawing on academic evidence, policy evaluations, and development reports, the findings reveal a dichotomy between policy ambition and on-ground reality.

Despite commendable efforts—such as the Green Imperative, APP 2016–2020, and NAEASS—the outcomes of these reforms were largely underwhelming. Mechanization intensity remained abysmally low at 0.3 hp/hectare compared to the FAO-recommended 1.5 hp/hectare, while less than 20% of the projected tractors and AEHEs under the Green Imperative were deployed by 2023. Similarly, extension service reforms failed to reach scale, with fewer than 15,000 new agents deployed nationwide, yielding an ineffective farmer-to-agent ratio of 1:10,000.

Institutional fragmentation, funding shortfalls, and implementation bottlenecks—aggravated by insecurity, inflation, and poor infrastructure—undermined the overall effectiveness of these reforms. Thus, while Buharinomics offered a structured blueprint for revitalizing Nigerian agriculture, its mechanization and extension components yielded more policy symbolism than sustained momentum.

7.0 Recommendations

To move from myth to meaningful progress, future administrations should consider the following recommendations:

7.1 Reengineer Mechanization Strategies

- Decentralize AEHE operations to local cooperatives and community-based organizations, ensuring greater ownership and maintenance.
- Incentivize private sector participation in tractor leasing and spare part distribution to reduce over-reliance on foreign machinery.
- Invest in local fabrication hubs to produce affordable implements suited to regional agro-ecologies.

7.2 Strengthen Extension Systems

- Increase federal and state budget allocations to support the recruitment, training, and digitalization of extension workers.
- Incorporate ICT-enabled extension services (e.g., SMS advisory, radio broadcasts, WhatsApp support groups) to extend outreach, especially during crises like COVID-19.
- Mainstream gender-sensitive approaches to ensure that women farmers are targeted in training, credit, and mechanization access.



7.3 Institutional Coordination and Reform

- Clarify the federal-state institutional roles in agricultural programs to avoid duplication and ensure accountability.
- Establish an Agricultural Policy Implementation Council (APIC) with representation from FMARD, ADPs, and civil society to track and audit reform outcomes.

7.4 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

- Create a national dashboard for real-time tracking of extension coverage, mechanization density, and farmer feedback.
- Implement third-party evaluations of mechanization and extension programs to promote transparency and continuous improvement.

8.0 Policy Implications

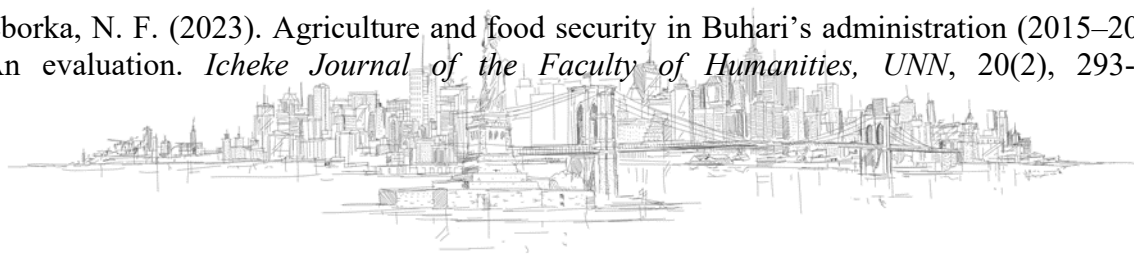
The experience of Buharinomics illustrates a broader pattern in Nigerian agricultural policy: well-designed policies often fail due to weak implementation capacity. Future agricultural transformation plans must address:

- Systemic governance weaknesses
- Local capacity deficits
- Inclusivity and rural participation

If mechanization and extension services are to catalyze agricultural growth, they must be embedded in localized, flexible, and well-resourced institutional frameworks. This is essential not just for food security, but also for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, SDG 8 – Decent Work, and SDG 9 – Industry and Innovation).

REFERENCES

- Abdul, I. M. (2020). *Food security challenge and the efficiency of agricultural extension services in Nigeria*. *Journal of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development*, 6(2), 30-37. https://www.jaees.org/documents/vol_6_num_2/food_security_challenge_of_agricultural_extensions_in_nigeria.pdf
- Abubakar, A., Gambo, J., & Umar, S. (2021). An overview of the effects of some agricultural policies in Nigeria-1960-2020. *Nigeria Agricultural Journal*, 52(3), 151-162.
- Adeniji, A., & Igwe, E. (2021). Nigeria's Foreign Trade Policy and Economic Relations China under President Buhari's Administration, 2015-2020. *Zamfara Journal of Politics and Development*, 2(1), 26.
- Ekperiware, M. (2020). Agricultural sector value chain and government policy in Nigeria: issues, challenges and prospects. *African Journal of Economic and Management Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/AJEMS-03-2019-0103>. <https://www.academia.edu/download/96459400/ajems-03-2019-010320221228-1-19oelsa.pdf>
- Akinbamowo, R. O. (2013). A review of government policy on agricultural mechanization in Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development*, 5(8), 146–153.
- Andrews, M., Pritchett, L., & Woolcock, M. (2017). *Building State Capability: Evidence, Analysis, Action* (p. 288). Oxford University Press.
- Eborka, N. F. (2023). Agriculture and food security in Buhari's administration (2015–2022): An evaluation. *Icheke Journal of the Faculty of Humanities, UNN*, 20(2), 293-304.



<https://ichekejournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/22.-Agriculture-and-Food-Security-in-Buharis-Administration-2015-2022.pdf>

Eheazu, C. L. (2017). The place of environmental adult education in the enhancement of rural occupational practices and sustainable socio-economic development to foster reversal of Nigeria" s economic downtown. *Journal of Resources Development and Management*, 28, 49-56.

Etim, O. U., Ogar, P. O., Aya, C. F., Obono, G. I., & Asghar, G. (2024). Comparative analysis of factors affecting effective participation in agricultural extension services among male and female extension agents in the Cross River State Agricultural Development Project (CR-ADP). *International Journal of Social Sciences and Management Research*, 10(6). <https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/86819>

Igoni, A. H. (2018). Understanding the Niger Delta environment for sustainable agricultural mechanization. *Annual Lecture/Awards Ceremony of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Port Harcourt Branch, Rivers State, Nigeria*. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.19828.81289

Nazifi, B., Hussaini, Y.I. (2021). Determinants of participation in contract farming among smallholder maize farmers in north-western Nigeria. *Acta Sci. Pol. Agricultura*, 20(4), 147–160. DOI: 10.37660/aspagr.2021.20.4.2

Obiakor, S. C., Ehiosun, P. E., & Ademiluyi, Y. S., et al., Onyemize, U.C. (2022). Mechanization level of cassava processing in Cross River State. *Journal of Agricultural Mechanization (AGRIMECH)*, II(2), 112–117. <https://www.agrimechjournal.ng/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/LAST-EDITION-OF-AGRIMECH-journal-2022.pdf#page=118>

Ojong, F. E., & Anam, B. E. (2018). Agricultural promotion policy and rural development in Nigeria: Challenges and prospects. *Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 23(2), 24-29. <https://staff.tiame.uz/storage/users/43/articles/ufNH89h2b2thW6LleDPazb2pGHGnxsS1CAyJ5aXS.pdf>

Rogers, E. M. (2003). *Diffusion of Innovations* (5th ed.). Free Press.

Shaibu, U.M. (2024). *Agricultural Sector Policy Periods and Growth Pattern in Nigeria (1960–2020): Implications on Agricultural Performance*. IntechOpen. doi: 10.5772/intechopen.111382

Takeshima, H., & Lawal, A. (2020). Evolution of agricultural mechanization in Nigeria. *An evolving paradigm of agricultural mechanization development: How much can Africa learn from Asia*, 423-456.

Tanko, Y., Kang, C.Y., & Islam, R. (2019). Impact of rural infrastructure on rice productivity in Kano State, Nigeria. *European Academic Journal*, 7(1), 286-311.



THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: A CASE STUDY FROM THE RUGOVA REGION, MUNICIPALITY OF PEJA

Selvije Lajqi

Msc., Faculty of Management in Tourism, Hospitality and Environment, University “Haxhi Zeka”, Pejë, Kosovo

E-mail: selvije.lajqi@student.unhz.eu

Soreja Adzajlic

Faculty of Management in Tourism, Hospitality and Environment, University “Haxhi Zeka”, Pejë, Kosovo

ABSTRACT

Sustainable development strives to balance economic growth with environmental protection. However, in many regions, rapid development leads to pollution and depletion of natural resources.

Objective: This study examines how economic development in Rugova (Peja, Kosovo) affects environmental sustainability, identifies key drivers of degradation, and assesses local community perceptions.

Methods: Employing a mixed-methods approach, primary data were collected via structured questionnaires from 84 local residents. Secondary sources included scientific studies and official reports. Statistical analysis evaluated links between economic activities and environmental indicators.

Results: Findings indicate that economic expansion—driven by industrial and tourism activities—has negatively impacted air and water quality, river waste management, and natural resource health. Residents strongly link visible environmental changes with economic pressures.

Conclusions: The results demonstrate an urgent need for sustainable resource-management policies in Rugova. Recommended actions include enforcing environmental regulations, community-based monitoring, and integrating sustainability into regional development strategies. These data-driven insights are valuable for policymakers and stakeholders seeking long-term ecological resilience.

Keywords: sustainable development; economic growth; environmental impact; pollution; resource management



INTRODUCTION

Economic development must go hand in hand with environmental protection, particularly in regions of high natural and ecological value such as Rugova, in the Municipality of Peja. Economic activities, especially tourism and construction, have contributed to environmental degradation due to pollution and poor management of natural resources.

The concept of sustainable development, which seeks to balance economic growth, environmental preservation, and social inclusion, is essential for ensuring long-term well-being. Research shows that countries implementing effective environmental policies are more capable of reducing the negative impacts of development.

This study examines the challenge of balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability in the Rugova region—an area that presents both high economic potential and ecological sensitivity.

Previous literature (Andreoni & Levinson, 2001; Dinda, 2004; Schandl, 2016; Wang, 2021) indicates that pollution tends to increase in the early stages of economic development, but in later stages, countries that adopt sustainable policies manage to reduce environmental pressure. This underscores the importance of proactive environmental policymaking at the local level, as in the case of Peja, to ensure balanced and sustainable development.

Research Aim

This study aims to:

- Analyze the impact of economic development on environmental sustainability in Kosovo, with a specific focus on the Rugova region in the Municipality of Peja.
- Assess the extent of natural resource utilization and the management of protected areas in the study region.
- Identify the main limitations to achieving sustainable economic development.
- Highlight the connection between environmental protection and economic growth through the adoption of green technologies and sustainable resource management.

Research Questions

1. What is the impact of economic development on environmental sustainability in Kosovo?
2. What is the impact of economic development on environmental sustainability in Peja, specifically in the Rugova region?

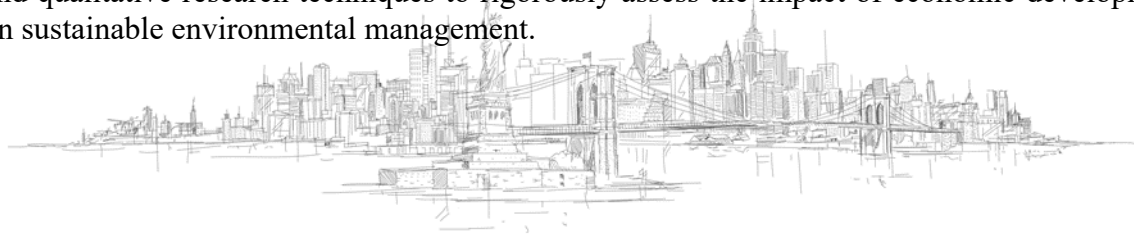
Research Hypotheses

- H1: Economic development has a negative impact on environmental sustainability in Kosovo.
- H2: Economic development has a negative impact on environmental sustainability in Peja, particularly in the Rugova region.

These hypotheses will be tested using data collected through questionnaires and analyzed using the SPSS statistical software.

Research Methodology

This study employs a comprehensive mixed-methods approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative research techniques to rigorously assess the impact of economic development on sustainable environmental management.



Data Collection: Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire administered to 84 respondents from the local community in Rugova, Peja. The survey instrument was carefully designed to capture perceptions and experiences regarding natural resource management and the environmental consequences of economic activities. Additionally, secondary data sources, including peer-reviewed literature, official reports, and relevant institutional documents, were utilized to provide theoretical grounding and contextual depth.

Data Analysis: Collected data were subjected to rigorous statistical analysis using SPSS software. Descriptive statistics provided an overview of the sample characteristics and response patterns, while inferential statistics were employed to test hypotheses and examine relationships between economic development variables and indicators of environmental sustainability.

Theoretical Framework: The research is grounded in established sustainable development theories and environmental impact models, which were empirically tested within the specific socio-economic and ecological context of the Rugova region.

Empirical Results and Hypothesis Testing

In this section, the data collected from respondents in the Rugova region and Peja are presented.

Cronbach's Alpha Analysis – Reliability Test of the Questionnaire

Interpretation of the reliability coefficient Cronbach's Alpha (α) can be done as follows:

- If $0.00 \leq \alpha \leq 0.40$, the scale is unreliable.
- If $0.40 \leq \alpha \leq 0.60$, the reliability is low.
- If $0.60 \leq \alpha \leq 0.80$, the scale is highly reliable.
- If $0.80 \leq \alpha \leq 1.00$, the scale is of very high reliability.

Cronbach's Alpha reflects the correlation between the variables in the scale, providing the coefficient Alpha (α), which ranges between 0 and 1.

Table: Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.715	20

Source: Analysis results from SPSS software.

The table above shows that the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient is 0.715, which indicates that the scale has high reliability, falling within the acceptable range of 0.60 – 0.80. This result suggests that all the variables included in the model should be retained for analysis. The analysis confirms that the model is reliable. "N of Items" indicates the total number of questions in the questionnaire, which were 20 in total. Based on this analysis, all questions should be included in the model to ensure valid and reliable results.



Analiza Cross Tabs

Gender* Age Crosstabulation					
% of Total					
		Age			Total
		18 - 30	30 - 45	45	
Gender	Female	7,1%	14,3%	7,1%	28,6%
	Male	9,5%	28,6%	33,3%	71,4%
Total		16,7%	42,9%	40,5%	100,0%

Table: Item-Total Statistics on Environmental Degradation Survey

No.	Item Description	Mean if Item Deleted	Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
1	Do you understand the concept of "Environmental Degradation"?	37.06	119.02	0.386	0.906
2	Does the economy affect environmental pollution?	36.28	112.16	0.478	0.904
3	Investments in solar panels improve the environmental condition	36.38	113.57	0.442	0.904
4	Investment in the environment regulates the environmental condition	36.39	113.63	0.380	0.906
5	Kosovo has the capacity to protect the environment	35.67	109.09	0.446	0.906
6	Human activity impacts the environment	36.42	112.08	0.496	0.903
7	Environmental pollution disrupts the ecosystem balance	36.45	110.59	0.610	0.901



No.	Item Description	Mean if Item Deleted	Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
8	Environmental education is important for every generation	36.53	114.55	0.406	0.905
9	The main causes of death are consequences of environmental degradation	35.98	110.19	0.497	0.903
10	Awareness of environmental problems is especially important	36.29	111.75	0.565	0.902
11	Does population growth influence environmental pollution?	36.33	110.24	0.553	0.902
12	Is technology the solution for a cleaner planet's future?	35.93	106.72	0.617	0.900
13	Environmental costs are recognized as environmental degrading costs	36.00	107.38	0.664	0.899
14	Environmental costs as degrading factors are caused by economic activities	36.04	106.55	0.708	0.897
15	Environmental costs are a commodity in specific production activities	36.05	108.36	0.585	0.901
16	Environmental costs are caused by environmental reasons	36.05	108.56	0.570	0.901
17	Should environmental standards be applied for environmental costs?	36.17	108.42	0.652	0.899
18	Environmental protection standards exist	36.23	108.06	0.630	0.900
19	Environmental production costs include expenses and degradation costs	36.01	108.50	0.595	0.901



No.	Item Description	Mean if Item Deleted	Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
20	Companies should pay environmental taxes for pollution prevention and related costs during production	36.37	107.38	0.646	0.899

Conclusions

This study has analyzed the impact of economic development on environmental sustainability in the Rugova region, Municipality of Peja, by examining the link between economic activities and environmental degradation. The research findings indicate that economic development in this region has a negative impact on the environment, causing air and water pollution, as well as the degradation of natural resources due to activities such as construction and mass tourism.

On the other hand, the local community's perceptions of environmental degradation are closely linked to the fact that many of them are aware of the impact of economic activities and their effects on health and ecosystems. This increased awareness is a positive step, but it must be accompanied by concrete actions and sustainable policies for managing natural resources and protecting the environment.

Another important conclusion is that while awareness of environmental issues is growing, the implementation of the right policies and the involvement of various local actors is still insufficient. This calls for a more coordinated and integrated approach between government institutions, businesses, and civil society.

Recommendations

To achieve sustainable development and minimize the negative impacts of economic development on the environment, the following important recommendations are made:

Development of Strong and Effective Environmental Policies

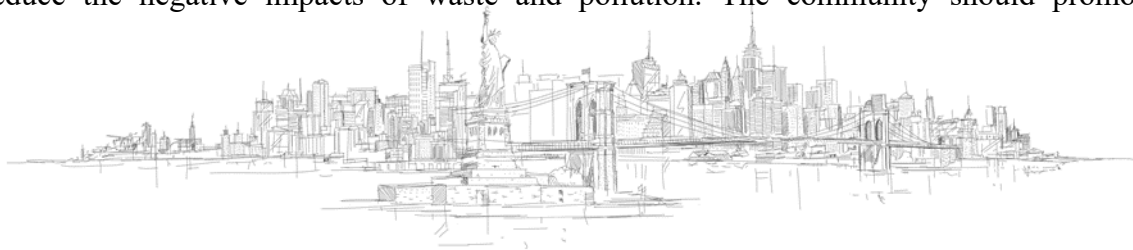
The implementation and strengthening of local environmental policies, which must align with the principles of sustainable development. This includes the creation of strict regulations for waste management, water pollution, and biodiversity protection. The local government should support the improvement of environmental legislation and encourage its enforcement.

Education and Community Awareness

Despite the level of awareness about environmental degradation, there is still a significant need for educational programs and awareness campaigns at the local level. Participants in the study have shown that environmental education is important, and therefore opportunities should be created for training and seminars to increase general awareness about the sustainable management of natural resources and the impacts of economic development.

Improvement of Waste Management Infrastructure

Pollution of rivers and the accumulation of waste are serious issues in the region. Therefore, improving waste management infrastructure, such as waste separation and recycling, could help reduce the negative impacts of waste and pollution. The community should promote a



sustainable waste collection and recycling system, as well as create opportunities for the use of green technologies.

Encouraging Investments in Green Technologies

The development of sustainable and green technologies can play a significant role in reducing the negative impacts of economic activities. The use of technologies that reduce pollution and promote recycling and the use of renewable resources, such as solar energy, could contribute to environmental preservation and mitigate the consequences of economic development.

Development of Sustainable Tourism Strategies

Tourism, as an important sector for economic development, must be developed in a way that it is sustainable and does not further harm the natural environment. This can be achieved by promoting ecological tourism, regulating the number of visitors, and encouraging tourism practices that respect nature and cultivate environmental awareness.

Involvement of Local Stakeholders and Community Participation

Active participation of local actors and interest groups (such as NGOs, businesses, and citizen groups) is necessary to create an inclusive approach. This will help develop sustainable strategies and encourage the involvement of different actors in environmental protection.

Monitoring and Assessment of Environmental Impacts

A system for monitoring and assessing environmental impacts must be created to have an accurate and continuous overview of the environmental situation in the Rugova region. This could be achieved by using advanced technologies such as GIS and by involving experts to assist in the management and preservation of the environment.

Fiscal Policies for Environmental Protection

Pollution taxes could be a powerful tool to stimulate sustainable practices in polluting economic sectors. Businesses could be encouraged to invest in green technologies through an appropriate fiscal policy that favors investments in environmental protection and reduces the environmental impacts of economic development.

REFERENCES

- Andreoni, J., & Levinson, A.** (2001). The simple economics of the environmental Kuznets curve. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 15(4), 43-58. <https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.15.4.43>
- Dinda, S.** (2004). Environmental Kuznets curve: A review of the literature. *Ecological Economics*, 49(4), 431-455. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2004.02.011>
- Schandl, H.** (2016). Toward a sustainable economy: Economic growth, sustainability, and the implications of environmental degradation. *Environmental Economics and Policy Studies*, 18(2), 163-176. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10018-016-0171-2>
- Wang, Q.** (2021). Policy options for achieving sustainable development goals. *Sustainable Development*, 29(4), 671-685. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.2142>
- United Nations (UN).** (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development*. United Nations. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>
- World Bank.** (2020). *Kosovo Country Environmental Analysis*. World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/kosovo/environment>



Peja Municipality. (2019). *Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Report of Rugova Region*. Peja Local Government.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2020). *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Economic Growth in Kosovo*. UNDP. <https://www.ks.undp.org/content/kosovo/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (2021). *Air quality and pollution management in Kosovo: Challenges and solutions*. Kosovo EPA. <https://www.epa.gov/kosovo>

Kosovo Agency for Statistics. (2019). *Environmental statistics: Trends in natural resources, air, and water quality*. Kosovo Agency for Statistics. <https://ask.rks-gov.net/en/statistics>



THE SHINZO ABE ERA AND JAPAN'S POLITICAL ECONOMY (2012-2020): STRATEGY, CRISIS, AND TRANSFORMATION

Prof. Dr. Arzu AL

Marmara University

arzu.al@marmara.edu.tr

Gülperi KÜÇÜKKARACA

Marmara University

gulperikucukkaraca@marun.edu.tr

ABSTRACT

The 2008 global financial crisis, coupled with the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, subsequent tsunami, and the Fukushima 1 Nuclear Disaster, significantly impacted Japan's economic and geopolitical landscape. Amid this multidimensional crisis, Shinzo Abe's election as Prime Minister in 2012 marked the beginning of a strategic repositioning of Japan's domestic and foreign policies. The post-2008 economic recovery was disrupted by the 2011 disaster, leading to the implementation of Shinzo Abe's "Abenomics," a tripartite economic reform package comprising expansive monetary policy, fiscal stimulus, and structural reforms aimed at enhancing economic growth and employment. However, structural challenges such as demographic decline, low fertility rates, and China's rise in global trade constrained growth, compelling Japan's economy to evolve toward greater competitiveness and adaptability.

In energy policy, Japan sought to reduce its reliance on imported fossil fuels by investing in renewable and alternative energy sources. These economic strategies aligned with Shinzo Abe's broader geoeconomic vision, supported by multilateral trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which aimed to strengthen Japan's role in global economic governance. Simultaneously, Shinzo Abe reinterpreted Japan's pacifist constitution, particularly its restrictions on war and military force, by endorsing the concept of collective self-defense. This constitutional reinterpretation legally enabled Japan to defend not only itself but also its allies, facilitating a more proactive security posture in regional affairs. Consequently, Japan linked its economic interests directly to enhanced security policies aimed at safeguarding economic growth and securing vital global trade routes. This study aims to analyze how Shinzo Abe's political economy strategically integrated domestic reforms with foreign policy to consolidate geoeconomic power through trade. The rise of China, North Korean threats, and the U.S. realignment in the Asia-Pacific further compelled Japan to adopt a hybrid political-economic model that synthesizes economic development with regional security dynamics.

Keywords: Shinzo Abe, Political Economy, Japan, Geopolitics, Geoeconomics



INTRODUCTION

With the collapse of the asset bubble in the 1990s, Japan's economy entered a period of chronic stagnation, which was further exacerbated in the 2000s by structural problems such as low growth rates, deflationary pressures, and demographic decline. Indeed, the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997 exposed vulnerabilities in Japan's economy, which became an influential factor in the implementation of policies in the 2000s.

Accordingly, the 2008 global financial crisis further exposed the vulnerabilities of the Japanese economy, which, being heavily dependent on external demand, experienced a significant contraction due to its export-oriented production model. The recovery policies implemented in the aftermath of the crisis were limited to economic revival, and the need for more radical structural reforms was postponed during this period. After a brief recovery in 2010, the Great East Japan Earthquake and the subsequent tsunami disaster and the accident at the Fukushima 1 Nuclear Power Plant in 2011 created both a humanitarian crisis and a turning point with long-term effects on Japan's energy policy, public spending, and foreign relations. In this context, the reconstruction strategies pursued in the aftermath of the disaster, domestic public reaction to nuclear energy, energy supply security debates, and the stance of regional actors have come to the fore in terms of the transforming parameters of the political economy.

In 2012, the holistic nature of the Abenomics policies implemented by Shinzo Abe's government, which came to power as prime minister, was seen as a multi-layered strategy that aimed not only at macroeconomic revitalization but also at reasserting Japan's geoeconomic position at the global level. Abenomics consists of three main components: (1) radical quantitative easing, (2) fiscal stimulus, and (3) structural reforms. These components were supported by expansionary policies that promoted growth despite public debt and reform policies such as labor market flexibility, women's participation in the labor force, trade liberalization, and technology investments. At the same time, the Shinzo Abe era initiated the process of evaluating policies such as the strategic use of economic instruments in Japan's foreign policy (economic statecraft) and the construction of a geoeconomic sphere of influence in the Indo-Pacific region. In this context, the study aims to examine the political economy of the Shinzo Abe era from a multidimensional perspective through the post-crisis restructuring process, energy transformation, and the strategic integration with foreign policy.

JAPAN'S ECONOMY AFTER THE 2008 FINANCIAL CRISIS AND THE 'ABENOMICS' POLICIES OF THE SHINZO ABE ERA: POLITICAL ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

With the bursting of the asset bubble in Japan in the early 1990s, the country's economy entered a prolonged period of stagnation, which has been described as the "Lost Decade" in the literature. In the post-1991 period, economic growth slowed down significantly, and the delay in structural reforms and the loss of confidence in the markets led to chronic economic stagnation (Saxonhouse and Stern, 2003, p. 280). The persistence of deflationary pressures, the unsustainable levels of public debt, and the rapid aging of the population put serious pressure on private sector investments. In the same period, the financial sector was reluctant to supply credit due to non-performing loans, which weakened the financial intermediation mechanism and delayed economic recovery (Das, 2013, pp. 128-132). Indeed, the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, combined with Japan's weak banking system and chronic economic stagnation, further deepened the structural vulnerabilities of the country's economy, which became an important turning point for the reform policies to be pursued in the 2000s (Nippon, 2017). Although there was a relatively stable recovery between 2002 and 2007, the public debt/GDP ratio remained high during this period, indicating that economic vulnerability persisted. Moreover, while companies preferred to maintain employment rather than profits, the high propensity to save



weakened domestic demand, and the economy became highly vulnerable to external shocks (IMF, 2007, pp. 3-4).

The 2008 global financial crisis started with the collapse of mortgage-backed securities in the US and quickly led to a global liquidity crunch. Although Japan was not at the center of this crisis, it was severely affected due to its export-dependent economy. In the aftermath of the crisis, Japan's exports plummeted in the last quarter of 2008, hitting the automotive and electronics sectors particularly hard. GDP contracted on an annualized basis in the first quarter of 2009, clearly demonstrating the vulnerability of the Japanese economy to global demand shocks. Moreover, the decline in consumption and investment slowed down the recovery process in Japan, and deflationary pressures were once again on the agenda (IMF, 2009, pp. 1-5). In 2010, the Japanese economy experienced a partial economic revival due to the expansionary fiscal and monetary policies implemented after the global crisis and the recovery in external demand. Exports, especially to China and other Asian countries, increased again and contributed to growth. The Japanese government implemented programs to stimulate consumption in various sectors, which led to a short-term recovery in private consumption. At the same time, the appreciation of the Japanese Yen reduced import costs, but this limited the competitiveness of exporters and weakened the sustainability of growth. In 2010, the GDP growth rate was around 4%, the highest annual growth rate in the post-crisis period (OECD, 2011, pp. 23-27).

The magnitude 9.0 Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, was one of the most devastating natural disasters in Japan's modern history, and the subsequent tsunami caused a critical nuclear accident at the Fukushima 1 Nuclear Power Plant. All these disasters have had negative impacts on Japan's economy, both in the short and medium term. On the economic front, the earthquake and tsunami caused major damage to infrastructure, reducing production capacity, especially in the automotive and electronics sectors. In 2011, Japan's economic growth slowed down significantly, and the recovery process was negatively affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. Following the disaster, the government tried to support the economy by implementing large-scale reconstruction and recovery packages (Collins, 2012, pp. 1-8).

In the energy sector, the Fukushima 1 Nuclear Power Plant Accident led to radical changes in Japan's nuclear energy policies. Most of the nuclear reactors in the country were shut down or temporarily deactivated, which caused a deficit in energy supply. To fill this gap, Japan has significantly increased its imports of fossil fuels such as liquefied natural gas (LNG) and coal, which has raised energy costs and increased external dependence. At the same time, the loss of confidence in nuclear energy among the public and policymakers has increased, and the shift towards renewable energy in energy policies has accelerated (Al and Küçükkaraca, 2024, pp. 146-147).

With his election as Prime Minister of Japan in December 2012, Shinzo Abe started to implement new policies to combat the economic stagnation and deflation that had been going on for years. In this context, the economic strategy of the Shinzo Abe government was called "Abenomics" and was implemented as a comprehensive, multifaceted reform and stimulus program for Japan's economic revival. Abenomics aimed to respond to the structural problems created by the "lost decade" of the 1990s and the economic stagnation that followed. The main objective of Abenomics was to bring Japan's economy out of deflation, achieve sustainable growth, and enhance global competitiveness. This strategy was based on three main components, namely "The Three Arrows" principle.

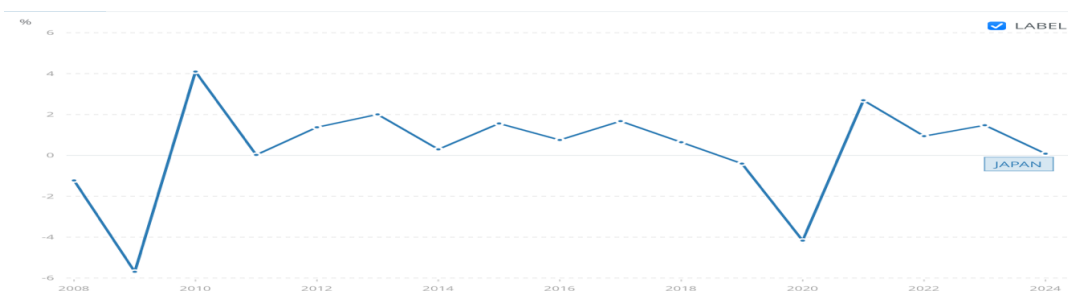
First, Aggressive Monetary Policy was introduced. In this context, the expansionary monetary policy implemented by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) set the inflation target at 2% to break the



deflationary environment. The BOJ injected liquidity into the markets through asset purchases, kept interest rates at low levels, and encouraged demand recovery in the economy. These policies aimed to support export competitiveness and stimulate investment by preventing the overvaluation of the Japanese Yen. Second, the Flexible Fiscal Policy was implemented. Under this policy, the government announced fiscal stimulus packages to support growth. Public investments and infrastructure projects were emphasized, aiming to stimulate economic activity and support employment. However, the flexibility of the fiscal policy was balanced by taking into account the sustainability of the long-term public debt stock. In this context, while spending was increased for growth in the short term, plans were made in line with the strategy of transition to fiscal discipline in the medium and long term. Structural reforms, considered the most critical component of Abenomics, were intended to increase competitiveness in Japan's economy, expand labor market participation, and promote innovative growth. The priority areas of these reforms were to increase women's participation in the labor force, modernize the agricultural sector, increase competition in the service sector, and ensure transparency in corporate governance structures. In addition, regulatory flexibility was provided to attract foreign investment and deepen global integration (Prime Minister's Office of Japan, 2013, pp. 1-10).

Shinzo Abe has pursued a holistic policy that considers Japan's national security, demographic challenges, and its position in international relations, rather than relying solely on macroeconomic incentives for economic policy success. Abenomics has evolved from a mere economic package to a strategic blueprint guiding Japan's transformation in the economic and political balance of power. In this context, economic policies were integrated with diplomacy, defense, and social policies (Hoshi and Lipsey, 2021, pp. 12-15). First of all, Abenomics' monetary policy expansion and increased fiscal stimulus have laid a significant foundation for Japan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates. The weakening of the Japanese Yen supported the export sector, while low interest rates contributed to the revival of domestic demand. In this context, a positive acceleration in growth rates was recorded in 2013 and 2014, but the pace of economic growth fluctuated periodically due to global economic conditions and domestic structural problems (OECD, 2015, pp. 15-19).

GDP Growth (Annual %) – Japan



Source: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?locations=JP>
Access Date: 16.07.2025

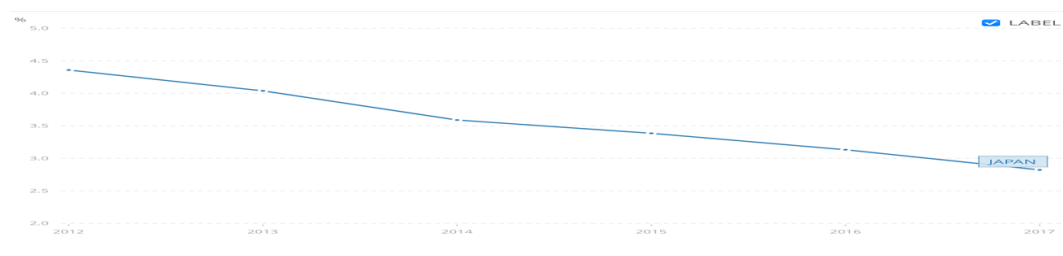
Shinzo Abe's economic policies during COVID-19 have been seen to be torn between the effort to maintain Abenomics policies and public health priorities. The Shinzo Abe government, which avoided completely shutting down the economy to limit the economic impact of the pandemic, tried to manage the process with voluntary restrictions and symbolic incentives, even though it could not legally enforce forced closures due to constitutional limitations. For example, steps to promote domestic tourism, such as the "Go To Travel" campaign, although aimed at supporting economic mobility, have been severely criticized for increasing health risks. The Shinzo Abe government has also prioritized thematic incentives to boost economic



revival rather than direct financial support for businesses. However, this approach brought criticism of indecision and incompetence in crisis management, and the reaction of both the public and local administrators increased. Shinzo Abe's government was severely weakened in this process, and the low public support during the pandemic period eventually paved the way for his resignation in 2020 (Hoshi and Lipsy, 2021, pp. 18-19). Moreover, due to the impact of energy prices and external economic factors, there have been difficulties in achieving a permanent and sustainable inflation target. This situation revealed the fragility of the Japanese economy in achieving price stability (Tokuda, 2016).

Although the Abenomics period provided some positive indicators in the field of employment in Japan, it was a period in which structural problems persisted. Launched in 2012, the fiscal incentives and monetary expansion implemented under the Abenomics policies stimulated economic activity and contributed to a decline in the unemployment rate. Accordingly, the unemployment rate, which was around 4% in 2012, declined steadily in the following years and fell below 3% as of 2017. However, this development has not translated into structural improvement in the labor market (World Bank, 2025).

Unemployment, Total (% of Total Labor Force) - Japan



Source: data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.ZS?end=2017&locations=JP&start=2012
Access Date: 17.07.2025

The long-standing “dualism” in the Japanese labor market, i.e., the distinction between regular (permanent) and irregular (part-time, contractual) workers, continued during the Abenomics period. The increase in irregular employment has weakened workers' income security and had a negative impact on labor market stability. Employment has also generally been limited to low-paid and precarious positions (Ganelli, 2014). Moreover, the demographic challenges facing Japan—low fertility rate and aging population—are reducing labor supply and preventing the full utilization of the labor force in the long run. Under these circumstances, although Abenomics policies have been partially successful in increasing the employment rate, a permanent and inclusive transformation of the labor market has not been achieved as structural reforms have not been deepened enough (McBride and Xu, 2018). In fiscal terms, although Abenomics aimed to strike a balance between growth and fiscal discipline, high public debt remains one of Japan's most important economic problems. Rising budget deficits and debt burden pose a risk to fiscal sustainability; therefore, structural reforms and tax policies are critical to ensure fiscal discipline (Chatham House, 2015, pp. 1-14).

Abenomics, which was implemented during Shinzo Abe's premiership, not only radically changed Japan's strategy to combat economic stagnation but also led to significant transformations in domestic politics and foreign policy. From a political economy perspective, the effects of Abenomics have shaped policies in terms of restructuring the economic management capacity of the state, changing the balance of power among political actors, and redefining Japan's regional and global position. In the context of economic power and regional integration in the international arena, Shinzo Abe has also ushered in a new era in Japan's foreign economic policies with Abenomics policy goals. In particular, he supported the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and other multilateral trade agreements such as the Economic



Partnership Agreement (EPA) (Prime Minister's Office of Japan, 2013, p. 9).

This clearly demonstrated Japan's commitment to regional economic integration. This strategy is part of a multidimensional approach that aims to increase Japan's economic and diplomatic influence in the face of China's rise. Moreover, in the context of strengthening Japan's security alliance with the United States, economic reforms have also bolstered its political and security position in the international arena. Regional trade blocs and infrastructure investments are intended to consolidate Japan's claim to economic leadership in the Asia-Pacific and increase its role in global supply chains. In sum, Abenomics represented a multi-layered transformation process in Japan's political economy, where economic growth-oriented policies strengthened the state's governance capabilities, fiscal discipline and growth targets sparked significant debates on the political agenda, while at the international level, regional integration, an active role in global supply chains, and security-policy integration came to the fore. In this sense, Abenomics has been Japan's redefinition of its national interests by projecting its economic power into domestic and foreign policy.

CONCLUSION

Following the collapse of the asset bubble in the early 1990s, Japan's economy entered a prolonged period of stagnation; low growth, deflation, and structural vulnerabilities deeply affected the country's economy. This process is known as the "lost decade," which continued into the 2000s and combined with the global crises to create persistent problems that threatened economic and social stability.

The 2008 global financial crisis and the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 deepened economic vulnerabilities, making Japan's need for restructuring more visible. Against this historical backdrop, the Abenomics policy, initiated under the leadership of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who took office in 2012, was shaped as a multi-layered strategy aimed at both tackling domestic economic problems and rebuilding Japan's role at the global level. The three main components of Abenomics bold monetary policy, flexible fiscal stimulus, and structural reforms aimed at both stimulating the Japanese economy through domestic demand and enhancing its outward competitiveness. Monetary expansion and low interest rate policies supported exporting sectors, while domestic demand was stimulated by public investment. The rise in employment rates and the short-term growth momentum showed that these policies were effective in some areas. However, structural problems such as persistent dualism in the labor market, rising public debt, energy dependence, and demographic decline have limited the long-term sustainability of Abenomics.

However, Abenomics was not only a package to stimulate economic growth but also part of a period of strategic use of economic instruments in Japan's foreign policy. Multilateral initiatives such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) have demonstrated Japan's commitment to regional economic integration, while economic reforms promoting security cooperation with the US have aimed to strengthen its geopolitical position. Moreover, the reshaping of energy policies in the aftermath of the Fukushima 1 Nuclear Power Plant Accident incorporated environmental sustainability and energy security into the strategic framework of Abenomics.

In conclusion, the Abenomics era marked a turning point in Japan's fight against prolonged economic stagnation and brought about not only economic but also political and geoeconomic transformations. Although there has been limited success in implementation, Abenomics has been recognized as an important policy to restructure Japan's economic capacity, enhance the governance power of the state, and strategically strengthen its place in the global system.



REFERENCES

- Al, Arzu, and Küçükkaraca, Gülperi. 2024. "Fukuşima 1 Nükleer Santral Kazası'nın Japonya'nın Nükleer Enerji Politikalarına Etkileri." *1. International Üsküdar Scientific Research Congress*. Istanbul: ISARC International Science and Art Research Center. 143-152.
- Collins, Tara. 2012. "Great East Japan Earthquake: economic and trade impact." *Australian Government – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*. Accessed: 16 07, 2025. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/great-east-japan-earthquake-economic-and-trade-impact.pdf>.
- Das, Mitali. 2013. "Japan: Low Growth and an Aging Population." In *Global Rebalancing A Roadmap for Economic Recovery*, by Hamid Faruquee and Krishna Srinivasan, 129–132. International Monetary Fund.
- Ganelli, Giovanni. 2014. "Sharpening Abenomics' third arrow: Labour-market reform in Japan." *Centre for Economic Policy Research*. 15 01. Accessed: 07 17, 2025. <https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/sharpening-abenomics-third-arrow-labour-market-reform-japan>.
- Hoshi, Takeo, and Phillip Y. Lipscy. 2021. "The Political Economy of the Abe Government." In *The Political Economy of the Abe Government and Abenomics Reforms*, by Takeo Hoshi and Phillip Y. Lipscy, 3-39. Cambridge University Press.
- Chatham House. 2015. *Abenomics: The Risks of Going All-In*. International Risk Briefing, Chatham House; The Royal Institute of International Affairs.
- IMF. 2009. *IMF Executive Board Concludes 2009 Article IV Consultation with Japan*. IMF Country Report No. 09/210, IMF.
- IMF. 2007. *Japan: 2007 Article IV Consultation—Staff Report; and Public Information Notice on the Executive Board Discussion*. IMF Country Report No. 07/280, IMF.
- Prime Minister's Office of Japan. 2013. "The Three Arrows of Abenomics." *Prime Minister's Office of Japan*. Accessed: 07 16, 2025. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/letters/message/abenomics/TheThreeArrowsOfAbenomics_EN.pdf.
- Nippon. 2017. "Lessons of the 1997 Financial Crisis in Japan." *Nippon.com*. 30 10. Accessed: 07 17, 2025. <https://www.nippon.com/en/currents/d00360/>.
- McBride, James, and Beina Xu. 2018. "Abenomics and the Japanese Economy." *Council on Foreign Relations*. 23 03. Accessed: 07 17, 2025. <https://www.cfr.org/background/abenomics-and-japanese-economy>.
- OECD. 2011. *OECD Economic Surveys Japan*. OECD.
- OECD. 2015. *OECD Economic Surveys Japan*. OECD.
- Saxonhouse, Gary R., and Robert M. Stern. 2003. "The Bubble and the Lost Decade." *Japan and the World Economy* 267-281.
- Tokuda, Hidenobu. 2016. *Issues left unresolved in the BOJ's Comprehensive Assessment*. Economic Outlook and Analysis, Mizuho Research Institute Ltd.
- World Bank. 2025. "Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate) - Japan." *World Bank*. 07 01. Accessed: 07 17, 2025. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.ZS?end=2017&locations=JP&start=2012>

