

Student's Name

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Course

Date

### Country in Global Context: The United Kingdom

Globalization denotes an increase in the levels of interaction between individuals in line with the growth of culture and the flow of ideas and money. The process leads to remarkable changes in the operations of a country from domestic and national to the global scale. In addition, the sustained interactions contribute to the continuous growth and maintenance of the various systems. The United Kingdom (UK) has notably contributed to globalization in myriads of ways. Not only is the country diversified in its interactions, but it also maintains a vibrant network of allies as well as business partners. Notably, its trading activities can be traced to its role as one of the most skilled colonialist masters in the world. Therefore, the nation's activities not only influence the actions of other countries, but they have contributed remarkably to the spread of globalization. Moreover, they have effectively bridged the gap between societies divided by distance and differences in language and religion (Mooney and Evans 14). In this regard, imperial colonization and international trade engineered within the UK should be keenly analyzed since they are the key drivers for globalization as well as the country's remarkable resistance to external influences.

#### **Global Processes**

Colonization quickly garners its way to the top as one of the most significant globalization processes in the UK as well as the entire world. It led to the control of other countries by the European superpowers and abolished many cultural tendencies perceived as backward and savage. Due to the British empire's complex trading activities, the country rose to become the most influential nation in the seventeenth century. The British empire controlled and efficiently regulated trading activities with its partners, and it resulted in the acquisition of raw materials at meagre prices (Lambert and Lester 12). Still, it had colonized a multitude of countries which ensured that the gains and profits offset losses or decreased in income from one region to another. The empire took advantage of its colonies and exploited cheap raw materials treasured for the factories in Europe. In this regard, some materials were traded with other European countries at a profit, while others were used for the manufacture of products which would be sold to the colonies at a profit. The resulting economic integration ensured a full regulation of the monetary as well as fiscal policies by the British government. Moreover, the Brits took full advantage of their imperial status and guaranteed a strict

adherence to mercantilism, and the policy raised the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Notably, such changes would get translated to increases in revenue from the state, which subsequently improved its economic status and set it firmly on a course to the world domination. Markedly, the British improved their living standards and established multinational corporations to achieve their goals (BBC). Therefore, throughout the centuries, the UK has cemented its place as one of the most developed countries due to the early trading activities with other nations.

### **Influence on Other Regions**

The UK has retained its position as a force to reckon with regarding its economic might, the roots of which have been outlined above. The country significantly influenced other regions as well as the activities of its trading partners. In the colonial times, the UK relied on raw material imports from Brazil, Chile, Malaysia, Uruguay, and Cuba to provide products such as coffee, nitrates, rubber, meat, and rubber respectively (Robertson and White 20).

Evidently, these interactions enhanced the British economy at the expense of the other countries, which made them entirely dependent. In addition, the UK's overwhelming trading potential was demonstrated by the value of the country's trade dealings with its business partners. As the ninth largest economy and the thirteenth most complex one, its top exports destinations lie in the United States (US), while the most imports have their origins in Germany (Observatory of Economic Complexity). In this regard, the Germans have had to modify their production activities to suit the needs and demands of their British consumers. Conversely, the status of the US as the destination of the UK's products has remarkably strengthened the relationship of the two countries. Therefore, the trading partners have had to change their production activities to foster trading between the nations since both are equally powerful and major players in international economics.

Britain's colonial activities increased the dependence rate from its former less developed colonies, leading to the establishment of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth serves to reduce the gap between the developing and developed countries through various mechanisms available to the member nations. Therefore, the countries have been forced to adapt to the British customs and religion as well as the English language as the most acceptable form of communication (Spolsky and Hult 207). The developing nations have inevitably adopted and learned the English language in their curricula to enable their citizens gain the approval of the international community (Spolsky and Hult 84). Consequently, they have been compelled to abandon the traditions and rituals in favour of the widely accepted

British norms. In this regard, the UK influences not only the activities of its trading partners, but also shapes and controls the activities of its former colonies.

### **Resistance to Outside Influence**

Compared to the other countries, the UK has been a relatively undisturbed nation. Its customs, norms, and cultural ways have remained unchanged throughout the centuries. Unlike most countries, the nation was the colonial master under one royal family (Ward 8). Notably, the monarchy limited cultural interactions with other communities by regulating immigration and maintaining an attitude of superiority in the other cultures. Its customs, songs, music, and ceremonies have been effectively transmitted from generation to generation ensuring the continuity of the British culture. Markedly, this has led to other countries desiring to be more as the Brits.

The UK effectively exposes itself as one of the world's most prosperous nations. Its success can be observed from its earliest days as an imperial superpower and a colonial master. Moreover, its colonization of most nations of the world and subsequent trading activities placed the country as the most developed in its time due to the increased revenues. As a result, it greatly influenced both its trading partners as well as the activities of the colonies. Evidently, its business partners have had to change their production activities to facilitate their trade. Besides, the colonized nations have changed their economic and educational systems to mimic the British as well as adopted UK English as one of their official languages. Therefore, the UK has extensively impacted globalization and remained unperturbed by its activities overseas since it has managed to affirm its culture and maintained it over the years.

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