

ABSTRACT

This thesis will look at the globalization question in relation to diasporic groups and ethnicity. Especially in the last few decades, revolutionary developments in communications and transport, including satellite transmission, transnationalization of capital and internationalization of labour, have become conventional wisdom. In addition, the steady increase in international organizations, the growing co-ordination by global communication networks, from international airlines to world news, is matched by the tendency, for a variety of institutions, groups and individuals to position themselves globally whether in relation to markets, media or global politics.

It is in this context that this thesis will look at globalization which presents diasporic groups with an opportunity and challenge where they can survive and thrive. The twentieth century is ending with an increased interest in the power of race, ethnicity and religion rather than the long predicted universal age or the end of history. The quest for the memory and spirit of the specific ethnic past has once again been renewed, the results of which will shape the coming century.

Globalization brought different ethnic groups such as the Jews, Chinese, Japanese and Indians together. They have succeeded in the contemporary world because of certain important characteristics:

- (a) a strong ethnic identity and a sense of mutual dependence that help the group to adjust to changes in the global economic and political order without losing its essential unity;
- (b) a global network based on mutual thrust that allows the group to function collectively beyond the confines of national or regional borders facilitated by globalization. In this context there is a passion

for technical and other knowledge from all possible sources, combined with an essential open-mindedness that fosters rapid cultural and scientific development critical for success in the late twentieth century world economy.

This thesis will show that the success of Indians in Trinidad and Tobago has as much to do with the skills they brought from India, their “outsider status” as well as being facilitated by the present context of globalization. This has led to a deepening and widening of relations with India, which has itself become a powerful force in international relations.

Keywords: globalization; diaspora; ethnicity; Indians in Trinidad and Tobago; trade and cultural linkages.