

The digging stick the ard history essay

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ABSTRACT
As one reviews history in every discipline, one can find globalization in specialized areas such as science, products, communication, politics, culture, religion or international competition - each facilitated by technological advancements, communication, transportation, political power, economies of scale and many of the other factors for modern globalization advanced by Thomas Friedman, other economists, and historians. " Globalization" - a term coined in 1944 and popularized in the U. S. government during the Clinton administration - was used to describe the increasing relationships between nations and trade. This very definition can be applied throughout history. This paper adds one caveat to the definition - globalization relates to the " known-world" and its people at any one point in time. It is concluded that each specialized area had its own globalization timetable within the then known-world; however, recently the pace and breadth of such globalization has leaped logarithmically ahead - the beginning of a " tipping point." Using the evolution of the hoe to the modern plow as an initial metaphor, examples are drawn of the effect and shift of globalization throughout history. Drawing from this analysis and using other historical examples, it is posited that there are common dynamics in globalization, and it is not a new phenomenon, but an ever evolving one.

INTRODUCTION
Mr. Spock: " Bridge to Engineering. Negative effect on power reduction. Speed is still increasing." Lt. Cmdr. 'Scotty' : " Aye, Mr. Spock, and I found out why. The emergency bypass control of the matter/antimatter integrator is fused. It's completely useless. The engines are running wild; there's no way to get at them. We should

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reach maximum overload in about 15 minutes." Mr. Spock: " I would calculate 14. 87 minutes, Mr. Scott." Lt. Cmdr. 'Scotty' : " Those few seconds will not make any difference, Mr. Spock, because ... this thing is going to blow up, and there's nothing in the universe can stop it" (Roddenberry, 1969). As we rush at increasingly logarithmic speed headlong into a smaller, faster, flatter world, many either fear the future or are overwhelmed by change. They well may become socially or economically displaced or disenfranchised. Others see great new opportunities to " go where no man has gone before" (Roddenberry, 1969, p.???) . Regardless of our attitude, nothing will stop globalization. History provides the proof. The body of literature is conflicting about who originally coined the term " globalization." One scholarly definition is " the interactive co-evolution of millions of technological, cultural, economic, social and environmental trends at all conceivable spatiotemporal scales. [However], given this complexity, any attempt to give a satisfactory definition of globalisation is doomed to failure" (Rennan & Martens, 2003, p. ?????). The term, " globalization," was in use in The Chicago Defender as early as 1944 (Wilton, 2006) and first popularized during the Bretton Woods (New Hampshire) conference of World War II allies which produced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and led to creation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (Jones, n. d.). The term was later again popularized in 1983 by Professor Levitt in his Harvard Business Review article " The Globalization of Markets." He said, " Gone are accustomed differences in national or regional preferences" (Feder, 2006). Interestingly, Professor Levitt readily conceded that companies do have to balance national cultural patterns with a country's embrace of global brands. In 2005, Thomas Friedman wrote that Globalization 1. 0 began with

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Columbus in 1492. But long before 1492, people began to link together disparate locations on the globe into extensive systems of communication, migration, and interconnections. This interaction between the global and the local has been a central driving force in world history (Penn, n. d.). One thing is certain. Throughout history, distance and cultural differences have been overcome and man-made barriers lowered or removed to facilitate the exchange of goods and ideas. Therefore, using Friedman's construct for the shifts in globalization, I propose there was a Globalization 0. 0, (-1. 0), and (-2. 0) going back through time. As early as 1839, an English journalist perceptively reflected that as distance was " annihilated, the surface of our country would, as it were, shrivel in size until it became not much bigger than one immense city" (Harvey 1996, p. 242). I posit that the human perception of both speed and distance are based upon the then current expectations and relevant experiences of a people, in their time, and within their then known " global" world. We will explore how this fits with Friedman's and other's transformationalist definitions of globalization. There appear to be three dominant views in the concept of globalization (Held, McGrew, Goldblatt, & Perraton 1999): Skeptical approach: those who follow the sceptical line argue that internationalization and global connections are by no means new phenomena. The globalization skeptics place cultural, economic, political, social, and technological developments on an evolutionary line, implying that globalization has existed for centuries and that the sum of developments only changes the scale and scope of globalization, but not the intrinsic characteristics of the phenomenon itself. Hyperglobalist approach: these proponents do not deny the importance of previous developments, but identify a historical break-point or " tipping <https://assignbuster.com/the-digging-stick-the-ard-history-essay/>

point" after which contemporary globalization emerged. The previous eras are described as pre-globalization, or periods of internationalization.

Transformationalist approach: this ideology radicalizes the hyperglobalist approach, arguing that globalization itself is the major force underlying the rapid, widespread social, political, and economic changes that are currently reshaping and reconstituting modern societies and the world order. If we then confine the term " global" to " the known-world at the current moment in time," I would concur that globalization is not a new phenomenon, and propose that all forms of globalization have many of the same characteristics as outlined in Table 1. Table 1

Physical expansion of the geographical domain and known world at that time; Social Expansion of social, political and economic activities across political frontiers, regions and continents; Improving technologies in transportation and communication that dramatically heighten possibilities for human interaction and dissemination of resources, decreasing costs or other benefits across existing geographical and political divides; Intensification, or growing magnitude, of interconnectedness and flows of trade, investment, finance, migration, culture, etc.; Increasing speed or velocity of global interactions and processes as the then known world's systems of transportation, communication, or distribution increases the diffusion of ideas, goods, information, capital, and people; and Increasing impact of global forces of all kinds on local and national life such that the effects of distant events can be highly significant elsewhere and even the most local

developments may come to have enormous global consequences. In this sense, the boundaries between domestic matters and global affairs can become increasingly blurred.

Source: Compiled from Held, McGrew, Goldblatt & Perraton, 1999; Scheuerman 2010; and Harvey 1989. In sum, " globalization" can be thought of as the widening, intensifying, speeding up, and growing impact of world-wide interconnectedness for the then known-world and the local or national population. This paper then explores globalization in the context of history and shifts in " globalization". Let us first explore globalization from the skeptic's point of view. DISCUSSIONAs a metaphor for the shifts in evolution, dissemination, and their effects (i. e., collectively, " globalization"), the modern plow is first discussed. Although difficult for anthropologists to trace exactly, globalization of farming technology is evident. In about 7500 B. C., China reached the Neolithic age - the domestication of plants (agriculture) and animals (domestication and husbandry) - about 1000 years after Mesopotamia [ref. Around 7000 B. C., the Indus Valley (Pakistan and part of India). Studies indicate this was almost certainly acquired from Mesopotamia. [refMesopotamia continued to play an important role in the globalization of Neolithic technology. Egypt and Greece acquired it from Mesopotamia around 6000 B. C., 2500 years after Mesopotmia. In the earliest days of agricultural development, a simple, hand-held single or forked stick, a " digging stick" was used. Its use began in Mesopotamia, the Fertile Crescent, on the banks of the Nile where floods rejuvenated the soil

each year. These were either pulled or pushed with handles attached for that purpose. [ref. The first plow was a simple stick-plow, the "Ard" [(Illustration x. x consisting of a frame which holds the stick vertically. This was then dragged through the fertile topsoil. It breaks up the soil directly along the plowed path, but does not turn the soil as in modern plows (the "plough"). This allows seeds and seedlings to be planted and works well in fertile soil. By Roman times of 643 A. D. in the Mediterranean regions, light plows with iron blades were used. Drawn by oxen, these could break up the soils of the Mediterranean, but could not be used in the heavy soils of northwestern Europe [ref. Research suggests that China developed the plow around 3000 B. C. independently from Mesopotamia [ref. China also urbanized and developed metallurgy independently [ref, and both grew rapidly during the Shang dynasty of 1500 B. C. During the Shang period, China came in contact with the Indo-Aryan groups as they spread from Southern Russia through Central Asia to Iran [ref. The Indo-Aryan's were a metal working, nomadic people. The timing of this contact with China suggests that China acquired metal working technology from them. By 500 B. C., the Chinese had invented the iron plow. Before 1000 A. D. the major Chinese advancement was development of the heavy plow. This plow had a coulter (a blade which cut a thin strip in the turf), followed by a share (a curved second blade). The Chinese created an iron amalgam, mixing iron with other metals, to make the blades malleable and strong. The soil would ride up the share and a mouldboard (a curved metal plate invented by the Chinese) would turn the soil over (InnovateUs, 2006-2011), providing the three critical requirements for heavy soils less fertile than those of the Nile) or Roman Mediterranean – i) bringing nutrients to the surface, ii) aerating the soil, and iii) creating a

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true planting furrow by pushing the soil away from the furrow. [ref. Photo [x. x] shows how these were constructed. These basic components of the Chinese plow resemble those still found in modern plows of today. Europe did not have access to the new heavy plow technology until the 9th century when the Chinese "globalized," opening their country to trade, sharing plow technology as a result [ref. The Dutch brought the technology to the heavy soils of the rest of Europe (ChinaCulture, n. d.). Moldboards were still not prevalent in Europe until the late 10th century, and then they were crude in design [ref. Thus began the Europe's Agricultural Revolution (ChinaCulture. n. d.). Large scale expansion of Europe's Agricultural Revolution was made possible by the wheeled plow, at first drawn by oxen as had been the Ard as early as 3500 B. C. [ref. Invention of the horse collar and horse shoe (9th century) allowed plows to be pulled by horses, but even into the 18th century the use of oxen still outnumbered the use of horses [ref. This was perhaps due to the extra expense of care and feeding of horses. With the heavy, iron plow, however, many farmers began using the horses as they could pull the new implements at a faster pace. Wheels were later attached to the plow, and even later, a riding seat (historylink101, n. d.). As late as 1788, Thomas Jefferson created plans for an improved mouldboard. John Deere eventually changed the face of American agriculture - and that of the world - in 1836. He invented a stainless steel blade which was self-polishing and combined the share and moldboard into a one piece plow. Mesopotamia, the home of the plow and powerful Pharaohs of Egypt, had lost its competitive civilization farming advantage; first to China, then Greco-Roman Mediterranean societies and later, to Western Europe. Eventually with the improved Deere technology and vast arable lands, America became the breadbasket of the

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world [ref. Why the Fertile Crescent area lost its place at the forefront of civilization is not known. The Fertile Crescent had the local raw material resources (the wild ancestors of wheat, barley, goats, sheep, etc.) but is an ecologically fragile area, and its fertility and resulting productivity has greatly declined from ancient times due to deforestation and possibly, overgrazing [ref. As with every technology, there are also hidden costs. First, unlike hunter-gathering groups, these farming civilizations obtained most of their food from a few agricultural crops. The citizens gained calories at the cost of poorer nutrition. Even today, just three high-carbohydrate plants - wheat, rice, and corn - provide the bulk of the calories consumed by mankind, yet (as in earlier ages) each one is deficient in certain vitamins or amino acids essential to life. Second, because of dependence on a limited number of crops, local civilizations ran the risk of starvation if one crop failed [ref. Finally, the mere fact that agriculture allowed people to clump together in crowded societies, many of which then carried on trade with other crowded societies, led to the spread of parasites and infectious disease. Epidemics could only occur when populations were less scattered than small nomadic bands and tribes. Tuberculosis and diarrheal disease were just one result. Measles and bubonic plague awaited the rise of large cities (Diamond, 1987). However, these costs did not preclude the perceived benefits and continuing agricultural globalization. Gross [ref and much of the body of literature herald the plow as perhaps the most important implement for the advancement of civilization since the beginning of history (Gross, 1984). It allowed rapid urbanization and population growth as farmers could grow more than they could individually eat. As a result, it allowed for specialization. When persons no longer had to work all day for their 2100

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calories to survive, they could turn into woodworking, stone working, or smithing craftsmen, warriors, potters as well as the arts, humanities, sciences, religion, writing and other specialties. Pottery allowed efficient storage of surplus food for offseason consumption and was therefore an important precursor to the continued growth of urbanization. A few advantages of specialization of labor are better defense, better technology, more goods for trade, the ability to support traders, and better social coordination and cohesion due to specialized leadership . This is not to say that craftsmen, warriors and leaders were absent from hunting-gathering societies, simply that an agricultural society is far better able to develop specialization of labor to a more elaborate degree. What characteristics did this historical globalization have in common with today's globalization? I would posit they include all the dynamic forces from Table 1. In just one example of the cultural impact of technology, the French historian, Fernand Braudel, once described a remarkable cultural transformation in the society of ancient Mesopotamia. This region went from being one that worshipped " all-powerful mother goddesses" to one where it was " the male gods and priests who were predominant in Sumer and Babylon" [ref. The cause, he argued, was neither a change in law nor politics. Rather, it was a fundamental change in the technology the Mesopotamians used to produce food: the adoption of the Ard. Women in ancient Mesopotamia had been responsible for the care and tending of fields where cereals were grown. With the advent of the Ard, however, farming became the dominion of men. A study by Alesina, Nunn and Giuliano found striking evidence that ancient agricultural techniques have very long-lasting cultural effects, reinforcing ideas of Ester Boserup in the 1970s that cultural norms about the economic

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roles of the sexes throughout the world can be traced back to traditional farming practices (Economist, 2011). There are many examples shifting globalization throughout history. Two more grand examples will be explored - the Silk Road and the Spice Route.

The Silk Road

In the earliest days of the Silk Road, the Chinese only traded within the dynasty's borders. Caravans carried the silk to the dynasty's distant western regions; however, local areas tribes through which these goods traveled would often attack the emperor's caravans. As a result between 135 B. C. to 90 B. C., the Han Dynasty emperor [who extended its military control further and further into Central Asia [ref. With increasing interactions along the dynasty's borders as the Roman empire expanded, the Chinese gave silk gifts to the eastern Roman governments [ref. As noted in Chart 1 at its peak, the 7, 000 mile route extended through several countries and cultures (Physical expansion) - China, Central Asia, Northern India, and the Parthian and Roman Empires. The Silk Road connected the eastern most portions of the Yellow River Valley to the Mediterranean Sea and passed through places such as the Chinese cities of Kansu and Sinkiang as well as the areas represented by the present-day countries of Iran, Iraq and Syria. Chart 1 Although trade along the Silk Road under the Han Dynasty represented only a small portion of the entire Chinese economy [ref, it increased the number of traders and merchants in China (the communication dynamic), mixing information, technology, cultures, and religions. Similar to the [earlier/later] spread of Islam along the trans-Saharan routes in medieval West Africa [ref., Buddhism spread east from India to China, The Silk Road revived

tremendously under the Sung Dynasty in the 11th and 12th centuries when China became largely dependent on its international silk trade. In addition, trade to Central and Western Asia as well as Europe recovered for a period of time from 1276-1368 under the Yuan Dynasty when the Mongol invasion of Genghis Kahn controlled China (ThinkQuest, n. d.). One of the first to take up the Eastern challenge was Marco Polo. Polo was not the first Westerner to travel throughout Asia (the missionary Giovanni da Pian del Carpine was one of the first Europeans to enter the court of the Great Khan of the Mongol Empire [ref]); however, after a long sojourn in China, Marco Polo returned to Venice in 1295, with silk and jewels and tales of the fabulous wealth and advanced civilization of the Orient. The tales and later book of Polo's travels rekindled Europe's interest the East, and led to renewed trade [ref. Finally in 1500, China turned inward due to the perceived shifts and resulting pressures in globalization (dynamics of intensification and increasing impact of global forces). [great sailing venture of euneuch]. Emperor Hongzhi made large ship sailing (two or more masts) out of Chinese waters illegal by punishment of death. In 1525, all large ships were burned, effectively ending China's period of exploration and globalization. This would not be the last time China felt the negative shifts of globalization – the later Opium Wars, the Boxer Rebellion, [America in Beijing] and the Japanese invasion and rape of Nanking name only a few in the modern era.

The Spice Route

The quest for spices (and precious metals) ushered in what is known as the Age of Exploration[ref. The Spice Route was the other great trading route of the Ancient and Medieval worlds and also fits the skeptics approach to

historical globalization. Although spices were also carried on the Silk Road, the main source of spices was well south of China, the Spice Islands (Indonesia), India, and the Malabar (East African) coast. India was at the center of the world spice trade and reaching there by a faster, least-cost shipping route was one of Spain's motivations for underwriting Columbus's famous trip of 1492 [ref. Spices were also carried to India from the Spice Islands by land and sometimes by sea (dynamics of physical expansion and social expansion). Spices included cassia, star anise, cloves, coriander, nutmeg, mace, and others. The most valuable spice was peppercorns from the Malabar Coast (south-western Indian coast) which were dried and ground into powdered pepper. Peppercorns were traded into Egypt and were even found in the nose of the mummy of Ramses II. Pepper and other spices were also valued commodities in Roman markets and continued until the economic decline following the fall of Rome in the 5th century AD [ref. Warring Arabs dramatically rose out of the Arabian Desert in the 7th century. They cut Europe off from the clove islands and became the masters of the spice trade, dominating the trade routes from India and eastern Africa [ref. From [date to [date, these spices, as well as Indian and African spices, were brought by sea to the Middle East by Arab traders. Keeping the sources of spices secret from Europeans, the Arabs enjoyed a spice monopoly for centuries until. Eventually, around [date the Roman empire discovered these routes across the seas. These were faster and less costly to pursue than their earlier voyages which closely followed the shoreline. With its international military power, by [date Rome broke the Arab's monopoly. Later, Venetian and other Italian vessels were bringing the spices to Europe. The sea routes were now monopolized by Venice increasing the importance of the overland <https://assignbuster.com/the-digging-stick-the-ard-history-essay/>

Chinese Silk Road which contributed to its partial rebirth as discussed. Portuguese sailors in the 15th century finally established direct contact with the source of spices, undercutting both the Arabs and Venetians. The "Cinnamon Route" (the Malay Archipelago's "East Indies," to the southeastern coast of Africa) and the "Clove Route" to China and India, represented some three thousand years of spice trade that left a lasting legacy and reshaped the known-world [ref. The spice trade was so profitable, that after Alexander the Great's conquest of Egypt (332-331 B. C.), he founded Alexandria on the coast of [place to extend the spice trade into the Mediterranean. Although Arab traders still controlled the spice trade, Alexandria grew wealthy simply on the duties levied on these exports (Celtnet, n. d.). One can draw similarities to the economic effects felt by Americans in today's changing global economy of outsourcing and expatriation of key industry segments [ref. In [date the Europeans experienced an economic downturn as the Arab's closed the Spice Route to them [ref. The Arabs newly found economy [resource], however, allowed them to venture deeper into Asia as never before. By the 9th century, a massive, healthy trade economy existed between the Islamic Caliphate and Asia. While Europe sank into the [economic abyss] of the Dark Ages [dates], Muslims were founding magnificent cities and erecting [massive] buildings [ref. One of the many empires destroyed by the great Genghis Khan was the Islamic Caiphate. The fall of Baghdad around 1400 once again opened the Silk Road and the spice route to the merchants of Europe. The Portuguese were the first to establish new bases at Goa, India and Malacca. The growing, powerful Dutch East Indian Company followed shortly thereafter [dates] [ref. By 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed west for Spain's Queen Isabella to find <https://assignbuster.com/the-digging-stick-the-ard-history-essay/>

a shorter route to the East Indies and their valuable spice trade. As we now know, he landed in the Bahamas. Later, sailing for England's King Henry VIII on a similar quest, John Cabot discovered Newfoundland in 1498. His son, Sebastian Cabot, also sailing west for England to find a spice route in 1508, discovered Hudson Bay in 1509 – the only North American continent landing of the three. Friedman considers the voyage of Columbus the launch of Globalization 1.0 [ref. I would suggest that the beginning of globalization had begun much before – hence, the conclusion that there was a (-2.0) world long before Friedman's 1.0 world. I would also contend - and agree with Friedman (Friedman, 2006) in the context of the Hyperglobalist approach - that the "tipping point" [ref for modern globalization began much later.

Globalization Shift to 2.0

If we choose world GDP as a proxy for the shift in global economics, Chart 1 from economist Angus Maddison (Economist, 2011) shows that China and India were the biggest economies in the world for the past 2000 years (in purchasing power parity). Maddison argues that one reason was because these two countries had the largest working, civilized populations with an internal infrastructure of communication and transportation current for the time. Until 200 years ago and structural changes in globalization, population size was a dominant factor in economic output (Economist, 2011). When Britain first colonized India in the late 18th century, India's per capita income was roughly the same as that of Britain. Colonialism (another globalizing effect) and Western dominated economic terms were then major factors. Once the Industrial Revolution began and colonialism ended followed by the

more recent Information Revolution (Friedman's Globalized World 2.0), a working population mattered less in creating economic power. First the Europeans, then the Americans leveraged technology to grow GDP rapidly on a per capita basis. Steam engines, internal combustion machines, and silicon based industries made up for size. Now, over the past few decades (consistent with the six dynamics of globalization) the faster and unfettered international flow of capital, information, transportation, and communications have allowed the rapid growth of China and India in a few short decades. India and China are now rapidly moving up in the world on a GDP per capita basis. <http://www.ritholtz.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/GDP-History.gif>

CONCLUSION When one considers the thousands of years of globalization and dramatic effects of just the plow, the Silk Road, and the Spice Route, one can appreciate the relative warp speed of the most recent one hundred years. This paper's discussion has shown that, historically, the dynamics of globalization are concepts relative to the precepts of the day and the then known-world. With pedestrian power man walked. In animal drawn caravans and sailing ships humankind made its world smaller. In trains, automobiles, and airplanes the world shrank again until it has become "not much bigger than one immense city" (Harvey 1996, p. 242). From the teller of stories and keeper of a tribe's history to the written language of the scribe on paper to online publishing, humankind has created an institutional memory, disseminating ideas throughout our known-world. Over the past 200 years through the Industrial Revolution and its technological changes, globalization velocity has accelerated: in transportation and work - the steam engine, the telegraph, the telephone, the internal combustion engine, the automobile, the airplane, <https://assignbuster.com/the-digging-stick-the-ard-history-essay/>

the jet airplane, and nuclear power; in new ideas and social constructs - GATT, NAFTA, the UN, the IMF, the World Monetary Fund, the EU, Multinational Corporations (MNCs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) globalization, the assembly line, and the global supply chain; and in communication - the telegraph, the telephone, the radio, television, the computer, the personal computer, the internet, satellites and wireless technologies, and the cell phone,. All, and much more, contribute to the dynamics of increasing globalization. We must recognize the shifts and acceleration of globalization creates downsides. It's easy to intellectually worship the plow. It fed the world for millennia. It is also responsible for destroying soils worldwide; for releasing massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere (some stored in the ground for thousands or millions of years); for allowing wind and water to carry away the thin soil mantle and clog our rivers; and for inadvertently polluting our seas with nitrogen rich byproduct creating destructive sea algae blooms and dying reefs. Ancient civilizations plowed themselves into obsolescence in an attempt to feed themselves; the land was reduced to condition unable to support their civilizations [ref. The Romans did the same to their north African bread basket, as well as chunks of Italy [ref. The fall of the powerful Inca civilization is often credited to over farming and resource depletion [ref. In recent modern history, we may be doing the same across many of our natural resource, not only to feed ourselves, but for light, heat, our computer technology and the convenience of short-term gains, leading to a denuded land and denuding our world. " As the country that benefits most from global economic integration, we [the United States] have the responsibility of making sure that this new system is sustainable...Sustaining globalization is our overarching national interest"

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(Friedman, 1999, p []). Overlapping the Industrial Revolution, the Information Age of the past fifty years and our new digital-world is increasing unfettered trade and the ability for people to connect and collaborate. I conclude that from the beginning, the history of globalization continues to repeat itself. As Friedman says regarding today's globalization (Globalization 3. 0), "... the defining measurement of the globalization system is speed -- in commerce, travel, communication and innovation" (Friedman, 1999, p []). From the competition of the first tribes to that of cities, then cities to competing nations, and from competing nations and multi-national companies, we now see globally competing individuals. As Friedman notes, "...in Globalization 3. 0 - the force that gives it its unique character - is the newfound power for individuals to collaborate and compete globally" (Friedman, 2006, p. 10). The modern promise of globalization - and its inherent downsides - will take us where no man has gone before, faster than ever before. " Take us to warp speed eight, Scotty" (Roddenberry, 1969).