

From Barter to Charters...

Trade had its origins in early history. The traditions remain the same today, the fittest survive by ruling over the weak.



The Roman empire is the best example of the merchant society

Mercantilism

Buy goods cheap in one place. Sell them at another for a higher price.



Globalisation through slave trade



The sun never set on the British empire

Industrial Revolution and capitalism

Get cheap raw materials at cheap rates. Process them in your industries. Sell them at high rates.



Colonies across the globe by world powers



The WTO referrees. The US sets the rules.

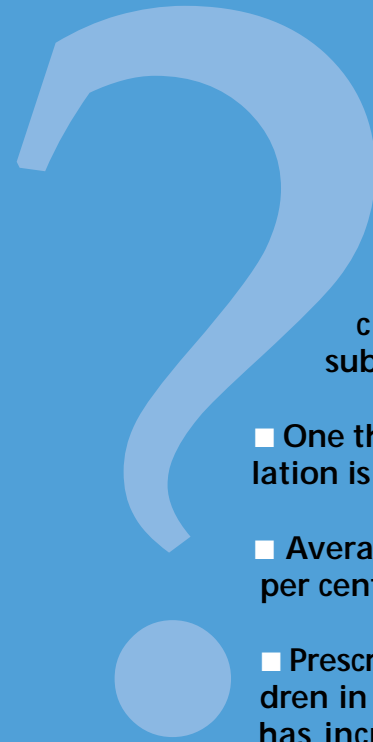
Free Trade and deregulation

The most powerful set rules for 'no rules'. Get raw goods at cheap rates. Process them and sell at high prices.



Globalisation in poverty and over abundance

If globalisation is such a great thing then why...



- USA, Germany, Japan, and countries of the EU are richer than ever before, while the former colonial countries are still so poor?

- Globally 160,000 extra people are migrating to cities because of commercialisation of agriculture and imports of subsidised cheap food?

- One third of the world's 'willing to work' population is either unemployed or underemployed?

- Average household expenditure in Africa is 20 per cent less than what it was 25 years ago?

- Prescriptions for anti-depressant drugs for children in the age group of 7 to 12 years in the US has increased 151 per cent between 1991 and 1995, and 580 per cent for children six and under?



"We welcome process of globalisation. It is inescapable and irreversible. ... (however) ...if globalisation is to create real peace and stability across the world, it must be a process benefiting all. It must not allow the most economically and politically powerful countries to dominate and submerge the countries of the weaker and peripheral regions. It should not be allowed to drain the wealth of smaller countries towards the larger ones, or to increase inequality between richer and poorer regions."

Nelson Mandela, November, 2000