

## Engaging with Globalisation

### In education:

One British business school and eleven universities have campuses in Malaysia.

Eight British universities have campuses in the UAE, of which one has broken its link.

Strathclyde University has a campus in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in partnership with the Princess Nourah university – the largest all-women institution.

Harrow School has campuses in:

Hachimantai in Japan; Beijing, Hong Kong, and Shanghai in China; Bangkok in Thailand; and Bengaluru in Southern India.

From Singapore, Raffles Education operates colleges and universities around Asia and Europe. Raffles Design Institute, established in Riyadh in 2014 at a fine-looking campus, offers internationally recognised Advanced Diploma courses to a new generation of female students in Saudi Arabia. It seems to teach in a language that the Singaporeans themselves self-consciously call Singlish, but (or and) has high-class sponsors.

### In business:

There are now some 30,000 British expatriates in Saudi Arabia. Some 20,000 British nationals live in mainland China (Chinese Government figure) and 35,000 British expats in Hong Kong. This compares to estimates of 30-50,000 Chinese non-student nationals living in the UK.

Russia is a special case, untypical of, and arguably now less relevant to, globalisation. There are no reliable post-invasion figures for Brits living in Russia since Putin's invasion of Ukraine, but one estimate has 180,000 in 2014, before the Russian annexation of Crimea, and 30,000 by 2016 (mostly, I think, teachers, tutors, and au pairs). By contrast, there were some 22,000 Russian nationals residing in the United Kingdom in 2008, and approximately 49,000 in 2021.

Tesla has recently moved to develop its self-driving car system with data from, and that can be processed in, China.

Early in globalisation (then termed off-shoring), and after careful negotiation, Wedgwood outsourced important pottery-making to China, and sending potters to China. The venture failed, mainly through inadequate quality control, and, at a guess, some inadequate legal protection.

HSBC off-shored banking work to India – and later 'reshored' much of it.

In 2015-16, the publishers Macmillan outsourced the 'type-setting' of a 600-page academic book to India. A year or so later, the work was re-shored to the UK and eventually published here in 2017, a year or 18 months later than planned, and at a high price - £89.50! Another quality control failure.\*

There have been many business successes from globalisation. China, if only after much improvement in quality, and in intellectual and other legal provisions and practices, has gained the lion's share of such success. Reportedly, China is now building a fleet of car ferries, to carry many thousands of electric cars around the globe to western markets.

Consumer goods sales, too, from many countries, have vastly risen in foreign markets – from 'white goods' made in Turkey to textile items manufactured in the sub-continent, and a myriad of goods made in China, again the principal beneficiary from globalisation of consumer goods manufacture, due importantly to significantly lower production costs, wages and employment conditions, and some questionable trade negotiations.

But globalisation is not all one-way. Consider the view inside the industry that Nissan's best cars are made not in Japan but in Sunderland.

In medicine;

globalisation has grown exponentially in the last 50 years, from work done by the WHO, the teaching of medicine in campuses abroad, foreign and Commonwealth students studying abroad, Médecins Sans Frontières and other fine organisations and individuals, such as British surgeons spending their summer leave in countries such as Indonesia operating, gratis, on deformed babies, in Cambodia where Hilary's eye surgeon has been performing equally desperately needed cataract operations – also gratis. Plus, of course, nurses and doctors working and spreading best practice and experience all around the world.

The future?

Globalisation in manufactured goods may be declining a little, but has made what looks like permanent inroads into markets, thus leading, after rocky progress, to some relative loss of international reputation for quality and price – e.g. 'Made in England' means less than it did, and is less used.

Globalisation in education may do better for longer, but there may be potholes in that road too, and shifts in direction and navigation. For example, the growth of tertiary education establishments in the UK has led to an overall diminution, both imagined and real, of standards of British degrees and reputations; overseas student costs in the UK have risen sharply as fees paid by English students have stayed unchanged through years of inflation; and the number of UK 'universities' has risen. Britain's competitors for overseas students (e.g. America, Australia) have gained more such paying students, at the expense of the UK, and the reputational effect for Britain and its universities has suffered.

It may be reasonable to conclude that globalisation overall will slow, and possibly decline, as the world becomes more bi-, or tri-polar. In manufactured goods, however, any deceleration may not be immediate or very marked, since in the West,

especially here in the UK, our manufacturing base has been radically reduced in capability, as our service economy has grown; and it will take a while to rebuild significantly and to restore that base.

In a narrow European sense, Brexit may also, directly or indirectly, be having a negative or limiting effect on possible hopes for the restoration of the UK's manufacturing – skills, base, reputation and success.

Roger Carrick

### Globalisation

I wish to look at some aspects of globalisation regarding manufacturing stuff

A major factor was the “invention” of containerisation. Transport costs were much reduced, So things could economically be made anywhere in the world.

With a drive to reduce the selling price, many things are made where labour was cheaper. But also more specialisation occurred, leading to a situation where one country or company was dominant in the manufacture of a given product.

A good example of this is in the production of computer chips. Now produced only in a few countries. But for the good stuff: less than 10nm chips only 2 countries in the world can produce these with 63% coming from Taiwan and 37% from S.Korea. (I think Americas interest in Taiwan is less to do with democracy, and more to do with having a safe supply of micro chips!)

The good news of this globalisation is that we now have lots of cheap stuff. The bad news is we are dependent on single sources, and this makes us very vulnerable.

Relinquishing manufacturing to others means we have no skills back at home, once again making us very vulnerable.

An example of the loss of skills is the American Stinger missile. (Hand held anti aircraft missile). 20 years ago lots were made and put in a warehouse. The production line was shut down and dismantled. No one thought there would be a big war in Europe, where lots were needed, but suddenly more were needed, but no one knew how to make them. Raytheon has had to track down 70 year old ex-employees to teach new employees how to make them.

That is what we are doing by outsourcing all our manufacturing. We no longer can make all the stuff we need. And are dependent on countries who often do not share our values, and may turn against us, as Russia did.

I think we need more self reliance, even if that means we have less stuff.

Mark Oxtoby