

***Globalization* Final**

Manfred B. Steger has given us a great deal to consider in *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction* and has urged us to recognize the extent to which our lives today are affected by the process of globalization. As a final stage in our “Tragedy of the Commons” focus in this class, I want you to think about and discuss some specific ways that you see the “tragedy” playing out in a particular dimension, economic, political, cultural, or ideological, of globalization.

Hardin says, as you remember,

“Each man is locked into a system that compels him to increase his herd without limit—in a world that is limited. Ruin is the destination toward which all men rush, each pursuing his own best interest in a society that believes in the freedom of the commons.”

How then does Hardin’s model apply to Steger’s description of globalization? I suggest that you pick one dimension (ch. 3, 4, 5, or 6) to focus on. Review the chapter carefully, looking for issues or problems that could be seen as extensions of the “tragedy” dilemma. Perhaps you see that nations and the whole world have taken the place of individuals and the common, respectively, in “the commons” model, and various problems Steger mentions (terrorism, environmental degradation, destruction of biodiversity, or war, for example,) are in Hardin’s class of “no technical solution.” The trend toward economic deregulation on a global scale is perhaps a contemporary version of “freedom of the commons.”

Your essay will set up and discuss, in a limited and organized way, the connections you see between these two works, *Globalization* and “The Tragedy of the Commons.” How does Hardin’s older work place the issues of globalization in a historical and human context and how does *Globalization* make Hardin’s ideas seem applicable today?

Don’t forget to take time to plan a good essay, with an introduction, thesis, three or four focused body paragraphs developed with specific support and examples, and a strong conclusion. Allow time to edit your work carefully before you turn it in.