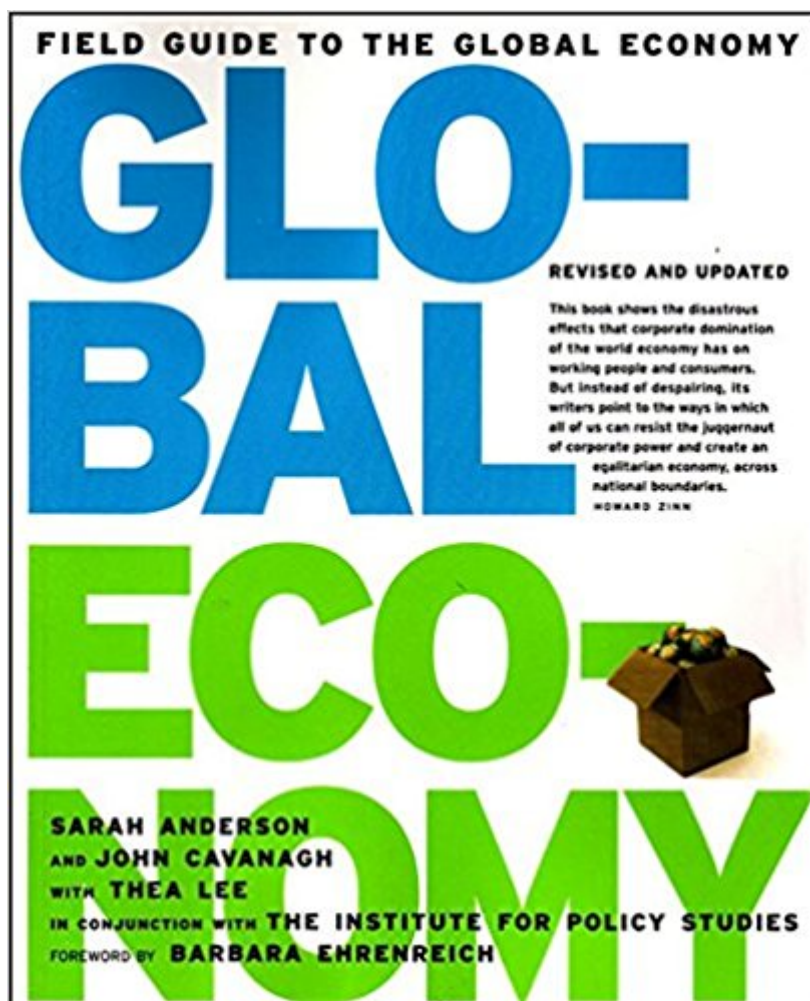


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# Field Guide To The Global Economy



## Synopsis

This fully updated and expanded second edition of *The Field Guide to the Global Economy* presents the latest facts to help make sense of the rapidly changing international economy. Illustrated throughout with charts, graphs, and cartoons, the book documents new trends, including the foreign "outsourcing" of U.S. service jobs, as well as the increasing influence of mega-firms like Wal-Mart and labor union-free China on workers around the globe. Published in conjunction with the Institute for Policy Studies, an independent research institute based in Washington, D.C., this accessible guide explains how global institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization, and North American Free Trade Agreement affect communities, workers, the poor, and the environment. The book dispels the widely disseminated propaganda about current globalization policies and provides an update on the burgeoning movement that is challenging them, from Bolivian water warriors to U.S. student anti-sweatshop activists.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a position statement "to enhance solidarity for people sharing a vision of justice and democracy" that is decidedly antibusiness and anti-free markets. It fuels what the authors contend is growing speculation that corporate-driven globalization, in its quest for stockholder value, hinders the welfare of the majority of people around the world. Although valid points are made, the spin put on them, as well as errors or misleading details, prompts skepticism; the authors do not attempt a balanced view. However, they offer a history and status of global flows of goods and services, giving their explanation of the current form of globalization. They examine 10 common claims of the

pro-globalization camp with their rebuttal and describe the major institutions and policies driving globalization. They conclude by highlighting efforts to slow down or change globalization. Although this book presents a negative account of globalization, these voices may have something to teach. Yet read this book with care. Mary Whaley --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

People the world over need a handbook to guide them through the muck and myth and propaganda that surround globalization. This book offers a clear map. Read it, learn, and engage.

Globalization is evil. Multinational corporations are taking over. There, now you don't have to read this depressing antiglobalist screed. If you're looking for a fair, balanced, critical understanding of globalization, forget this book. This alarmist "Field Guide" features loose reasoning and selective statistics. Here's a howler: "In the US, NAFTA supporters argued that the deal would lead to a net increase of high-quality US jobs, as rapidly expanding exports created massive trade surpluses with Canada and Mexico. Just the opposite has happened. Between 1994 and 2003, US imports from the NAFTA partners grew far faster than US exports to those countries. As a result, the US trade deficit with Canada and Mexico ballooned from \$13b to \$92b" (p. 91). That's a non-sequitur: the authors begin talking about jobs, but slyly shift to trade, as if the latter statistic somehow proves the authors' point. What happened to jobs? The authors neglect to mention that under NAFTA from 1993 to 2001, US employment grew from 120M to 135M. Five years after NAFTA started, US unemployment hit a historic low of 3.8%, a level once considered unachievable (Smick 222). Unfortunately this tedious "Field Guide" presents only the negative side of globalization, and its biased use of statistics harms its own cause by diminishing its credibility. Try instead try Friedman's The World is Flat or Smick's The World is Curved.

The book gave a good summary of the Global Economy but from a definite perspective, rather than from an even-handed assessment. It would have been more useful if the topics were treated objectively, including progressive and traditional valuations.

I had to read this book for my sociology class and googling the topics helped explain them better than the book did.

Quite an interesting read, containing lots of facts that could affect your life (which job categories are

most at risk for outsourcing overseas, how Wal-Mart treats its employees badly and taxpayers suffer the consequences, disgustingly excessive pay for CEOs, the invasion of unregulated genetically modified food, ...). Many of the facts are eye-opening and I certainly moderated my personal pro-business views. Unfortunately, the book is introductory (almost to a fault) as you can guess from the fact that the jacket brags about the book's cartoons. It is extremely one-sided, and its blatant pro-union propaganda can be annoying. Facts and statistics are presented but I got the feeling that many of the book's arguments could be undermined if the "whole story" were revealed (simply throwing in a citation should not take the place of complete presentation within the text). Finally, there are many completely unsupported statements of opinion inappropriately stuck into otherwise fact-based paragraphs, giving these opinions apparent legitimacy. Despite its shortcomings, this is an interesting book, and presents an easy way to learn about the World Bank and the IMF as (probably) seen by Third World people. After reading, I agree that the corporate-driven globalization we are now experiencing is flawed, but some of the alternatives promoted by this book (blanket amnesty to illegal aliens, total cancellation of poor-country debt, weakened protection of intellectual property rights, ...) appear equally ill-considered.

The updated, expanded new edition of the Field Guide To The Global Economy presents the latest facts key to helping students and general audiences understand the elements of the changing international economy, and is a 'must' for any who would keep up with change. Charts, graphs and cartoons aid in understanding the latest trends, from the outsourcing of US jobs to the influence of big chains around the world. To add authority, this is published in conjunction with the Institute for policy Studies based in Washington DC and explains how global institutions affect not just monetary policies, but social and economic situations around the world.

A group in our high school had been planning a symposium on the global economy when our advisor suggested that we take a look at this book. "Field Guide" offers a clear, concise description of many of the global issues that confront citizens of both the industrialized and unindustrialized nations. To its credit, it offers both the pros and cons of many of the issues it discusses and offers a resource list for others to get involved. I encourage anyone interested global politics or economics to read this book, share it with a friend, and get involved!

There are two things that I really like about this book, in addition to it being accessible to nearly everybody: 1) it is well cited. It is important for me to trust the statistics that I am reading, so that I

can then feel empowered. And 2) the chapter 'Globalization Claims'. This chapter assesses 10 claims that supporters of globalization regularly pull out of their back pocket, holding up those claims to the light of day (the claims are often as thin and flimsy as cheese cloth).

That is the first book on economics I read that does not necessarily employ a lot of incomprehensible terminology. Moreover, it is written for the average reader who wants to get a "first introduction" into the topic. It is definitely not written for people who search any detailed information. This book explains perfectly the basic correlations in today's global economy.

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