

SAME PLACE, SAME TIME

THE LATEST BOOKS ON GLOBALIZATION

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In the first months of 2020 the world is facing a serious danger which threatens the health and welfare of many people in the world. As a consequence of the spreading of the SARS-CoV-2 many governments have decided to close their borders and lockdown the populations. As a result, the majority of the global and local exchanges, both on the social, cultural and economic level, is physically interrupted. Some analysts forecast a “stop-and-go quarantine” situation until a specific therapy or vaccine is found.

According to some scholars, the “global social distancing” we are facing is the manifestation of the effective decline of the process of globalization, already endangered by the greater roles taken by the States in the pandemic crisis. In this perspective, the virus would be the last killer of a supra-national order already exhausted by years characterized by a continuing resurgence of nationalism – a process which Ray Kiely defines *The Conservative Challenge to Globalization*. However, as it is well-known, the conception of a dichotomy between State and globalization lacks the intrinsic complexity of both. As lastly stated by Pierre Dardot and Christian Laval in their “inquiry on the State sovereignty”, the idea of an opposition between State and globalization is far too simplistic (*Dominer. Enquête sur la souveraineté de l'État en Occident*). Then, even if it is undoubtedly true that the actual crisis hits multilateralism hard, it seems difficult to infer from this fact the “decline” (or the “death”) of globalization due to some “reaffirmed” functions of the State. On the contrary, the importance of technology in managing this

ISSN 2283-7949
GLOCALISM: JOURNAL OF CULTURE, POLITICS AND INNOVATION
2020, 1, DOI: 10.12893/gjcp.2020.1.6
Published online by “Globus et Locus” at <https://glocalismjournal.org>



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pandemic, linked to the role that technological development has played in the nexus between States and globalization (*Growth in a Time of Change: Global and Country Perspectives on a New Agenda*) seems to suggest a scenario in which these elements continue to work together, despite the current border shutdowns. After all, as Marc Levinson affirms, globalization is much more than just “moving stuff” around the world (*Outside the Box: How Globalization Changed from Moving Stuff to Spreading Ideas*).

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