11-14-1997

Trends. Globalization and the Ugly American: "Fast-Track", Cuba, Libya, and Iran

Editor

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One rather poetic if mundane analogy for the consequences of globalization is that of the butterfly flying and creating perturbations throughout the world. One perturbation may be a rise in salience of the Ugly American.

In an era where there are purported interdependencies everywhere one looks, a majority of members of the United States (US) House of Representatives have said "no" to granting "fast-track" authority--that would have allowed the President and executive staff to negotiate trade treaties that Congress could vote up or down, but without amendments or modifications. One rationale for saying "no" was that in the name of fair competition other countries need to make their labor and environmental policies, regulations, and conditions more in line with those of the US.

Within the recent past, the US President and the Congress have collaborated on legislation--Helms-Burton, Iran-Libya Sanctions--that penalizes foreign companies and governments that engage in specified trade and economic transactions with Cuba, Libya, and Iran. The US executive and legislative branches also have collaborated on policies, laws, programs, and other exemplars of punishment and psychological omission training towards countries that have different views on human rights, ultimate causes of illicit drug trafficking and terrorism, population control, and free trade.