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Trends. Globalization as Old Wine in New Bottles: The 30th Anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

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Much has been made of the new era of globalization, but is it new in any substantive way? Several examples of "new" phenomena among the ASEAN countries--phenomena ascribed to globalization--should give pause to participants and observers alike.

(1) The capital markets crisis in ASEAN countries has been attributed to not conforming to the rules of a global market economy. Yet there have been capital market crises throughout history dependent on the economic psychologies of countries beyond those that were stricken--as in the Great Depression of the 1920s and 1930s. (2) Outside pressures concerning human rights violations--like those of the ASEAN countries--also have occurred concerning other countries throughout history leading among other phenomena to the abolishment of the legal slave trade between Europe, Africa, and North America. (3) The environmental disaster produced by Indonesian forest fires that crossed national boundaries was preceded by Chernobyl and also by myriad natural disasters in Africa and South and Central America precipitating significant population displacements across political boundaries. (4) That ASEAN vitality is dependent on that of members and nonmembers alike is congruent with the vitality dependencies of regional blocs at least as old as those comprising the Greek city states during the Peloponnesian War. The same is the case for outside pressures about the entry of specific members to an association--like Myanmar today, the Chinese war lords of yesterday.

The complexity and scope of interdependencies of nations may be increasing. Yet clearly the era of globalization is not a recent development. (See Flippen, A.R., Hornstein, H.A., Siegal, W.E., & Weitzman, E.A. (1996). A comparison of similarity and interdependence as triggers for in-group formation. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 22, 882-893; Heine, S.J., & Lehman, D.R. (1995). Cultural variation in unrealistic optimism: Does the West feel more vulnerable than the East? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 68, 595-607; Kenny, D.A., & Judd, C.M. (1996). A general procedure for the estimation of interdependence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 119, 138-148; Mydans, S. (December 17, 1997). Asian bloc's anniversary celebration becomes a plea for outside help. *The New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com>.)