

# Notes on Module 5: Digital Divide, Globalization, Information

## Beating the Digital Divide

In some places around the globe, the landline infrastructure is too expensive to set up. Some societies have revolutionized the cellphone.

1. In East Africa banking is done by phone<sup>1</sup>  
<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2009/0213/p25s19-woaf.html>
2. In Nigeria, the mobile phone helped fight Ebola  
<http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2014/africa-wired>
3. Kenyans order more iPhones than Apple can deliver  
<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/business/2014/11/kenyans-order-more-iphones-than-apple-can-deliver/>
4. Cellphone banking takes Kenya by storm  
<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2009/0213/p25s19-woaf.html>
5. No M-PESA this weekend <http://www.cio.co.ke/news/main-stories/no-m-pesa-this-weekend>

## Globalization and Information

6. If I were to describe in a few words the content of the course *Global Issues and Society*, I would say that the expression “global village” is an apt summary of the concept embodied in the course: globalization is the shrinking of the world in both time and space! Globalization has erased borders and created instead, new “territories” whose “frontiers” are based, not on territorial boundaries of the nation state, but on the reach of information.
7. Globalization means that the influence of states (or even private corporations like CNN, Sky News in the UK) with huge resources and the technology to deliver news and images, is not confined to the physical state boundaries. The UK’s British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and America’s Voice of America (VOA), for example, are not hindered by the “territorial sovereignty” of foreign states. They can use the information revolution to speak directly to the citizens of North Korea, Sudan, and other countries, over the heads of their governments and rulers!

**Question: What do you think about the repeal of the net-neutrality regulations?**

1. Russia Targeting European Parliamentary Elections with Help of Far-Right Politicians – Daily Beast <https://www.thedailybeast.com/russia-targeting-european-parliamentary-elections-with-help-of-far-right-politicians>
2. The U S Is Purging Chinese Cancer Researchers From Top Institutions  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2019-06-13/the-u-s-is-purging-chinese-americans-from-top-cancer-research>

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<sup>1</sup> These are very old stories but still relevant today!