

Preface

Globalization is not a new phenomenon in the international system. This is evidenced by the fact that various efforts have been made over the last several centuries to establish a so-called “global village” with multiple spheres – cultural, economic, ecological, political, social, etc. However, the various phases of globalization have had divergent scope, actors, dimensions and dynamics. Hence, each of the phases of globalization can be differentiated using the aforementioned markers. Since 1990, the “new globalization” has emerged as the current phase of the phenomenon. Among other things, the “new globalization” is the most expansive and technological advanced of all of the phases of globalization. For example, the “new globalization” has occasioned, *inter alia*, the integration of virtually all states of the world and non-state actors into the global capitalist system. The resultant consequences have differed from country to country and region to region.

Against this background, the African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF) of the Association of Third World Studies, as part of its “Research Program on Africa,” assigned me the task of assembling a group of Africanist scholars to examine some of the effects the “new globalization” has, and continues to have on Africa. I would like to thank Professor John Mukum Mbaku, the former President of the ASFR, and Professor E.Ike Udogu, the former Director of Research and Publications of the ASRF, for the support and encouragement they provided for the project from its conception to completion.

Also, I would like to express my gratitude to the contributors to the research project and this volume for the time and effort they committed to the project. Particularly, their very insightful chapters on some of the frontier issues confronting Africa in the age of the “new globalization” will help this volume to make a significant contribution to the scholarly literature on globalization as well as the on going debate in various circles.

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