

GLOBALISATION IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM: IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

PILLAY, DEVAN

RESUMEN

Globalisation is a complex, multi—faceted, phenomenon with widely contested meanings. While it has roots in the history of colonialism, capitalist development and imperialism, there are strong indications that what we are witnessing, since the 1980s, is a qualitative break with the past.

Old boundaries, categories and meanings are being challenged in profound ways, as new forms of exploitation and subjugation emerge such that stark brutal force coexists with, and may be increasingly supplanted by, more subtle, pervasive forces of hegemonic rule.

The latter, however, has opened up new terrains of struggle for people, movements, and governments opposed to one—dimensional ‘corporate globalisation’, seeking instead the globalisation of social and environmental justice. A continent like Africa — much of which has sunk deeper into a “fourth world” status of extreme under—development, social instability and neo—colonial dependence — faces stark choices.

Does it seek to partially or fully ‘de—link’ itself from the global economy, in order pursue ‘self—reliant’ development; or does it go with the wind of globalisation in a manner that maximises the benefits, and minimises the dangers?