

Globalization

Aspects	Past	Present	Future
Economic	Rise of the West	Rise of the East	Rise of the Rest?
	Great Divergence (the West vs the Rest)	Catch-up of the Rest	Great Convergence?
	Little Divergence (North vs South in Europe)	Still divergence (Germany vs Spain)	
	How Malthusian was the past?	Poverty still present, development traps	Are there unsurmountable limits to growth?
	Capitalism: unstability + prosperity	Capitalism triumphant	Will capitalism eventually die? Survive?
	Rise of the corporation	Economic dominance of corporations	Will corporations replace states?
		Asymmetric economic globalization	
	Kuznets curve	Kuznets cycles	Tension growth/inequality?
		Rodrik's trilemma	
Demographic	Humanity populates the planet	Demographic explosion?	Population collapse? Population control?
		Are people assets or burdens?	
Financial	Recurrent financial crises	Finance rules: financial dominates real sector	Is financial stability destabilizing?
		Cryptocurrencies (Bitcoin &c)	New money or no money?
	Debt hard to accumulate globally	Global debt explosion	Will excessive debt remain the norm?
Technological	Agricultural, industrial revolution	Digital revolution	Artificial intelligence, non-biological species?
	Continuous technological development	Is everything explained by technology?	Rise of the robots?
	Technological unemployment solved	Technological unemployment unavoidable?	The end of work?
		Jevons paradox	
Environmental	Environmental deterioration	Deterioration out of control?	Ecological collapse? Mass extinctions?
	Local tragedies of the commons	Global tragedy of the commons	Final tragedy vs no more tragedies?
Political	Long march towards democracy?	Is democracy in regress?	Is democracy self-sustaining?
	Democratic waves	Rise of populism?	
	Rise of the state	Modern state	National state, global state, no state?
	Creation of the welfare state	Decline of the welfare state	
	Elite dominance (and abuse)	Taming of the elites? (Unnoticed abuse?)	Can elites be disciplined?
Geopolitical	Succession of hegemonic (big) powers	US hegemony, rise of China	Multilateral or hegemonic world?
	Center vs periphery	North-South divide	Bremmer's geopolitical scenarios

	Thucydides trap		Cyberwarfare, tension belts, death of conflict?
Social	Recurrent collapse of complex societies	Globalization increases social complexity	Is complexity destabilizing?
	Widespread violence	More peaceful societies?	Will violence decline definitively?
	Hierarchical social structures always present	1% vs 99%	Is inequality necessary for progress?
		Fermi paradox	Are civilizations self-destructive?
	Rise of the middle class	Middle classes endangered	Disappearance of the middle classes?
	Rise of connectedness among societies	No society isolated from the rest	Full integration or regional blocks?
Psychological	Psychopathic personality of great leaders		Deviation necessary for social evolution?
		Principle of social proof	
Cultural	Pervasive role of religion	Declining role	New religions or no religions at all?
	Superstition, magical thinking	Why do people still believe in weird things?	
	Diversification	Homogeneization triumphant? Localism?	Will cultural clashes persist?
		Is there moral progress?	
Ideology		Neoliberalism triumphant	
X-events	With no defense against them	Still vulnerable to X-events	Aliens, cosmic catastrophes?