

In this textbook, 'global trend' is defined as a manner of thinking or behaving that gains worldwide recognition or imitation. In the following chapters we will discuss seven important global trends that still affect the world today. Some of these trends have a political impact, while others are more important in the academic domain where they provide new outlooks on human behavior. What distinguishes global trends from global structures is that the trends represent recent developments that have not yet consolidated into global structures, that have faded away before ever becoming a global structure, or that have evolved into something else. For instance, some argue that the global trend of secularization that was dominant in the second half of the twentieth century is being replaced by a new trend of increasing religionization, while others argue that religion has always been a global structure and that the secularism of the twentieth century was merely a glitch in history. Another example is the global trend of international cooperation, which appeared to become a global trend in the second half of the twentieth century, but since the 2010s is being challenged by an emerging unilateralism.