

I/ An old and deep insertion in globalisation

A/ The UK : an important hub of globalisation

Hub : a centre connected to other centres by spokes. Hub and spokes [noeuds et réseaux] structure. An important concept in geography.

We are speaking here about economic globalisation. Economic globalisation leads to specialized economies.

British economy is specialized in services (80 % of the British economy)
For example, UK is the first European exporter of services with one third (33%) of the global services exportations of the EU in 2012 (Eurostat).
The services balance (difference between importations and exportations) is positive (81,5 billions). The dynamism is directly connected to the global city of London.
Financial-services are an important part of this activity but not only in London, the first British bank is a Scottish one (Royal Bank of Scotland).

On the other side, the British commercial balance is in deficit (around 200 billions of euros in 2012), especially because of the weaknesses of the British Industry. Even, if pharmaceutical, aeronautic industries are strong, other industrial sectors are in the red (car manufacturing, garment industry...). Oil and gas of the North sea are still an important advantage.

Moreover, the **British economy depends on the UE**. For example, its first buyers of services are all in Europe (Ireland, France, Germany and Netherlands) and UE represents 50 % of the British exportations of the UK. One quarter for the Americas.

The UK has one of the world's most globalised economies, and this involvement in the globalisation is a very old story.

B/ A founder of the Globalisation

The United Kingdom is the **oldest state involved in globalisation**. The UK and its Empire reinforced the connections between the regions of the world, because it was located on the five continents. It was the first globalisation.

The economic ideology that dominates globalisation is born in the UK, the **liberalism** (example: Adam Smith 1723-1790 is Scottish)...

Today the **Commonwealth** is still an important organisation with 53 independent states. These countries are sharing a common culture (and language) and they gather around the Monarchy.
Some of these states are still ruled (theoretically) by the Queen of England: Canada, Australia. Still a strong military power... but after the American one.

Inside Globalisation, the place of **English language** is very important as a cultural advantage. The estimation of people who are speaking English is difficult : between 500 million to 1 billion people are speaking English in the world. Around four hundred million as a first language, between 100 to 600 million people as a second language.

On third of the websites are in English in the world.

The **cultural links** are very important in globalisation and the United Kingdom has specific relations with the centres of Globalisation (the **Global Triad**).

It's a part of the European Union, the links (historical, political, cultural) with the USA are really strong, and the links with Asia are old and strong too (India, Singapour, HK)...

The new immigrants in the UK reinforced this insertion in globalisation.

II/ London, the heart of globalisation in the UK

Introduction: what are the limits of London ?

The total population of London is about 7.8 million of people, in the official area called the Greater London. It's composed of 32 boroughs.

Inner London = 3,1 million people (12 boroughs)

Outer London = 4,7 million people (20 boroughs)

The "London commuter belt", it means the metropolitan area surrounding London from which it is practical to commute to work in the capital.

It represents 12 million people (Paris 11.5 million).

It's the first metropolitan area of the European Union.

It's a big concentration of economic wealth, and more than 22 % of the GDP of the country (for 12 % of the total population). It's the richest urban area of the EU.

A/ A global city

What's a global city ?

A global city is an important city by its population and its concentration of powers and functions at a global level, in economy, in politics and in culture.

There are many different ways to measure the size and importance of a city, but in all the classifications London is in the top five of the global cities : why ?

The financial power : the City

The City is the heart of the global finance. It's the first concentration of banks in the world, and the first stock exchange in Europe (third in the world).

This concentration started in the medieval times, and for many centuries the City was a self-governing city.

This tradition of independence strengthened the banks and financial companies of London. Moreover, the growth of the Empire gave to the City a global dimension because it became the financial and commercial centre of the biggest empire of the world.

Until today, the City has got its own mayor who is not the mayor of London.

The English language is the language of the financial markets and because of its localisation the City is able to work with Asia in the morning and with America in the afternoon. The City is located in the centre of the global market.

A centre for innovations

London is an important place of innovation in many economic sectors: services for companies, IT (Information technology...), advertising, marketing, media...

All this activities are concentrated in the Inner London, but it's a new trend.

In the London Urban Area there are other places of innovation, especially along the M4 (Motorway) from London to Bristol (especially around Reading and the Heathrow airport).

The decline and renewal of industrial power of London

Even if London wasn't the heart of industrialisation during the 19th century, the decline of Industry was very strong in the Greater London area, and the city is specialized in services.

But, in the metropolitan area, after the decline of old Industries (car manufacturing), some areas are developing industries, especially along the M4 (new technologies, pharmaceutical industries...).

A major city of Culture

With the domination of English, London is a very attractive city for students (reinforcement of innovation), for tourists and tourism increased a lot thanks to the Channel Tunnel.

An example, London is the first European market for publishing in Europe.

B/ A major hub of the globalisation

In the world and in Europe

London is included in the European megalopolis from London to Milan.

London is close to a very dynamic European region : with the proximity of the other European global city, Paris (the passenger traffic between Paris and London is the most important in Europe), the proximity of the European Institutions (example : Brussels), and the proximity of the Northern Range (it's a big concentration of ports between Le Havre and Hamburg, with the biggest port of the world in the middle (Rotterdam). 800 kms.

From port to airport

London was for a long period the biggest port in the world, but today it's the 84th port in the world (in volume) and the activity move eastward to the estuary of the Thames river.

It's because of the industrial crisis since the end of the second world war.

But London is a major hub of the global air traffic. The six London airports are together the first airport system in the world (more than 130 million passengers a year).

C/ A city in motion

From decline to Renewal

After the WWII, London population declined because of the industrial crisis. From 1951 to 1981, the population declined from 8.1 million people to 6.6 million.

Since the 1980ies, London succeeded to adapt to a changing world and the population is increasing since this period.

The symbol of this evolution are the Docklands, which were the former Port of London. The former docks have been replaced by luxury flats and offices and is an extension of the City... a symbol of the renewal of London.

The Olympic games in 2012 participated to the renewal of London. The new skyline of London is a symbol of this renewal (with the Shard inaugurated in 2012, tallest building in Europe, 310 m high).

Immigration

This renewal is possible thanks to immigration. It is the "World in one city". 300 languages are spoken in London, and there are 40 communities of more than 10 000 thousand people. One third of the population is born in a foreign country.

It's an old tradition, and since the 18th century London welcomed immigrants from all over Europe: French persecuted protestants, Jews from Eastern Europe... Irish people are important too, and it's an old immigration of poor people but this immigration decreased since the entrance of Eire in the EU.

Immigration from the former colonies is important too. South Asian immigration is very important from Pakistan and India (13.1 % of the population), or Caribbean immigration and African immigration.

For ten years, the diversity of immigration is more important with a mix of people from Asia but important moves from Europe (Poland, Russia, France...) with an attractive job market. Polish community is about 800 000 people.

African and Caribbean people are living in the centre, people from Pakistan and India in the North west of the Greater London.

The election of Sadiq Khan in May 2016, a Londoner with Pakistani origins, is a proof of the open-mindedness of the Londoners. But immigration is a subject of tensions all over UK and even London.

Social inequalities

At the same time, the social gap between the richest part of the City (western Inner London, around Hyde Park) and the poorest part (called the East End) is increasing for twenty years.

This gap is connected too with a racial gap, most of the time the poorest districts are the ones where the immigrants are living.

The job market is divided in two kinds of jobs: very high payed jobs (in FIRE¹ activities for example) and low payed jobs (nick named "mac jobs") typical of the development of the Globalisation.

III/ A globalized UK outside London

The impact of globalisation is very important in the UK, it changes the hierarchy between the regions in the country. The other centres of globalisation are connected to the dynamism of London.

The spatial organisation of the UK changes because of the globalisation. Some peripheries are outside the globalisation and some are inside, and the hierarchy

¹ FIRE : Finance, Insurance, Real Estate (finance, assurances, immobilier)

of the British regions is changing because of the globalisation. The regions involved in globalisation are connected to the dynamism of London.

A/ Other British centres of globalisation

Some parts of Wales (W.), Scotland (S.), and Northern England (NE.) are dynamic regions, well integrated in the global economy, and most of the time very specialised.

Southern Wales around Cardiff is a dynamic region with direct connections to London thanks to the M4. And the development of the paper industry around Cardiff (thanks to the port of Cardiff too).

Scotland. The region between Edinburgh and Glasgow is called the "Silicon Glen" (a reference to the Silicon Valley of California, an example of the electronic industry) because electronic industries are very important (more than 40 000 direct jobs) in this region, mainly thanks to the Japanese companies. But this activity is fragile because they are only assembly plants, with very few research activities.

The impact of Oil and Gas industries is very important along the eastern coast of Scotland and England. Around Aberdeen (in Scotland), one third of the jobs are due to oil and gas. This city is very dynamic and specialized in this activity. Newcastle in Northern England and Hull (a very dynamic Port) take advantage of it too. The eastern coast takes advantage of the trade with the European Union too.

[Remark: Oil and Gas of the North Sea are exploited since 1980ies, but the stocks are dwindling.]

B/ "Outsiders" of globalisation

Globalisation has a strong impact on the British territory, and some former centres became peripheries because of globalisation.

North and South Divide

These regions of England were very prosperous regions before 1945. They were very powerful industrial regions (coal mining, garment industries, steel industry, car manufacturing...). Regions from Birmingham to Newcastle, a big part of the Midlands and the North of England. All the indicators are bad: higher unemployment rate, lower wages...

It's a consequence of globalisation, because the development of transportation makes possible to produce in low wages countries (in Asia) and sell in richer regions as Europe. It leads to the destruction of industries in developed countries, especially the less competitive ones.

It was the victorious England during the 19th century, and now the northern England is opposed to the South-eastern England around London. Since few years, new industries settle in these regions (closest to London), but this rebirth is unequal and fragile.

East coast and west coast

Because of globalisation, there's an important shift from west coast to east coast.

During the 19th century, Liverpool (on the west coast) was the port of the British empire. After 1945 and its disappearance the Decline of Liverpool and Manchester was strong.

The eastern coast is more dynamic (Newcastle, York and Hull) today for two reasons: the impact of oil and gas industries and the attraction of the European Union on the eastern coast.

Peripheries outside England

It's a group of regions that are distant from London and its dynamic centre: North-West of Scotland, North Ireland, and North-west of Wales.

They share common problems: a lower population density: 65 inh/km² in Scotland (S) for 400 inh/km² in England, distance and transport are a problem, a cultural distance (language for Wales, religion for Scotland), economic peripheries...

Conclusion

The relation between globalisation and geography in the UK is very strong.

UK is the oldest and still a major state in globalisation. It's a centre of globalisation.

At every scale, from small scale (state) to large scale (city), UK is transformed by globalisation but only London seems to be able to follow these evolutions and is still now the main gate of globalisation in the UK.

There are other centres of globalisation in the UK, but they are existing because of London.

The Brexit is partially due to the reject of Globalisation, embodied by the European Union (*Prezi: map*)