Contributing Factors to Human Trafficking
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Thesis
Globalization, the business of human trafficking, corruption and culture contribute to the existence of human trafficking. Each of these factors consist of both a structural component and a component based upon individual agency that interact to encourage global human trafficking. My research seeks to unpack these interactions and increase the understanding we have of the reasons behind the occurrence of human trafficking specifically in the domains of sexual exploitation and forced labour.

Method
• Qualitative approach
• Critical theorist design
• Secondary research in the form of case studies, books, scholarly articles, and documentaries
• Heavy focus on case studies
• Ethnographic content analysis to analyze data

Results and Discussion
The Effects of Globalization
• The goal of globalization is to create a single unified field in which global capital can operate unhindered across national borders
• This privilege of transnational capital over the state and society results in inequalities that can lead to human trafficking. These include the deepening of rural poverty, increased economic disadvantage of the poor, and the net extraction of wealth and resources from poor economies into richer ones

Human Trafficking as a Business
• There is a high demand for cheap labour and cheap sex
• Human trafficking businesses supply this demand through enslaving people who have been disenfranchised by poverty, economic breakdown, etc.
• Use of slave labour minimizes costs and increases profits

Conclusions and Recommendations
• The way society is organized (through globalization, business, corruption, and culture) encourages the existence of human trafficking
• In order to change this reality, two things need to change: 1. The current conduct of economic globalization 2. The hearts and minds of people
• A solution would require people to get rid of ideas of competition and domination and to adopt a discourse of equity and equality. Only then will we be able to move forward successfully in justice

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Image on left taken from mindthis.ca. Image on right taken from The CNN Freedom Project.

Chart taken from http://becher4173.weebly.com/usatistics.html


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80% of Trafficking Victims Are Women and Half Are Minors

Cultural Influences on Society
• Our culture has taught us that certain groups of people are not as valuable as others. This kind of thinking has made it easy to enslave these groups of people.
• Enslavement usually occurs through two main vehicles: 1. Class discrimination based on ethnic, racial and caste divides 2. Patriarchy based on discrimination against women and children

• Over sexed images of women in media and pornography promotes the male demand for commercial sex and normalizes rape in our culture