

Obama's speech on Globalization - Campaign 2008

[...] In other words we can't simply return to the strategies of the past.

For we're living through an age of fundamental economic transformation: technology has changed the way we live, and the way the world does business; the collapse of the Soviet Union, the advance of capitalism have vanquished old challenges to America's global leadership. But new challenges have emerged, from China, and India, and Eastern Europe, even countries like Brazil. Jobs and industries can move to any country with an internet connection and willing workers. And Michigan children will grow up facing competition not just from kids in California or South Carolina but also from young people in Beijing and Bangalore.

A few years ago I saw a picture of this new reality during a visit to a Google's headquarters in California. Towards the end of the tour I was brought into a room where there was a three-dimensional image of the earth that rotated on a large flat panel monitor. And across this image there were countless lights in different colours all around this globe. And I asked what those lights signified and the young engineer explained that the lights represented all of the internet searches taking place all around the world. Each colour represented a different language. And the image was mesmerizing: a picture of a world where old boundaries are disappearing, a world where communication, connection and competition can come from anywhere.

Now there are some who believe that we must try to turn back the clock on this new world, that the only chance to maintain our living standard is to build a fortress around America, so stop trading with other countries, to shut down immigration, rely on old industries. I disagree. Not only is it impossible to turn back the tide of globalization, but efforts to do so could actually make us worse-off. So rather than fear the future we have to embrace it.

Argentina 'Carrotmob' stick up for green business - CNN.com:

A sunny Saturday afternoon at this Buenos Aires farmers' market and business is brisker than usual thanks to the Carrotmob. The Carrotmob is a global movement built on 'the carrot or the stick' concept and applied to local businesses who are rewarded rather than punished by consumers; **a Carrotmob is the opposite of a boycott.**

"The idea is to support a business because it's doing something good and you support it by bringing the mob, a lot of people, who are going to consume at this business and thereby like make their profits bigger who then, the business, before the event has to commit to invest in something of their project."

In this case the El Dapone farmers' market committed to using its increased profits to expand its facility and make more organic products available city-wide. **The first Carrotmob took place in San Francisco in 2008, the idea has since spread, fifty-five gatherings have taken place around the globe from Helsinki to Bangkok.** Today's gathering in Buenos Aires is the first ever for South America. People are cautiously optimistic that the concept will catch on here. Cautious they say because in this region of the world poverty, crime and unemployment often trump environmental issues.

"I think Latin America is trying, with the younger generations, to catch up with the rest of the world in terms of green thinking, but I think we are very far still. We need to, I think also, like for more people to be engaged in these (sic : this)things, we need to address other social problems as well, or try to do this link between social and environmental problems."

Liquor stores, cafes and pizza parlours around the planet have been selected for Carrotmobs and each have used the revenue boost to improve energy efficiency. In Buenos Aires the results were immediate and welcome.

Cash Mob - CNN Money

These people on a Cleveland Street corner haven't been told where they're going. They are part of a cash mob. Following instructions from Facebook and Twitter to show up and look for the guy in the funny looking hat.

"Hi everybody, come on in." - Andrew Samtoy, cash mobs organizer

In a few minutes, the cash mob takes over Big Fun Toys, an independent toy and gift store.

"I'm honored. This is... How can you not be happy? This is wonderful. I mean, Look at my store! I mean, it, this is great." - Steve Presser, Big Fun Toy Store

The cash mob concept is simple. People come together and each spends at least \$20 at a local business.

"I think it feels great. I'm definitely want to tell more people about it and have them come out again for the next one." - Bridget Fogerty, cash mob shopper

"It's been really, really shocking and inspiring..." - Andrew Samtoy, cash mobs organizer

The guy with the hat is Cleveland lawyer Andrew Samtoy.

His cash mob idea came last September after his city and others had troubles with flash mobs that were getting out of control. In some cases, like this surveillance video shows, people were taking over small businesses to steal.

Andrew's first cash mob was at this bookstore. About 40 people showed up.

"It brought a whole new crowd to me that I didn't have before. Plus we made a lot of money that night." -David Ferrante, Visible Voice Books

"If this ends up being an integral part of some sort of shop local movement, then I would be very happy with that. If it fizzles out in six months, we did our best."
- Andrew Samtoy, cash mobs organizer

It isn't fizzling. In fact, it's exploding - starting with Andrew's Facebook friends who organized cash mobs in their cities.

"The whole idea behind cash mobs is taking charge. And really saying, you know what? I'm going make a difference and I'm gonna go do this." -Lisa Gilmore, Los Angeles cash mobs

"What we're doing is not only spending money at a locally owned store that gives back to the community, but we're also putting people in a situation where they are meeting each other face to face and they're building a community." - Andrew Samtoy, cash mobs organizer

About 60 people took part in the cash mob at Big Fun Toys spending about \$1500 dollars in just over an hour.

"It's been really tough for us. So it's nice. This is the shot in the arm now that we all need. And it's great. It's wonderful." - Steve Presser, Big Fun Toys Store.

Ted Rowlands, CNN Cleveland.

The fall of the Berlin Wall brought new hope, but that very closeness has given rise to new dangers. Dangers that cannot be contained within the borders of a country or by the distance of an ocean. Think about it: the terrorists of September 11 plotted in Hamburg, and trained in Kandahar and Karachi before killing thousands from all over the globe on American soil. As we speak cars in Boston and factories in Beijing are melting the ice caps in the Arctic, shrinking coastlines in the Atlantic and bringing drought to farms from Kansas to Kenya. Poorly secured nuclear material in the former Soviet Union, or secrets from a scientist in Pakistan could help build a bomb that detonates in Paris. The poppies in Afghanistan come to Berlin in the form of heroin, the poverty and violence in Somalia breeds the terror of tomorrow, the genocide in Darfour shames the conscience of us all.

[Applause]

In this new world such dangerous currents have swept along faster than our efforts to contain them, and that is why we cannot afford to be divided. No one nation, no matter how large or powerful, can defeat such challenges alone. None of us can deny these threats or escape responsibility in meeting them. Yet in the absence of Soviet tanks and a terrible wall it's become easy to forget this truth. And if we're honest with each other we know that sometimes on both sides of the Atlantic we have drifted apart and forgotten our shared destiny. Yes, there have been differences between America and Europe, no doubt there will be differences in the future, but the burdens of global citizenship continue to bind us together. A change of leadership in Washington will not lift this burden. In this new century Americans and Europeans alike will be required to do more, not less.

Partnership and cooperation among nations is not a choice, it is the only way. The one way to protect our common security and advance our common humanity.

That is why the greatest danger of all is to allow new walls to divide us from one another. The walls between old allies on either side of the Atlantic cannot stand, the walls between the countries with the most and those with the least cannot stand, the walls between races and tribes, natives and immigrants, Christians and Muslims and Jews cannot stand! These now are the walls we must tear down! *[Cheers and applause]*