

of industrial and technological development by 1980 to allow them to keep pace with the significant political and economic changes of globalization, or those developing countries which have benefitted through accidents of geography from the triadic process of regionalisation in the 1980s and 1990s.<sup>16</sup> Leblanc argues more strongly that current production models of globalization make it unlikely that the further marginalization of the least developed countries, those which have yet to share in the 'benefits' of economic globalization, can be avoided.<sup>17</sup> My own work has suggested that this marginalization, far from being the exclusive product of economic and technological processes, is supported and reinforced by political choices.<sup>18</sup> Whatever the specific cause, the purported benefits of globalization are certainly not felt globally, and any homogeneity which might result is not that suggested by globalization's apologists

*Within* national economies, the squeezing (out) of the middle class, both in terms of real income levels and way of life, is reflected in those same patterns of technological specialization. The restructuring of the 1970s and 1980s has brought with it the demise of full-employment capitalism, with its attendant impact upon real wage levels. Wages have experienced downward pressure in routine production services, in part because of the delocalization of production to low-wage economies and the concomitant assault on unions, and in secondary service industries (those providing in-person services), because formal education or job training are not valued as intrinsic to completion of the job task. The gap in real income levels and life style between these first two functional categories and that class of employees providing 'analytical' services, continues to grow, as the latter provide services whose value is not intrinsically linked to the amount of time spent at the job, but rather to the creativity of the task. The effects of this squeezing, of course, are felt disproportionately by the young (who compete for fewer jobs at generally lower pay), women (who make up the