Excerpts: His Highness the Aga Khan on globalism
- Part 1/7: the 'death of distance'

"Cultural conflict in the past was often mitigated by the fact that sharp cultural distinctions were muffled by geographic distance. But geography as a cushion between cultures has been diminishing in recent years. The communications revolution has meant 'the death of distance'. More than that, cultures are now mixing physically to an extent that would once have seemed impossible."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2007 Masters of Public Affairs Programme, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), Graduation Ceremony address (Paris, France)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/8092/

"Globalisation has dissolved the tight bond between community and geography. Economic opportunity, for rich and poor alike, can lie in distant lands."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2006 Address to the Evora University Symposium (Evora, Portugal)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/7653/

"The challenges to tolerance are manifold in both the developed and the developing world. The revolutionary impact of globalisation means that many who never met before now intermingle continually through modern communications media and through direct contact."
The migration of populations around the world is at record levels; peoples who once lived across the world from one another, now live across the street. But societies which have grown more pluralistic in makeup, are not always growing more pluralistic in spirit. What is needed all across the world is a new 'cosmopolitan ethic,' rooted in a strong culture of tolerance.

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2006 Acceptance Address for the Tutzing Evangelical Academy's 'Tolerance' Award (Tutzing, Germany)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/7706/

"But if new technology can break down walls which have isolated whole communities from progress and enlightenment, that same technology can also remove the barriers to less welcome change. The communications revolution is a two-edged sword, opening exciting doors to the future, yes, but also threatening venerable cultures and traditional values. On every hand we can see the rise of the global economy -- and with it the global career and multinational family life, international fads and intercontinental life styles. Some find this process exhilarating, but many others find it frightening. And some even fear that this new intermingling of cultures will someday lead to cultural homogenisation. Yet even as the waves of globalisation unfurl so powerfully across our planet, so does a deep and vigorous counter-tide. In every corner of the world one can also sense these days a renewal of cultural particularism, a new emphasis on ethnic and religious and national identity."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 1986 Commonwealth Press Union Conference Keynote Address (Cape Town, South Africa)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/5137/

"There was a time when many felt that modern technology would work against such diversity-blending and homogenising the world. Technology was dehumanising, they said. Digital communications
would destroy individual expression. Globalisation would mean standardisation everywhere. This is not what has happened. Instead, what the advancing years have produced, on balance, is an ever more complicated world, with a higher level of diversity -- as power is dispersed to the periphery rather than collecting at the hub.

"The world into which you are graduating increasingly resembles a vast web in which everything connects to everything else -- where even the smallest groups and loneliest voices can exercise new influence, and where no single source of power can claim substantial control. Indeed, the argument is often made that our long run enemy in such a world is not likely to be the tyranny of the few, but rather a new, global disorder -- in which the centre fails to hold and a new anarchy takes over. [Emphasis original]"

His Highness the Aga Khan’s 2006 Aga Khan University Convocation Ceremony address (Karachi, Pakistan)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/7997/

See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on globalism - Part 2/7: competing in a global arena

See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on globalism - Part 3/7: the vital importance of high standards in the developing world

See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on globalism - Part 4/7: the pace of change

See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on globalism - Part 5/7: English: the 'predominant global language' & 'of global connection'

See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on globalism - Part 6/7: threat to culture and pluralism

See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on globalism - Part 7/7: the hazard of a superficial, homogenised mega-culture

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