Globalisation

What integrated markets deliver, and what they disrupt.

Economics

Documented gains

- Lower consumer prices
- Access to larger markets
- Technology and knowledge transfer
- Large reductions in absolute poverty
- Efficiency from specialisation

Documented costs

- Concentrated job losses in exposed regions
- Adjustment slower than models assumed
- Downward pressure on some wages
- Supply chain fragility
- Environmental cost of transport and offshoring

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The gains are diffuse and the losses concentrated, which is why the politics rarely follows the aggregate arithmetic.

The evidence that displaced workers move smoothly to new sectors turned out to be much weaker than the theory assumed.