

What does it mean to be a globalist in 2025?



[Christopher Gasson](#) looks at the announcements coming from Washington in the past week and sees some hope for those whose job it is to reach international markets.

The world of water through the eyes of GWI publisher [Christopher Gasson](#)

Suddenly we are out of fashion, you and I. We are both globalists. The clue is in the G of GWI. We think that international cooperation and free trade will help solve the world's water challenges. Tariffs are not a beautiful word, and USAID is not an evil organisation. It makes it difficult to see an upside in the news from Washington this week. At the same time, it is too easy to catastrophise.

Water is a fundamentally local commodity. What is global are the ideas and the money needed to make it work better. Tariffs won't stop them moving. The movement of ideas can only really be stopped by closing down the internet. Stopping the free movement of capital around the world is more possible, but it requires a more determined willingness to self-harm than President Trump has currently shown.

That is because the flip side of the trade imbalances that Trump doesn't like are the capital flows that his government and his economy depend on. Whatever America spends on imported goods and services is balanced by what it receives in terms of investment from overseas. That is how economics works: the books have to balance. Without those capital flows, the US would be unable to sustain its \$36 trillion of national debt – or its stock markets, which currently trade at more than twice the value of any other global stock market.

Stopping the free movement of capital might be catastrophic, but it could be done either directly through capital controls, or indirectly through taxing the flows of dividends and other remittances.

Until Trump announces plans to do one of those two things, the game is not up for us globalists. We can play with transfer pricing, local content requirements, intellectual property licenses, management fees, and tax treaties to make sure that the ideas and the money continue to flow.

The good news is that there is so much for us to do. Water is a growing challenge for everyone in the world, and the demand for ideas and money won't stop for politics.

Source: [Water Intelligence Magazine \(February 2025\)](#).



Furthermore, water is the very substance of global solidarity. 60% of our body is made of it, and if we get it right, it will hold our world together.

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