‘New Social Movements offer the most effective means available for controlling the worst aspects of globalisation.’ Discuss.

What are New Social Movements?

- A theory of a distinct form of collective action emerging within society, which often arise from conditions of social unrest or deriving power.
- Social movements involve groups of individuals with a common ideology who try to achieve a wide variety of goals. This can include social transformations such as public-politics and law by individuals who are hoping for a new system of living.
- The career of a social movement represents the emergence of a new order of life.

Why are Social Movements so important?

- Social movements (civil society associations) are made up of people who share concerns over particular policy issues.
- ‘Contemporary social movements have allowed them to focus on ‘transplanetary problems’- climate change, human aid, debt relief, trade agreements, corrupt governments.
- Allows debate between the people and the government on important issues.
- Opens a dialogue on what is affecting society.
- Challenges authority. The right to ‘check’ decisions, ensuring no institution could be too powerful, actions and voice frustration/discontent.
- Make single issues more globally acknowledged.
- Utilizes the ability of progressive community to capitalize on political opportunities and translate such opportunities into social change e.g.: Civil Rights Movement in America- influenced policy of US government.

Example of Social Movement: Arab Springs

- The Arab Springs was a revolutionary wave of demonstrations, protests and wars occurring in the Arab world and Middle East that began on December 18th 2010.
- Since then rulers have been forced from power in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya to name a few. Civil uprisings in Syria and Bahrain, and also major protests in countries such as Algeria, Morocco and other places across Middle East.
- Aim of Arab Springs was to gain democracy, have free elections, stop any violation of human rights and for a regime change in their countries.