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The world is going through the biggest wave of mergers and acquisitions ever witnessed. The process sweeps from hyperactive America to Europe and reaches the emerging countries with unsurpassed might. Many in these countries are looking at this process and worrying: Won't the wave of business concentration turn into an uncontrollable anti-competitive force? There's no question that the big are getting bigger and more powerful. Multinational corporations accounted for less than 20% of international trade in 1982. Today the figure is more than 25% and growing rapidly. International affiliates account for a fast-growing segment of production in economies that open up and welcome foreign investment. In Argentina, for instance, after the reforms of the early 1990s, multinationals went from 43% to almost 70% of the industrial production of the 200 largest firms. This phenomenon has created serious concerns over the role of smaller economic firms, of national businessmen and over the ultimate stability of the world economy. I believe that the most important forces behind the massive M&A wave are the same that underlie the globalization process: falling transportation and communication costs, lower trade and investment barriers and enlarged markets that require enlarged operations capable of meeting customers' demands. All these are beneficial, not detrimental, to consumers. As productivity grows, the world's wealth increases. Examples of

benefits or costs of the current concentration wave are scanty. Yet it is hard to imagine that the merger of a few oil firms today could re-create the same threats to competition that were feared nearly a century ago in the US, when the Standard Oil trust was broken up. The mergers of telecom companies, such as World Com, hardly seem to bring higher prices for consumers or a reduction in the pace of technical progress. On the contrary, the price of communications is coming down fast. In cars, too, concentration is increasing-witness Daimler and Chrysler, Renault and Nissan-but it does not appear that consumers are being hurt. Yet the fact remains that the merger movement must be watched. A few weeks ago, Alan Greenspan warned against the megamergers in the banking industry. Who is going to supervise, regulate and operate as lender of last resort with the gigantic banks that are being created? Won't multinationals shift production from one place to another when a nation gets too strict about infringements to fair competition? And should one country take upon itself the role of defending competition on issues that affect many other nations, as in the US vs. Microsoft case? 65.

From paragraph 4 we can infer that _____. [A] the increasing concentration is certain to hurt consumers [B] WorldCom serves as a good example of both benefits and costs [C] the costs of the globalization process are enormous [D] the Standard Oil trust might have threatened competition [答案] D [解题思路] 本文的对应信息为原文第四段，可将选项与原文一一对应来分析。A选项的说法过于绝对，而该段第一句指出"Examples of benefits or costs of the current concentration wave are scanty"（目前证明这股

合并浪潮是利还是弊的实例并不多)，因此是否会损害到消费者的利益尚无定论。B选项的错误则在于WorldCom指是在benefit方面是一个好的例子，但它并不是作为costs方面的例子。C选项的表述在原文并未提及，因而也不正确。D选项对应于该段的第二句话，因而是正确答案。 [题目译文] 从第四段中我们可以推断。 [A] 不断加剧的合并一定会伤害到消费者 [B] 世界电讯在成本和收益两个方面上看都是一个好的例子 [C] 全球化进程的成本是巨大的 [D] 标准石油托拉斯可能曾威胁到其竞争者 100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 www.100test.com