CHAPTER 36

Globalization and Resistance

CHAPTER SUMMARY

By the early 21st century, the unfolding of globalization—the increasing interconnectedness of all world parts—reflected the close of the cold war and the lessening of international conflict, a movement to free markets, new technical developments (especially the computer), and a general acceptance of global connections. Complicating factors to globalization were lingering nationalism, an important religious surge, and terrorism.

Globalization: Causes and Processes: Globalization is a result of political, demographic, and cultural as well as technological changes. Economic globalization involves unprecedented interconnection among the world’s peoples. New political arrangements have responded to this new globalization.

The New Technology. New developments made possible the widespread use of the cellular phone, computers, and satellite linkages for television.

Economic Globalization: Business Organization and Investment. International investment has accelerated significantly. Exports and imports have increased and multinational corporations have extended business organization across political boundaries. They continue the search for cheap raw materials, and invest in nations with high interest rates. Because of their resources, multinationals were able to determine policies in weaker nations. Even as they polluted the environment, multinationals promoted industrial skills and brought more-enlightened labor policies. Their long-term impact is unknown.

Migration. During the 1990s, past international migration patterns continued. Countries with negative population growth needed new, lower-skilled workers. Their arrival resulted in tensions between local populations and the new arrivals.

Cultural Globalization. Cultural contact and exchange accelerated by the close of the 1990s. A path to worldwide homogeneity has been caused by the adoption of Western cultural values, art forms, consumer goods, and the English language. Other cultures also contributed to the homogeneity. Models often were adapted to local cultures.

Institutions of Globalization. Political forms globalized more slowly than technology, business, and consumer culture. The United Nations, with mixed success, attempted to calm conflicts and help refugee populations. It similarly dealt with gender and population control issues, and combated the AIDS epidemic. The importance of other international organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), grew. So did regional economic arrangements.

Protest and Economic Uncertainties. A vigorous international anti-globalization movement appeared by the end of the 1990s. They thought economic development was threatening the environment, exploited cheap labor, and promoted rampant consumerism. Rich nations and the wealthy, it was alleged, benefited at the expense of most people. Some world regions suffered as unfavorable trade balances damaged their economies. Reform efforts by international organizations, such as the World Bank, might increase unemployment. Many decided that globalization hurt more than it helped.

Nationalism and New Religious Currents. A resurgence of particular loyalties complicated globalization. Nationalism, sub-national loyalties, and religious differences all helped stimulate intolerance or violence. Religious movements, often opposed to sexuality, freedom for women, and consumerism, reacted against globalization as they insisted on their distinctiveness. New vigor came to Orthodox Christianity, Protestant fundamentalism, Hinduism, and Islam. Impoverished groups not succeeding in the global economy proved receptive.

In Depth: How Much Historical Change? Many analysts expected major shifts in human affairs when the cold war terminated. Some thought about an “end of history” concept; democracy would sweep the world and the need to query basic political institutions was over. It would be a more peaceful era since democracies did not fight each other. A related argument emphasized that consumer capitalism would spread a prosperity that no one wanted to jeopardize. Such predictions cannot be proved.

The Global Environment. The opening of the Communist world demonstrated that extreme economic devastation had occurred. Policies followed in China, southeast Asia, Brazil, and sub-Saharan Africa, and appeared equally dangerous. Economic development strategies designed to assist growth in many less-developed regions have failed to raise living standards or environmental damage. In 2000, the wealthiest one-fifth of humanity dominated consumption and produced the most pollution. No solutions were in sight.

Environmental Issues as Global Concerns. Environmental issues are now focal points of debate and government policy. The greenhouse effect has led to substantial warming and could have massively damaging effects. Major international conferences have addressed the problem, but governments have been slow to respond to measures that might damage their economies.

Disease. As in the past, global contacts have involved disease. AIDS spread rapidly from the 1980s. Results so far are less severe than earlier epidemics.

Toward the Future. History has demonstrated that efforts to predict the future will fail, but it does allow a basis for thinking about what will occur.

Projecting from Trends. What trends will continue? We do know that population growth will decline and that individuals will live longer. But unexpected happenings might alter the trend. The fate of democracies, based on past experiences, remains murky. How the mutual trends of mass consumerism and increased religious interest will interact is equally uncertain.

Big Changes. Some thinkers look to major departures from past developments. The 1960s “population bomb” was one such argument. Although that prediction failed, others have taken its place. Another postulation, for a postindustrial world, is still being argued.
MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. Globalization is the result of all of the following EXCEPT.
   A) Political
   B) Demographic
   C) Cultural
   D) Technological
   E) Economic

2. Which region remained largely authoritarian in the 1990s?
   A) Africa
   B) Latin America
   C) Eastern Europe
   D) Newly industrialized nations of the Pacific Rim
   E) Russia

3. In which of the following places was ethnic conflict settled peacefully?
   A) Chechnya
   B) Czechoslovakia
   C) Yugoslavia
   D) Rwanda
   E) The Middle East

4. Why did Italy, Greece, and Japan need immigrant labor in the 1990s?
   A) Rapid industrialization
   B) The need to import high-skilled workers
   C) The development of new high-tech manufacturing sectors
   D) Their own almost nonexistent population growth
   E) Huge governmental construction projects

5. In eastern Russia, a “Chinese market” is likely to sell
   A) Chinese groceries.
   B) Chinese-style clothing.
   C) Western-style clothing.
   D) Chinese arts and crafts.
   E) Russian-style clothing.
6. In exchange for loaning money to developing countries, the IMF has demanded

A) increased tariffs and labor protections.
B) joining the Kyoto accords on global warming.
C) reduced government spending and open competition.
D) increased government spending and open competition.
E) there are no conditions on IMF loans.

7. Major contributors to greenhouse gases are

A) cattle and sheep.
B) chlorofluorocarbons.
C) the rain forests.
D) giant oil spills.
E) widespread erosion.
SHORT ANSWER. Write the word or phrase that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. If scientific predictions are correct, _______ will increasingly cause major shifts in temperatures and rainfall.

2. Many forecasts see the population of the world stabilizing by the year __________.

3. The organization originally created to block Soviet expansionism is called __________.

4. Tensions between India and Pakistan have centered on the disputed territory of ________.

5. Many experts see ________ as the dominant theme of present and future world history.

6. By the close of the 1990s, the path to worldwide __________ has been caused by the adoption of Western cultural values, art forms, consumer goods, and the English language.

7. During the late 20th century the United Nations dealt with gender and population control issues, and combated the __________ epidemic.

8. In 2000 the wealthiest __________ of humanity dominated consumption and produced the most pollution.

TRUE/FALSE. Write “T” if the statement is true and “F” if the statement is false.

1. In 2001, the United Nations excluded the United States from membership on its Human Rights Commission for the first time since its inception.


3. With the end of the cold war, less diplomatic hotspots invited intervention by multinational military forces.

4. Many analysts did not expect major shifts in human affairs when the Cold War ended.

5. The greenhouse effect has led to substantial global warming and could have massively damaging effects.

6. The AIDS epidemic began and spread rapidly during the 1970s.

7. NAFTA is a free trade zone agreement between Mexico, Canada, and the United States.