

Globalization and the Changing World

A small speck in time

- Human beings are c. 500,000 years old
- Agriculture is c. 12,000 years old
- Civilizations are c. 6,000 years old

- In a 24 hour world:
 - 23.56.00 – agriculture
 - 23.57.00 – civilizations
 - 23.59.30 – modern societies

- More change in final thirty seconds than hitherto

Pre-modern Societies

- Hunting and gathering societies
 - 50,000 BC, almost disappeared
 - Small numbers; fishing, hunting, edible plants
- Agrarian Societies
 - 12,000 BC to present, losing their identity
 - Small and rural, some inequality, rule by chiefs
- Pastoral societies
 - 12,000 BC to present, now subsumed in larger states
 - Domesticated animals, distinct inequalities, chiefs
- Traditional societies
 - 6,000 BC to 19th century, all now disappeared
 - Settlements in millions, cities, trade and agriculture, kings

The Modern World

Industrial societies now dominate:

- Majority of employed now in factories, shops and offices, not agriculture
- 90% of population live in towns and cities
- Urban life impersonal and anonymous
- Political systems more developed and intensive; transport and communications lead to more integrated 'nation-state'

Global Development

- 1600s-1900s Western nations established 'colonies' in areas once first occupied by traditional societies, often by force
- In North America, Aus, NZ, Europeans become majority population
- In Asia, Africa and South America, the original populations stayed in majority
- Three Worlds:
 - First world = industrialized West
 - Second world = communist countries of former USSR
 - Third world now 'developing countries', former recipients of colonialism
 - New group of 'newly industrializing countries (NICs)

Social Change

Three main influences:

- Cultural factors
 - Religious beliefs (Max Weber)
 - Communication systems (invention of writing)
 - Charismatic leadership (e.g. Gandhi)
- Physical environment
 - Climatic conditions and availability of plants and animals
- Political organization
 - Democratic ideology or military power

Globalization

Factors contributing to globalization

- Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
 - Cable technology, satellites, information flows
- Economic Factors
 - Weightless economy, transnational corporations, global commodity chains (Barbie), electronic economy
- Political Factors
 - Collapse of Soviet Union, growth of international government and non-government organizations

Globalization Debate

Hyperglobalizers	Sceptics	Transformationalists
Global capitalism Global governance Global civil society	World less inter-dependent than in 1890s	'Thick' (intensive and extensive) globalization
National governments declining in power	National governments power reinforced or enhanced	National governments reconstituted and restructured
Driven by capitalism and technology	Driven by governments and markets	Driven by combined forces of modernity
Erosion of old stratification hierarchies	Increased marginalization of South	New architecture of a world order

A Global Culture

Five forces:

- Television brings British and American culture to world audience
- Unified global economy with structures spanning continents and countries
- Global citizens who identify with cosmopolitan culture rather than own nation
- International organizations
- Electronic & instantaneous communications

Conclusion

- Contradictions: local values and global infrastructure
- Globalization not just 'out there' but 'in here'
- Increased globalization accompanied by increasing individualism
- Problems and challenges that now require global governance