

Chapter 36: Globalization and Resistance

Globalization

- Globalization: interconnectedness of all parts of the world (culture, communication, commerce, politics)
 - Increased toward the end of the 20th century, partly due to the entry into world markets of China and members of the former Soviet Union.
 - Massive population growth
- Migration:
 - Guest Workers: large numbers of 3rd World immigrants have led to tensions in Western countries; low wages
 - Xenophobia
 - Modern travel has made it easier to migrate to (emigrate) and from (immigrate) countries.
- Internationalism replaced nationalism as a dominant cultural theme.
 - Spread of English as global language



New Technology, Corporations, and Organizations

- Technology has improved → easier to maintain contact over distances (esp. cell phones, computers, email, Internet)
- Multinational corporations: extend business across borders
 - Facilitate rapid increases in exports and imports
 - Seek cheap labor and undemanding environmental policies. In some cases, these are more powerful than the countries in which they operate.
 - Outsourcing: tactic of hiring outside workers (greatest in India)
- Non-western countries seek global financial aid to develop
 - International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank were founded after WWII to promote trade and offer loans
 - Meetings often marked by demonstrations, violence, and protest
 - Critics argue globalization has caused/exacerbated: environmental dangers, exploitation of laborers, disparity between rich and poor people/nations.



THE WORLD BANK

Cultural Globalization

- Greater collaboration exists with English as the common language.
- American fast-food chains; increase in obesity of children
- American TV shows, music, and movies have world-wide audiences.
- Other cultures often either celebrate American holidays, or have adopted American greeting-cards and presents.
- Western styles of dress are pervasive across the globe.



New Religious Currents

- Nationalism and religious revivalism are resistant to globalization.
 - Russian Orthodoxy has gained new prominence post-Communist Russia
 - Emphasize native distinctiveness
- Fundamentalism: return to traditional beliefs and religious practices
 - Protestant, Muslim, Hindu, Catholic, etc.
 - Generally increases intolerance and exclusivity
 - Terrorism: often motivated by religion

Five Features of Fundamentalism

1) Dualism
(World is divided into clear cut binary categories: good/evil; right/wrong; them/us)

2) Paranoia
(Deep feeling of suspicion or rage directed towards those on the "other" side of the binary category)

3) Apocalyptic Orientation
(Obsession with the ending point of society; usually positively disposed to bring about that end)

4) Charismatic Leaders
(Commitment and dedication to that leader)

5) Total Conversion
(Once the fundamentalist embraces the ideology, they do so completely)

The Global Environment

- Industrialization increased the scale of environmental hazards (China, Soviet Union)
- Wealthiest countries consume products out of proportion to their population and contribute more pollution than developing nations.
- Global diseases such as AIDS (worst in Sub-Saharan Africa)
- Greenhouse Effect: increase of gases that cause overheating of the earth (not new, but now produced in much greater quantities)
 - Acknowledged by most scientists
 - Sources of gases: fossil fuel combustion, rice paddies, refrigeration
 - Impacts: rising sea levels, changes to natural patterns

