

Problems of globalization

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- (Some of the approach here is inspired by Richard Robbins, *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*)
 - again, there is much, much more to say about the problems of globalization than we can cover here
 - that is for another course.
- Problems created by globalization
 - Participating in the market economy may force changes in a culture
 - Ju/'hoansi example of how herding is incompatible with generalized reciprocity and ideology of equality
 - the Kayapo example (not assigned in Spring 2011)
 - why does the article include all that stuff in the beginning about their use of the forest and how it relates to their concept of the world, themselves, establishing individual gendered identities, etc.?
 - this is typical anthropological description
 - giving an anthropologically-oriented explanation of why the forest is so important to them
 - more so that “they are used to making their living from it”
 - it shows how profoundly their culture and identity is affected by losing access to large areas of forest
 - it isn't just an economic loss
 - it destroys their cultural construction of the world, society, and individuals
 - how does this case fit into a World Systems view?
 - where is the core, and where is the periphery?
 - who is being exploited, and how?
 - aspects of the story that require or involve globalization
 - development of the Amazonian forest, logging for an international market, building a dam to power distant industry and cities
 - involvement of World Bank in the dam financing
 - coordination and response by indigenous Kayapo and diverse foreign interests in animals, birds, plants, global ecology, as well as anthropology
 - role of national and international media, popular opinion, political pressure in resolving the situation
 - and many, many others
 - **Market externalities**: costs borne by third parties not directly involved in an economic transaction
 - like farmers living near a factory that pollutes their water
 - the factory investors make profit
 - the buyers get the products at a good price
 - and the uninformed farmers nearby effectively have to pay part of the cost of producing the products

- by having to suffer disease from the pollution
- by having the value or amount of their crops reduced
- by having to pay for safe drinking water, etc.
- the people living around the factory gain nothing from it, but effectively subsidize the factory and buyers
 - they have no choice about this
 - they may get pretty annoyed...
- Ever-increasing consumption means ever-increasing environmental damage
 - which even the rich eventually suffer from
- As more people don't produce their own food, but depend on wage labor...
 - there is more and more hunger and poverty
 - this leads not only to human suffering, but also to social unrest, violence, revolution...
- New and worse diseases
 - AIDS, Lyme disease, Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever, SARS, H5N1 "avian" flu, H1N1 "swine" flu, ebola...
- for numerous reasons
 - expanding capitalism demands more clearing of forests, mining in remote regions, changing ecological regimes, etc.
 - bringing humans into increased contact with disease-causing or disease-carrying organisms that people rarely used to encounter
 - increasing opportunities for obscure disease-causing organisms to jump to humans
 - travel and shipping moves and mixes potentially disease-causing organisms (bacteria, viruses, parasites, etc.)
 - brings potentially disease-causing organisms to places where there are fewer natural competitors or other restraints
 - brings different varieties of disease-causing organisms together, allowing for hybridization and evolution of nasty combinations of traits
- living in dense cities and increased traveling
 - helps diseases spread among nearby people
 - creates a large enough pool of victims that there are always pockets of new ones that have not yet been exposed and acquired immunity,
 - so the disease does not burn itself out by using up all its potential victims, as it could in a smaller population
 - helps diseases jump to new areas where few people have natural resistance
- using antibiotics in animals breeds antibiotic-resistant bacteria
 - a practice encouraged by capitalism's need to produce ever more meat, eggs, etc. at ever-lower cost
- As people resist worsening conditions caused by market-driven changes...
 - peasants undertake rebellions like the Zapatistas in Chiapas
 - wars break out between ethnic groups that formerly managed to get along: Bosnia, Sudan...
 - populist opposition parties are suppressed by government force: Venezuela, Iran...
 - fundamentalist religious movements arise
 - revitalization or millennial movements: "end times" theology

- Hindu nationalists in India
- Al Qaeda, advancing hyper-fundamentalist Islam by force
 - in reaction to perceived mistreatment and corrupt values of the capitalist world
- people resort to “weapons of the weak”
 - passive resistance: work slowdowns, theft, absenteeism
 - sabotage, vandalism, strikes
 - terrorism
- the populace rises up in revolution: the “Arab Spring” going on from Tunis to Syria
 - and in this case, the increased communication aspect of globalization only accelerates the spread of revolution
- Globalization: We had better understand it
 - it is behind a lot of the news you read or hear about every day
 - availability of ever better and cheaper technological goods
 - large-scale pollution and global warming
 - wars
 - changes in the economy, unemployment, etc.
 - social movements
 - foreign policy
 - immigration issues, and much, much more
 - the anthropological, holistic, culturally-aware approach is probably a good way to understand what is going on
 - and if you want to change the world, the first step is to understand it...