

GLOBAL CONCERNS



Deforestation in the Brazilian rain forest

KEY TERMS and CONCEPTS

- Overpopulation
- Environmental Pollution
- International Terrorism
- Deforestation
- Globalization
- Desertification
- Problems of Developing Nations
- Status of Women
- Urbanization and Modernization

MILESTONES IN THE EVOLUTION OF GLOBAL CONCERNS

1798	Malthus theorizes growing world population will outstrip food supplies
1800	World's population reaches 1 billion people
1960s	Palestine Liberation Organization uses terrorism against Israel
1993	Rio Conference meets in Brazil on world environmental problems
1993	Terrorists try to blow up NY's World Trade Center
1995	U.N. Conference on Women meets to end abuses against women
1996	U.N. reports that 22 million people around the world have AIDS
1997	Kyoto Conference meets in Japan on global warming problem
1998	Terrorists destroy two U.S. embassies in Africa
2000	Three-quarters of world's population now lives in cities
2001	Terrorists destroy World Trade Center, damage Pentagon in Washington

WHAT YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON

Essay questions on the Global History Regents Examination may ask about current global concerns, issues, and trends. This section will provide you with an overview of what you need to know in order to answer this type of essay question.



PROBLEMS / CONCERNS

Part of the challenge of the future will be to deal with problems facing the world. Test questions frequently focus on such problems as:

OVERPOPULATION	INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM	POLLUTION
DEFORESTATION	DESERTIFICATION	HUNGER

A GENERAL APPROACH

Although there are many aspects to these problems, test questions will most often require you to do the following:

1. Define the Problem. Define or describe the problem. It will be helpful to go through a mental checklist — *who, what, where, when* — in defining or describing the problem.

2. Identify the Causes. Explain why or how something came about. “Causes” are reasons that led to the problem. Why, for example, is pollution increasing? Or why is the world’s safety threatened by nuclear weapons?

3. Explain the Effects. Explain the effects or impact that the problem is having on the world. For example, what has been the impact of deforestation on the peoples of the Amazon?

4. Discuss Possible Solutions. Write about actions that have been taken by government agencies or private institutions to help solve the problem. You can also recommend other steps that would help to provide a solution.



ISSUES

Unlike a *concern*, where most people agree that there is a problem, an **issue** has two or more opposing viewpoints. Questions about issues will usually test your understanding of these viewpoints. Some of the issues on which you might be tested are (1) the role of the United Nations, (2) the best approaches to economic development, and (3) the status of women around the world.

A GENERAL APPROACH

Although there are many aspects to these issues, test questions will most often ask you to do the following:

<p>Define the Issue. First use a mental checklist – <i>who, what, where, when</i>. For example, is the most important role of the United Nations to punish aggressive nations, or to resolve disputes peacefully?</p>	<p>Explain the Opposing Viewpoints. Write about the conflicting sides of the issue or controversy. Bring in one or more arguments used in support of each opposing viewpoint.</p>	<p>Deal with the Issue. Discuss or explain some recent action taken by the government or a private group to bring about a resolution of the issue.</p>
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TRENDS

A **trend** is a pattern of change that points in some direction. Several trends are visible today that may have an impact on our future. Questions about trends test your understanding of such areas of change as:

TECHNOLOGY	GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE	URBANIZATION
MODERNIZATION	SPACE EXPLORATION	POPULATION GROWTH

A GENERAL APPROACH

Although there are many aspects to these trends, test questions will most often require you to do the following:

<p>Define the Trend: Describe the trend or development. Again, go through a mental checklist – <i>who, what, where, when</i> – in defining the trend. For example, how has the introduction of computers affected employment and manufacturing processes?</p>	<p>Predict the Effects. Discuss the effects that the trend has had or may have. For example, what impact do you think continued world population growth will have on global resources such as drinking water and farming?</p>
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LOOKING AT ETHNIC DIVERSITY

An ethnic group typically refers to a group of people with a common ancestry and common culture. **Ethnicity** is primarily a social and cultural phenomenon, rooted in the history of a society and the past interactions of the various groups within it. From the standpoint of ethnicity, there are two basic types of society:

- ◆ In **homogeneous** societies, like Japan and Saudi Arabia, almost everyone is of the same race and shares the same language and traditions.
- ◆ Other societies are **heterogeneous**, containing a mix of peoples and cultures. Ethnic groups are often mixed throughout the country, as in the United States. Sometimes an ethnic group is connected to a particular region, like the Kurds in northern Iraq.

UNITY OUT OF DIVERSITY

Most countries of the world have heterogeneous populations. Thus a basic problem for most national governments is to create and preserve a single nation-state out of this ethnic diversity. To understand this problem, we must first look at the beginnings of modern nation-states.

THE RISE AND SPREAD OF THE NATION-STATE SYSTEM

The world today is divided into nations, each with a central government and defined boundaries. This system first emerged in Europe when kings established their supremacy. Later, Europeans conquered the Americas, Asia and Africa, and established similar governments. As a result, these colonial governments had to create strategies to deal with the problem of governing different groups living in the same area.

THE EMERGENCE OF NATIONALISM

People often feel more familiar and friendly with those who share common characteristics. It is only natural that many ethnic groups believe in **nationalism** — that each nationality or ethnic group should have its own nation-state. This desire

has been a powerful force in world history and can be either unifying or divisive. Because of the rise of nationalism, central governments have often had to devise special strategies to keep their multi-ethnic states together.

PROBLEMS CONFRONTING ETHNIC MINORITIES

Usually there is one dominant ethnic group and several smaller ethnic minorities in a multicultural society. A **minority** is any ethnic group in a nation other than the dominant group. Minorities often face special problems:

Ethnic Prejudice. The dominant group may treat minority group members as inferior, leading minority members to be denied political power. Often the dominant group uses force to keep minorities under control.

Discrimination and Exclusion. In many societies, minorities are denied civil and political rights. In some societies, they have not been allowed to own property, or use public facilities like parks or public transportation.

Expulsion and Genocide. Sometimes actions against minority groups result in the expulsion or extermination of the minority. The most famous example was the Nazi attempt to eliminate the Jews of Europe, murdering more than six million Jews.

THE PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Human rights have been defined as an individual's right to life, equal protection of the laws, and freedom from arrest, enslavement or torture. Members of minority groups have been frequent targets of human rights violations.

- ◆ **International Efforts.** Atrocities in World War II led to attempts to protect human rights. In 1948 the United Nations adopted a declaration that everyone has the right to life and liberty, and that slavery and torture are prohibited. In recent times, groups like **Amnesty International** help keep track of human rights violations and publicize them.
- ◆ **Domestic Efforts.** Minority groups often attempt to overcome their problems themselves. Some are seeking the traditional goal of independence. Other groups resort to terrorism as a desperate measure.

MAJOR PROBLEMS, ISSUES AND TRENDS

Today's rapid changes have made countries more **interdependent** than ever before, "shrinking" the world into a **global village**. As the world grows "smaller," events in any one area have a greater impact on other parts of the world. The effects of pollution or environmental destruction are not limited by national borders. Even poverty in some areas affects other areas because of migration and its impact on the world economy. In this chapter we will look at some key problems, issues, and trends in the world today.



OVERPOPULATION, A CASE OF TOO MANY PEOPLE

In 1798, the English writer **Thomas Malthus** declared that growing populations would always outstrip food supplies. Humans would be condemned to a cycle of population growth and subsequent decline through starvation. In 1800, there were 1 billion people in the world. Today, there are over 6 billion people, and the number almost doubles every 60 years. This threatens to outrun the ability of developing countries to produce enough housing, fuel, and food. Many nations promote family planning. However, people still have large families in areas where children are a source of labor and of future support when parents grow old. Several religions oppose birth control, and many people have no knowledge of or access to modern family planning methods.

GROWTH IN THE WORLD'S POPULATION, 1990



Possible Solutions. Many developing nations have adopted programs to limit their birth rate, such as China's "one-child" policy. The U.N. and other agencies are promoting family planning — teaching birth control methods and rewarding those who have smaller families.



AIDS AND OTHER NEW EPIDEMICS

Before the discovery of germs and the development of vaccines and antibiotics, people often fell victim to contagious, life-threatening diseases. During the Middle Ages, millions of people in Asia, Europe, and Africa died from **Bubonic Plague**. In the 1500s, a majority of the Native American population was wiped out by smallpox and measles, brought to the New World by European explorers and conquerors. In 1918-1919, more Americans died from influenza (flu) than died in World War I. As many as 50 million died worldwide. Although antibiotics and vaccines have reduced death rates, some bacteria are developing immunity to antibiotics, and they are not effective against diseases like cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's (loss of memory).

In recent decades, several new diseases have appeared, the most deadly of which is **AIDS**, a virus that attacks the immune system. People can be infected by sharing hypodermic needles, having unprotected sexual contact, or by blood transfusions. In 2007, about 23 million people had this disease, which killed 2 million people in that year. There is no known cure for AIDS, although some medicines reduce its symptoms. Another deadly virus is **ebola**, which broke out in Central Africa in the 1970s. Ebola causes high fever, vomiting, bleeding and death.

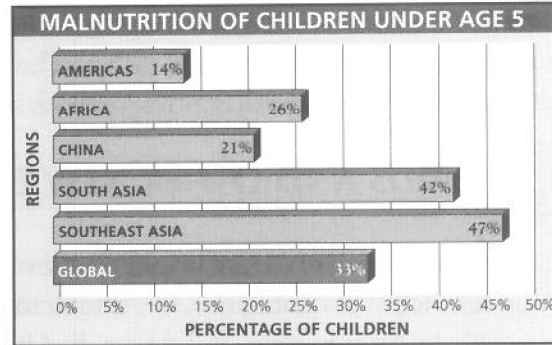
Possible Solutions. These new diseases pose a serious threat to humanity's continued survival. Scientists around the world are working to develop new cures for AIDS, ebola, and drug-resistant bacteria. The U.S. has given millions of dollars in free AIDS drugs to developing nations in order to limit suffering and death from the disease.



HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

Only a few countries are able to produce more food than their people need. In the rest of the world, hunger and malnutrition are common. In developing nations, about 150 million children under age 5 go to bed hungry every night. Climate changes and soil erosion have worsened the problem in many countries, such as Somalia and Afghanistan. Also, as Malthus predicted, each advance in producing more food is often met with an even greater increase in population.

Possible Solutions. As technology improves, advances are being made in growing more food in shorter periods of time. The **Green Revolution** brought new high-yield crops, and better fertilizers. Environmentally safe insecticides are being perfected. However, hunger and malnutrition cannot be avoided unless population growth is also brought under control.



INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Terrorism is the use of violence against civilians for political purposes. It draws attention to the grievances of a group, which tries to frighten governments into making concessions. For example, the I.R.A. used terrorism against the British in an attempt to unify Ireland. Radical groups like **Hamas** and the **Islamic Jihad** use terrorism against Israel, seeing it as self-defense against what they consider Israeli “terrorism”— the occupation of Palestinian lands. Iran, Iraq, Syria and Libya have not only helped Palestinian terrorists, but have used terrorism to silence their own opponents. In Afghanistan, the **Taliban** rulers sheltered international terrorist networks like Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda, whose aim is to undermine American power. Future terrorists may use biological, chemical or nuclear weapons. Terrorist organizations have made use of the following tactics:

Taking Hostages. Israeli athletes were held hostage at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. In 1979-1980, Iran held 52 American hostages for 15 months. In 1990, Iraq took hostages at the start of the Gulf War, but then released them.

Bombing. In 1998, U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed. The I.R.A. used similar tactics against the British. Some groups put bombs on planes, such as Libyans did on the ill-fated Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Political Assassination. Egyptian military extremists who opposed President Sadat’s peace agreement with Israel assassinated Sadat in 1981. In 1995, an Israeli student opposed to the Mideast peace process assassinated Prime Minister Rabin.

Terrorism reached new levels when commercial airliners were hijacked in the U.S. on September 11, 2001. The terrorists crashed two planes into New York’s World Trade Center and one into the Pentagon. More than 3,000 civilians were killed, and the two Trade Towers collapsed. The hijackers belonged to Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda network. In July 2005, terrorists struck in London, setting off bombs on subway trains and a bus.

Possible Solutions. Governments have various responses to terrorism — negotiation, the use of force, and retaliation. Generally, nations feel it is wrong to negotiate with terrorists because this encourages further acts of terrorism. Some governments have specially trained forces to take direct action in terrorist situations. Governments can also put economic pressure on countries that support terrorism or even attack such countries. In response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, President Bush declared a “war on terrorism.” When the Taliban rulers in Afghanistan refused to surrender Osama bin Laden, the U.S. launched air strikes and sent in ground troops, destroying the Taliban regime. Bin Laden escaped into the mountains. The U.S. later invaded Iraq and overthrew the government of Saddam Hussein, partly on the belief that Hussein might have aided terrorist organizations.



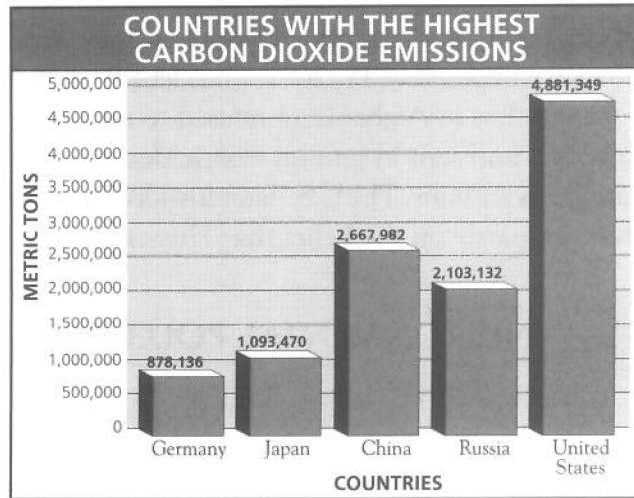
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

As countries become more developed and the world’s population grows, pollution of the earth’s air, water, soil, and other resources becomes an ever-increasing threat.

- ◆ **Water Pollution.** Cities have become crowded, straining their ability to handle increased sewage and waste. Often this leads to the dumping of raw sewage into surrounding waters, contaminating drinking water and threatening health and safety.
- ◆ **Solid Waste.** Modern societies generate millions of tons of garbage, some of which is toxic. It is often dumped into landfills, but these sites are filling up. Burning the waste or dumping it into oceans or rivers also creates pollution.
- ◆ **Air Pollution.** With industrial growth, more pollutants are released into the air. They cause problems such as **acid rain** and respiratory illnesses. Another threat is the thinning of the **ozone layer**, which protects the earth from harmful effects of the sun’s radiation. In addition, increased carbon dioxide and other pollutants in the atmosphere are making the earth warmer. This world-wide warming trend is called the **greenhouse effect**. If **global warming** causes excessive melting of the polar ice caps, the world’s ocean levels will rise; low-lying coastal countries could be permanently flooded.
- ◆ **Nuclear Safety.** Nuclear weapons and power stations pose special dangers to the earth’s environment. Nuclear waste can contaminate an area for millions of years. For example, in 1986, a meltdown in **Chernobyl**, a Soviet nuclear power station, caused radiation illness over a wide area and continues to have harmful effects.

Possible Solutions. A greater awareness of the need to preserve and protect the environment has developed. In June 1992, 178 nations met in Brazil at the **Rio Conference**, in an **Earth Summit** devoted to world environmental problems. Participants pledged themselves to the goal of industrial growth without pollution or environmental destruction, and signed a treaty to reduce global warming. In 1997, an international conference on global warming was held in Kyoto, Japan.

There has also been a move to find alternative energy sources. Since much pollution is caused by burning fossil fuels, there is an effort to harness energy from the sun and wind, to develop safer nuclear reactors, and to tap into other sources of energy. Recently the drastic rise in the price of oil and natural gas has added urgency to efforts to make wind, solar, geothermal and tidal power into practical energy alternatives, while adding millions of good jobs to the economy.



DESERTIFICATION

In some areas, especially on the African continent, attempts have been made to increase food production by clearing large tracts of land. This has combined with several years of drought. In regions like the **Sahel**, just south of the Sahara, this has led to **desertification** — an expansion of desert land. The problem has been aggravated by overgrazing. The United Nations has estimated that in Africa alone, an area half the size of New York State turns into desert each year, putting millions of people at risk of malnutrition and starvation.

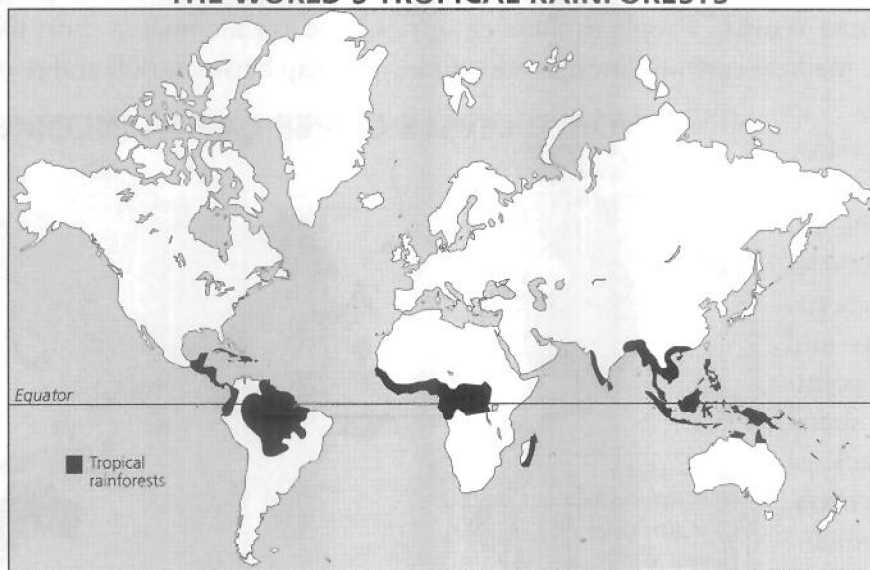
Possible Solutions. **Reforestation** (*planting trees*), restricting cattle grazing, and educating people about how to reduce soil erosion are possible approaches. Also, some inhabitants will have to be relocated to areas where they can grow food and graze cattle.



DEFORESTATION

The rainforests of Central and South America, Africa, and South and Southeast Asia provide much of the world's oxygen. Some countries in these areas have been clearing their rainforests. They sell the wood and grow food on the cleared land. However, heavy rains wash away nutrients. The remaining soil is of poor quality, produces few crops, and becomes barren. Loss of rainforests also poses a threat to many **endangered species**.

THE WORLD'S TROPICAL RAINFORESTS



Possible Solutions. An international campaign is taking place to save the world's rainforests. Measures such as educating farmers about soil erosion, replanting trees, and restricting cattle grazing have been adopted.



GLOBAL MIGRATION

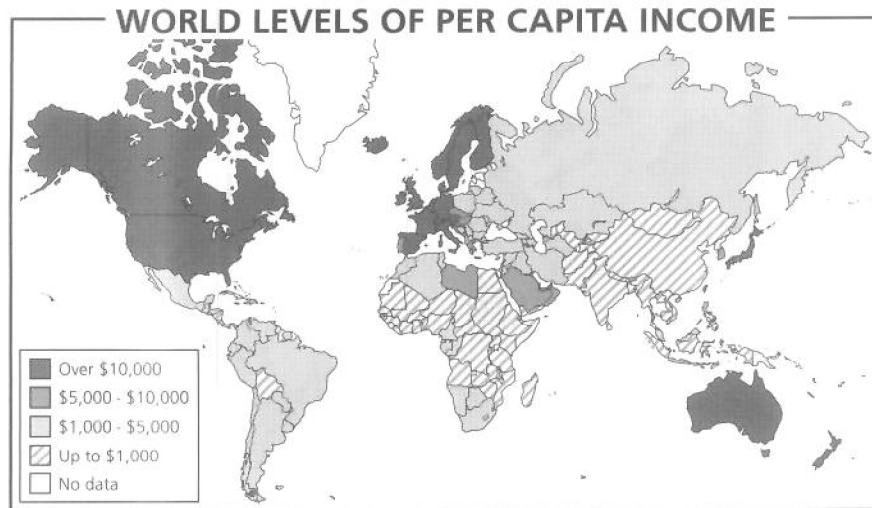
Economic inequality and political conflict have led to migration on a global scale. After World War II, large numbers of foreign workers migrated to Western Europe to fill low-paying jobs. Turks and Italians migrated to Germany, North Africans to France, and Pakistanis to Great Britain. Many of these "guest workers" were Muslims and were often not accepted as equals by Europeans. Eastern European refugees have flooded into Western Europe. Latin Americans and Asians have similarly migrated to the United States.

Alternative Viewpoints. In times of unemployment, foreign workers and refugees are often resented and attacked by native groups. Extremist politicians even call for them to be forcibly expelled. In industrialized countries, many citizens have condemned violence against immigrants and reaffirmed the principle of equal rights for all. Steps have also been taken to limit the number of refugees and immigrants.



AID TO DEVELOPING NATIONS

More than three-quarters of the world's population live in the **developing nations** of the "**Third World**." People in these countries have low incomes, a short life expectancy, poor medical care and meager education. The gap between rich and poor nations continues to widen. Developing nations have many problems: natural obstacles like deserts, mountains and poor soil; political and social unrest; lack of funds for schools, roads, communications and technology; high population growth; lack of an educated, skilled workforce; and competition from developed nations in global markets.



Alternative Viewpoints. Some developing countries have made substantial progress by shifting to free markets, limiting population growth, curbing inflation, and creating stable conditions for investment. Industrialized nations have sent aid and advisors to developing countries to improve education, modernize the economy and raise living standards. Private efforts of groups like CARE or individuals like **Mother Teresa** also help; she took care of the sick and homeless in Calcutta, India. But many Third World leaders demand more, in part as reparations for colonialism and other past abuses. They argue that developed countries should cancel the debts they are owed.



THE CHALLENGES OF GLOBALIZATION

In 1947, the **General Agreement on Tariff and Trade** (GATT) was signed by 23 nations, to promote world trade and to remove trade barriers. In 1955, this led to the creation of the **World Trade Organization**. Today, the lowering of trade barriers by the World Trade Organization, accompanied by improvements in communications and transportation, has greatly increased the pace and scale of world trade.

OFFSHORING AND OUTSOURCING

Many companies are now moving their production facilities to countries where the costs of labor and other productive resources are lower. This practice is known as **offshoring**. Companies are also hiring other companies, often from overseas, to produce parts or to provide other services. This is known as **outsourcing**. A computer assembled in the U.S. may have parts manufactured in Taiwan, China, Thailand and Mexico. The computer may use software designed by computer engineers and programmers in the U.S. and India. When American customers call customer service, they may be talking to English-speaking representatives in India or the Philippines.

New information technologies also make it easier for manufacturers to track their inventory. Shipping has also become easier with containerized cargo. Goods are packed into large containers and loaded onto a cargo ship. When the ship arrives, the containers serve as the backs of trucks or as railroad cars, without repacking the items.

BENEFITS AND COSTS

With a global network of communications, free trade barriers, and lower shipping costs, people and goods can now flow easily across national boundaries, creating a truly global market. Economic activities move to wherever they are most efficient, on a global scale. Goods and services are then exchanged through trade. This whole process is known as **globalization**. It allows people to enjoy goods and services from all around the world. Advances in information technology, medicine or engineering spread quickly. Globalization has also increased economic development, as standards of living are higher than ever.

Globalization has brought costs as well as benefits. Manufacturing has shifted away from countries where labor costs are higher. Many workers in developed countries have lost their jobs, while many workers in newly industrialized countries feel exploited—working long hours under harsh conditions. Globalization has also increased pollution, accelerating global climate change, and threatens the survival of local cultures.



THE STATUS OF WOMEN

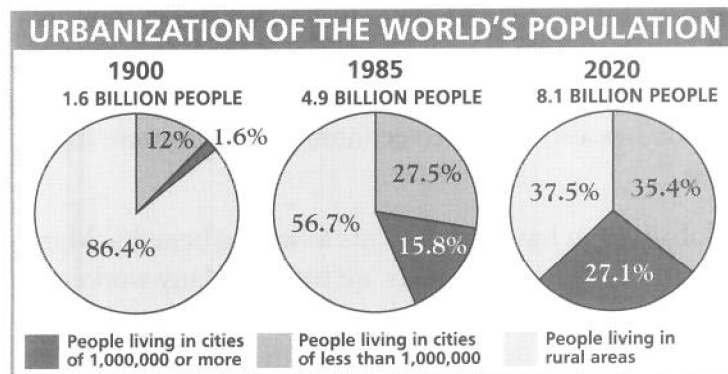
Throughout history, most societies have been **patriarchal**: men have held power, while women were considered inferior. In these societies, women usually could not own property or participate in government, and had to obey their husbands. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the status of women in the Western world changed. With the Industrial Revolution, many more women entered the workforce. During World War I, women worked in factories while men were fighting overseas, and in most industrialized countries they won the right to vote. Yet women still face inferior status in many parts of the world today. In Africa and Asia, they endure forced mutilation of their bodies when they reach adolescence. In some Islamic countries, women must wear veils from head to toe, refrain from being seen in public, and are not permitted to drive cars. Even in Western countries, women are underrepresented in politics and top corporate jobs, and on average earn less than men. Often, working women must also take care of the children and the home.

Alternative Viewpoints. In the 1960s, the **Women's Liberation Movement** emerged. Laws were passed in many countries guaranteeing women equal rights and outlawing discrimination in education and employment. But some developing nations still claim that treating women equally violates their cultural traditions. Today, international organizations are trying to end the worst abuses against women. An international conference was held in Beijing, China in 1995 to try to enhance women's rights worldwide.



URBANIZATION AND MODERNIZATION

Urbanization refers to the movement of people into cities. In 1850, only England had more than half its people in towns and cities. By the year 2000, three-quarters of the world's population lived in cities. Both poverty and improvements in farming in the Third World have driven



millions to emigrate to cities in search of jobs and education. Once they arrive, rural migrants settle for poorly-paid jobs. Rising urban populations require more food, heat, water, electricity, schools, and medical care than cities can provide. Overcrowding leads to air and water pollution, traffic jams, and mountains of garbage and sewage. Rural newcomers also face new values. **Modernization** refers to the shedding of traditional beliefs and adopting modern methods, ideas, and technologies. Often cities are centers of change and modernization, creating social and psychological conflicts. Citizens in developing nations struggle to combine their traditional beliefs with the modern ideas of the industrialized world.

Future Effects. Urbanization and modernization pose tremendous challenges for the developing world. Third World governments must try to improve conditions in the countryside to slow migration, while providing more services, housing, and education in cities. Reducing population growth will also lessen urban congestion. Adjusting to these changes creates social problems and cultural conflicts. In Iran, for example, Islamic Fundamentalist leaders opposed the effects that Western ideas and modernization had on their local traditions and have tried to suppress many of them.



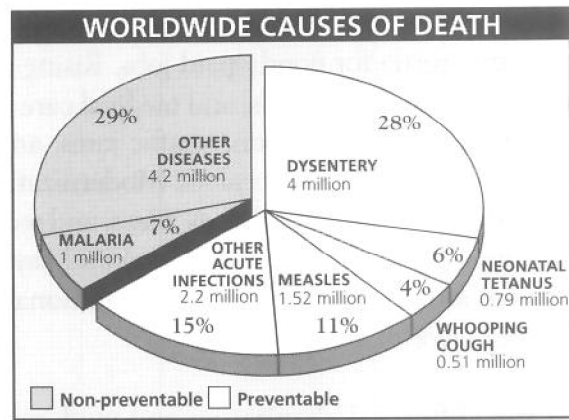
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

Because of continuous progress in science and technology, we live in an age of constant change. The pace of technological change can make job skills obsolete well before people have time to adjust.

- ◆ **The Computer Revolution.** A central feature of the late 20th century has been the computer. Earlier computers required huge buildings to house their memory units. The invention of **silicon chips** made it possible to build computers that perform billions of calculations in a second and fit on one's lap. Some people have had problems adjusting to the computer revolution. Others fear that the vast amounts of information now stored in computers are leading to invasions of individual privacy.
- ◆ **Automation.** Computer-controlled robots often replace skilled workers. This provides cheaper products, but reduces factory jobs. Some economists believe new jobs are quickly created, but in different fields. Many workers find it hard to adjust.
- ◆ **Revolutions in Medicine.** Vaccines and antibiotics have wiped out many diseases. Organ transplants are commonplace. Medical advances now seem to occur daily.

The next challenge is to find cures for diseases such as cancer, AIDS, and memory loss in the elderly. But medical costs are rising and developing countries cannot afford proper care; 40,000 children under five die daily from preventable illnesses.

- ◆ **Transportation Advances.** When industry developed cars, ships, and planes, the impact on people's lives was enormous. Cars give people the freedom to travel wherever they choose, but increased traffic has caused smog, pollution, and gridlock.
- ◆ **Communication Advances.** Inventions such as the telephone, radio, television and satellites have made instant communications possible, turning our world into a "global village." The **Internet**, a global network allowing computer users to exchange information quickly and cheaply, is further increasing the knowledge available. People are better informed today, but find it hard to cope with the "information overload."
- ◆ **Space Exploration.** In 1957 the Soviets launched a satellite, **Sputnik I**, starting a "space race" with the U.S. Both countries carried out complex projects, sending astronauts and satellites into space in large numbers. The first humans landed on the moon in 1969. Space exploration continues—costly, but carrying national prestige.



— STUDY CARDS —

Overpopulation

The Problem: 200 years ago there were one billion people in the world. Today there are 6 billion, and the number is increasing rapidly—especially in large countries such as China, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. This threatens to create shortages of food and resources such as farmland and safe drinking water.

Solutions: Education and family planning help limit population growth. China has adopted a "one-child" policy.

Environmental Pollution

The Problem: Industrialization, urbanization and population growth cause increasing air, land and water pollution. Nuclear, biological and chemical wastes pose special problems.

Solutions: International cooperation and non-polluting sources of energy are needed to solve these problems. **Rio Conference** (1992) and **Kyoto Conference** (1997) were held to develop international strategies to protect the environment.

<p>International Terrorism</p> <p>The Problem: Terrorism is use of violence against civilians for political purposes. Terrorists hijack planes, bomb buildings, and assassinate people. In the future they may use biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.</p> <p>Solutions: Negotiating with terrorists is generally considered useless. Undercover agents work to track down terrorist cells, arrest and convict perpetrators. Sometimes attacks are made on countries harboring terrorist groups.</p>	<p>Problems of Developing Nations</p> <p>The Problem: Three-quarters of the world's people live in developing Third World nations. They have low incomes, short life spans, poor education and medical care, low productivity.</p> <p>Solutions: Developed nations need to make greater investments in Third World economies, and perhaps forgive Third World debts. In addition, developing nations must seek to grow more food, improve education, develop a skilled work force, and limit population growth.</p>
<p>Deforestation</p> <p>The Problem: Forests provide much of the oxygen humans need in order to breathe. Tropical rainforests also have unique plants that often have medical uses. Deforestation is the clearing of these areas by removing the trees.</p> <p>Solutions: An international campaign is trying to encourage nations to preserve their forests. Some forest lands are being bought by private groups to prevent the loss of the trees.</p>	<p>The Status of Women</p> <p>The Problem: In developed nations, women have political and social equality. In many developing nations, women are treated as inferior and have few if any rights.</p> <p>Solutions: During the Women's Liberation Movement, many developed countries passed laws prohibiting discrimination against women. The Beijing Conference (1995) addressed the problems of women's rights around the world.</p>
<p>Desertification</p> <p>The Problem: Changes in the climate, such as global warming, are leading to persistent droughts in parts of the world. Regions like the Sahel, south of Africa's Sahara Desert, are turning into desert lands, putting millions of people at risk of malnutrition and starvation.</p> <p>Solutions: International relief efforts are under way, as well as planting trees to reduce soil erosion.</p>	<p>Urbanization/Modernization</p> <p>Urbanization: Movement of people from countryside to cities. In the Third World, as millions pour into cities, shortages of housing, jobs, transportation, sanitation and other services arise.</p> <p>Modernization: Shedding traditional beliefs in favor of modern ideas and technology. Adjusting to these changes creates problems and identity conflicts. Islamic Fundamentalism is one way people have reacted to modernization.</p>

SUMMARIZING YOUR UNDERSTANDING

COMPLETING A TABLE

Use the table below to organize information you have read about in this chapter.

Concern	State the Problem	List a Possible Solution
Overpopulation		
Environmental Pollution		
Deforestation		
Desertification		
Status of Women		
Urbanization		

TESTING YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Test your understanding of this chapter by answering the following questions:

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

- 1 The global problems of uneven economic development, environmental pollution, and hunger reflect a need for
 - (1) a return to policies of economic mercantilism
 - (2) increased military spending
 - (3) a reduction in foreign aid provided by industrialized nations
 - (4) increased international cooperation

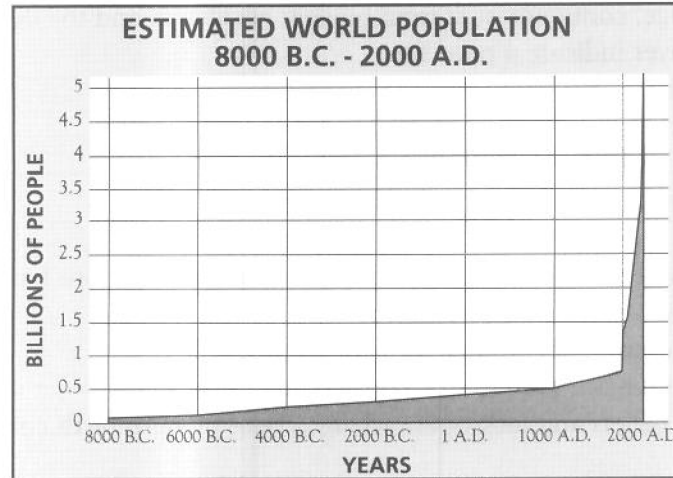
- 2 A valid statement about technology in the 20th century is that it has
 - (1) eliminated famine and disease
 - (2) delayed economic progress in developing countries
 - (3) led to the adoption of free trade policies
 - (4) accelerated the pace of cultural diffusion

- 3 Technological changes in developing countries have often brought about
 - (1) mass migrations from urban to rural areas
 - (2) fewer educational and employment opportunities
 - (3) a weakening of traditional values and family patterns
 - (4) the decreased use of natural resources

- 4 Which is a direct effect of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001?
- (1) The United States took military action to overthrow the Taliban government of Afghanistan after they refused to turn over terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden.
 - (2) The United States fired missiles at the capital city of Iraq.
 - (3) U.S. troops were sent to Somalia to defeat local warlords.
 - (4) Osama bin Laden resigned as leader of the al-Qaida terrorist network.
- 5 Acid rain damage, contamination from nuclear accidents, and the deterioration of the earth's ozone layer indicate a need for
- (1) the elimination of fossil fuels
 - (2) greater international cooperation
 - (3) high tariffs and a favorable balance of trade
 - (4) the nationalization of major industries
- 6 A major cause of the high birth rates of many developing nations has been
- (1) the need for a large urban workforce
 - (2) a desire to counteract an increasing death rate
 - (3) the need to replace people killed during civil wars
 - (4) traditional beliefs and lack of knowledge about modern birth control methods
- 7 "People are casting many wary glances at the sky and their surroundings — radioactivity needs no visa and has no respect for national frontiers."
- Izvestia*, May 9, 1986
- This quotation most probably refers to
- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| (1) the nuclear accident at Chernobyl | (3) deforestation caused by acid rain |
| (2) the drought in Africa's Sahel region | (4) monsoon floods in Southeast Asia |
- 8 Russian grain purchases from the United States, sales of Japanese cars in Latin America, and European reliance on Middle Eastern oil are examples of
- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) the creation of free-trade areas | (3) the rise in economic interdependence |
| (2) economically self-sufficient nations | (4) a worldwide spirit of imperialism |
- 9 The main concern about the destruction of the rain forests in Brazil and sub-Saharan Africa is that
- (1) cities will become seriously overcrowded
 - (2) it will lead to a decrease of oxygen in the atmosphere
 - (3) per capita incomes in developing nations will increase
 - (4) the availability of water in these areas will decrease

- 10 Which statement best describes the status of women today?
- (1) Women have achieved complete equality with men.
 - (2) Women have more freedom in developing nations than in developed nations.
 - (3) Women's job opportunities have increased in developed nations.
 - (4) Women have made no progress in gaining social equality since 1945.

Use the information in the bar graph to answer Question 11.



- 11 What event most likely accounts for the rise in population in the past 200 years?
- (1) Crusades
 - (2) French Revolution
 - (3) Cold War
 - (4) technological advances