AMSCO Chapter 30

Post-Cold War World, 1990-Present

1. Economic Globalization
2. Globalization – process of interaction among peoples, governments, and companies of different nations, especially after the end of the Cold War, when formerly Eastern bloc countries now joined in global marketplace; most non-aligned nations relaxed trade restrictions in the early 1990s; trade agreements and organizations further integrated world economy; corresponding increase in labor exploitation and environmental damage
3. Rise of East Asian Economic Powers
4. Japan had become an island powerhouse; tsunami of 2011 and economic depression damaged Japanese economy
5. Asian Tigers – Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan – strong government economic policies and high volume of exports, becoming industrialized centers of banking, finance, and information technology
6. Chinese communist government reopened the Shanghai Stock market in 1989, and moved to allow private ownership; China now world’s third largest economy, after US and European Union
7. Indian, Brazil and Russia
8. Indian opened markets in early 1990s now software and information giant, using American and European investment and outsourcing; increasing Indian middle class, estimated to be largest in world; most Indians still live in poverty, Indian government not active in social services and sometimes corrupt
9. Brazil – agribusiness and steel industry increased economy, but most Brazilians are still poor and living in favelas
10. Russia’s oil resources improved economy and increased consumer culture, but dropping oil prices have recently hurt Russian economy, and unemployment and homeless rates are high
11. International Trade Organizations
12. GATT 1947 – lifted trade barriers from around 40% to below 5%
13. 1995 WTO took over from GATT – rules that govern over 90% of world trade; WTO criticized for being closed to the public, representing corporate interests, and favoring trade over moral issues
14. Resistance to Globalization – critics say free trade is not always fair because issues of labor and environment are ignored and developing nations can not compete; WTO meeting in Seattle was shut down by protestors in 1999
15. Globalization and the Role of Technology – Internet made communication easier and information more abundant and accessible
16. Technology and Revolution – cell phones, portable devices, social media, videotaping of police brutality, social protest
17. Arab Spring – series of popular uprisings in Arab countries and Iran starting in December 2010; started when a man whose fruit stand was confiscated by the government set himself on fire, video disseminated online; in Egypt, protests against President Mubarak until he stepped down; in Iran thousands of people protested against the government
18. Global Popular Culture – multi-billion dollar international companies like Apple, Nike, Rolex, and American celebrities like athletes became global superstars
19. Anime, Bollywood etc… meant more diverse cultural marketplace, but with the US still dominating
20. Americanization - American companies operating in other countries brought English language to these nations; some felt this diluted unique cultural identities
21. Olympic Games and World Cup contribute to global sports culture
22. New religious movements such as Hari Krishna (Hindu basis) and other New Age religions as well as new combinations in syncretic religions
23. Struggles for Democracy
24. South Africa Ends Apartheid – institutionalized oppression since 1948, where white South Africans (15% of the population) were the only ones considered true citizens of the republic.
25. Pass laws kept native South Africans from moving freely w/in the country and banned from living in certain areas reserved for whites; mixed marriages prohibited
26. 1964, Nelson Mandela, leader of African National Congress, was imprisoned for life for agitating against apartheid. Through the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, South Africa became a global pariah; in 1986, acting President de Klerk announced Mandela’s release from prison. By 1994, first free elections, African National Congress won the majority of seats in Parliament with Mandela sworn in as first black president.
27. Mandela’s government established Truth and Reconciliation Commission designed to expose the human rights violations of the apartheid regime.
28. China’s Citizens Protest for Freedom – By 1990s China was economic powerhouse, but without democratic reforms. Chinese Communist Party still controlled industry and free speech; no political opposition parties; NGOs that wanted to operate in China had to comply with strict regulations
29. Tiananmen Square – Spring 1989, thousands of students, professors and urban workers staged massive demonstrations in Beijing. Students demanded chance to speak to government officials regarding free speech, and had sit-ins and hunger strikes; China declared martial law, and on June 4 sent troops to Tiananmen Square, where several hundred protestors were killed and many more jailed.
30. Minority Rights in China – 55 ethnicities, including Tibetans, Mongolians etc.. protesting environmental damage from strip mining of coal and other environmental processes
31. Environmental degradation in China – rapid industrialization in 1990s plus reduced rainfall led to growth of Gobi Desert; air and water pollution is severe
32. Water Problems in China – Three Gorges Dam on Yangtze River displaced 1.3 million people, destroyed ecosystems, deprived farmers of water for crops and transportation
33. Global Security
34. George Bush declared New World Order after fall of Soviet Union, where US would take lead in new unified and secure world and also take the lead in war against Iraq and Saddam Hussein
35. US as only superpower began to experience resentment from other countries from Americanization of popular culture and religious leaders began to criticize the US, like Iran’s Ayatollah Khomeini
36. Many Muslim nations began to move towards hostility to US, in part because of US support of Israel
37. Growth of Terrorism
38. Terrorist networks like Al-Qaeda advocated fundamentalist interpretations of the Koran, leading to September 11, 2001, attack on US
39. After 9/11 other high profile attacks occurred in Madrid, London, Paris
40. Additional terrorist groups developed, like Basque separatists in Spain or Kashmiri separatists in India
41. Responses to Terrorism – after 9/11 Bush convinces Congress to declare war on Afghanistan for harboring Osama Bin Laden; also planned war on Iraq and leader Saddam Hussein
42. Iraq War ruined most of world’s goodwill toward US in wake of 9/11, because there was little evidence that Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, but US invaded anyway
43. 2003 Hussein captured and executed for crimes against humanity
44. No one has ever tied Hussein to Al-Qaeda, and Iraq War caused 4,000 US casualties
45. Genocide and Human Rights
46. Bosnia – Yugoslavia after WWII included Serbians (Eastern Orthodox), Croats and Slovenes (Catholic), and Muslims, all in Bosnia region. Marshall Tito controlled all ethnic groups until his death in 1980.
47. Yugoslavia began to break apart, like Soviet Union. Leader Milosevic aimed at ethnic cleansing against Muslims. Bosnia, Croats and Kosovo groups fought back, and more than 300,000 people died in the region
48. Rwanda – Belgian colonizers had always treated native Tutsis better than native Hutus. Hutus won control of government in 1962, and took revenge on Tutsis. Tutsis formed a rebel army and in 1993 both sides began to negotiate. However, Hutu president of Rwanda was shot down in helicopter, reigniting conflict. Over 1 million civilians, mostly Tutsis, were killed.
49. UN peacekeeping forces were not sufficient, and were ordered not to use force to end the genocide; peacekeeping forces were evacuated after Belgian peacekeepers were killed. UN forces failed to stop the genocide.
50. Sudan – Dafur region of Sudan; non-Muslims took up arms against Muslim Sudanese government; government response resulted in deaths of over 200,000 non Arab Muslims Africans.
51. So many genocides after the Holocaust, and the UN and other peacekeeping efforts were unsuccessful.
52. Global Challenges
53. UN’s World Food Program and CARE provide food for starving people in times of emergency, but not for long term situations
54. Green Revolution – development of new varieties of wheat, rice and other grains with higher yields and resistance to pests were engineered, and also irrigation, fertilizer, and pesticides were improved; forests were cut down to use land for agriculture in Brazil
55. Small farmers could not afford these measures and were forced to sell off their lands; mechanization reduced labor needs, chemicals damaged the soil
56. Genetic engineering could have long term consequences
57. Environmental Challenges - carbon dioxide emissions, burning of fossil fuels, global warming; efforts to reduce carbon footprints; hurricanes, floods and droughts linked to global warming
58. Efforts to Fight Global Warming – developed nations try, rapidly developing nations more concerned with growing the economy
59. Earth Day – US only
60. Greenpeace – fights deforestation, desertification, global warming, killing of whales and overfishing
61. Green Belt Movement – women of Kenya organization to plant trees to stop deforestation and soil erosion
62. Alternative Energy – wind, solar, tidal, geothermal as new possibilities; nuclear no longer considered good option due to so many nuclear accidents
63. Gender issues – 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women; in 2015 two nations still don’t let women vote
64. Medical Challenges and Breakthroughs
65. Antibiotics – developed by Alexander Fleming in 1928
66. Malaria – mosquito netting and insecticides to fight mosquito borne tropical disease
67. Tuberculosis – bacterial lung disease, antibiotics and rest can treat, greatly reducing incidence
68. Cholera – bacterial disease from contaminated water; boil or chlorinate water
69. Smallpox – virus eliminated via WHO vaccine program
70. Polio – contaminated water, Dr. Jonas Salk developed vaccine shot, Dr. Albert Sabin developed oral vaccine
71. HIV/AIDS – 1981 development, immunodeficiency virus, spread by exchange of bodily fluids with sex or sharing of intravenous needles, and blood transfusions; for some period of time there was a risk of contamination of the blood supply, now screening is in place
72. Ebola – virus from fruit bat, humans and other primates; exposure to fluids of infected people or animals
73. Diabetes – inability of body to regulate insulin (blood sugar); oftentimes related to lifestyle choices
74. Heart disease – lifestyle choices can contribute; 1967 first heart transplant; artificial heart; heart valve and vessel replacement
75. Alzheimer’s disease – dementia affecting mostly elderly patients, memory loss, aggressively