The 38TH Annual

UNIS-UN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE WORKING PAPER

Globalization:
A World of Exchange

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Globalization | A World of Exchange



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FOREWORD

Globalization is a very real and prevalent phenomenon in today's world. It is impossible to turn on your television, open your internet browser, or listen to the radio without being met with this very real fact: we are now connected to each other culturally, economically, politically, and socially more than at any other time in human history. This year's conference topic, "Globalization: A World of Exchange" examines the socio-cultural effects and repercussions of an increasingly interconnected world.

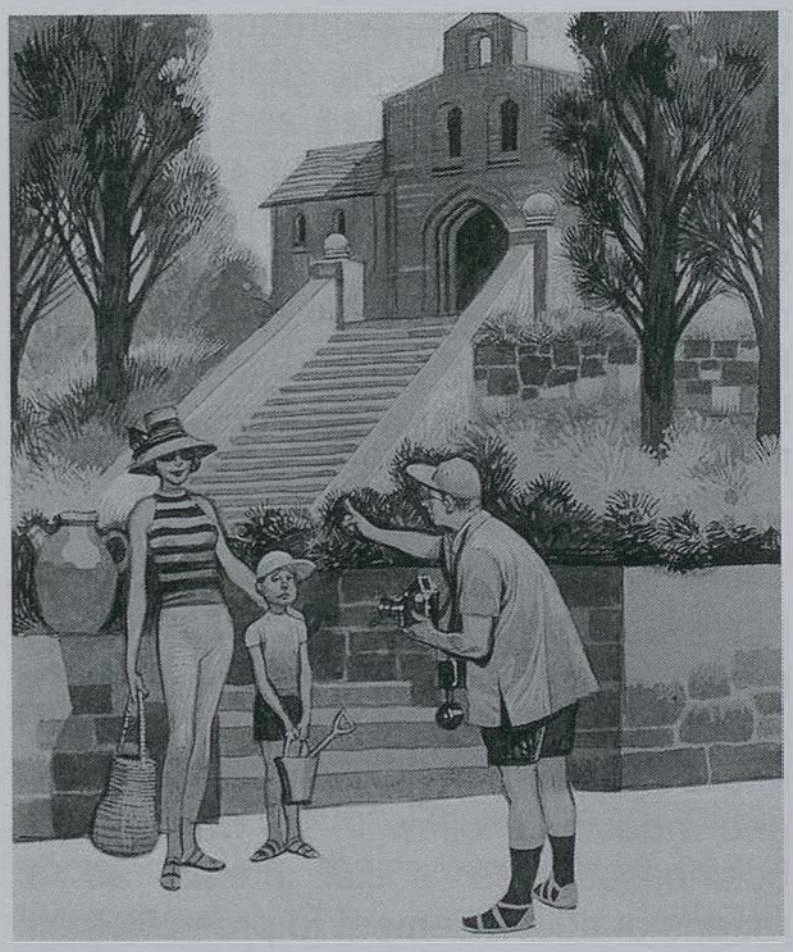
As young people who have grown up in the most interdependent world ever, it is important for us to come together to learn about the new socio-cultural landscape of the world we will inherit. This working paper will explore the various issues and ideas facing the globalized world. Issues such as the impact of tourism on cross cultural ties, the displacement of refugees in war-ravaged areas, and the effects of immigration will be addressed. Some issues, such as racism, education, and healthcare, are ones we may be familiar with. Others, such as the effect of globalization and modernization on indigenous cultures and the relationship between technology and power, are ones we perhaps should pay more attention to.

As a group of diverse and interested students, we must enrich our understanding of our world in order to grasp how it is changing. These changes may be positive or negative, we may have different opinions on their outcomes, and we may not all agree upon the measures being taken to deal with them. However, it is important that we educate ourselves in these issues so that we are able to step up and have the important conversations that need to be had, and question the things we feel should be questioned. In the following seventeen student-written articles, we hope to inspire awareness and a new outlook on the state and future of our world.

Chapter 1: World Issues

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Who can deny the fact that the world has drastically globalized over the last few decades? This rapid globalization is due to several key factors: mainly the advances in transportation, telecommunication, and the wonders of the Internet. These factors generate economic and cultural interdependence between sovereign states facilitating commerce, communication, and cultural understanding while also providing strong economic benefits. However, there are also negative impacts generated by increased travel and tourism.



Over the years, destinations for tourists have changed immensely. At the beginning of the twentieth century, it was more common for Europeans to vacation in their home countries, or in emerging tourist resorts in Europe. The French and Italian Rivieras come to mind. Although these destinations are still popular, globalization has introduced new, alluring destinations, ranging from Antarctica to Madagascar. The same goes for expeditions; in the past, explorers ventured to the unknown jungles of Borneo, and now expeditions are going into space. A group of destinations, which have withstood the test of time, are destinations of religious importance. Notwithstanding modern fads, people are still making their holy journeys to Jerusalem, Maha Kumbh Mela, and Mecca to be closer to their "creator". In our contemporary society, one is now able to travel between two continents in less than a day with ease, progressing far from the days of months-long transatlantic maritime travel. In the past, international travel was viewed as a means to make money, with trade as the primary incentive. Today, in our twenty-first century world, there are many more reasons to travel. People may travel in search of refuge in another country, they could travel for medical tourism, pilgrimages, and even educational tourism such as student exchange programs.

Though tourism has many positive aspects, it also generates many negative economic, social and environmental effects. Jobs created by

tourism are usually seasonal or very poorly paid; the money spent by tourists does not always benefit the local community, as major corporations can often claim the vast majority of the revenue due to financial regulations. Tourism can have a negative impact on the social aspect of the visited communities, by modifying the lifestyle of the people. In some rare cases, it leads to an infringement of their human rights, when locals are unlawfully displaced to make space for new hotels, resorts, etc. Environmentally, tourism has posed a serious threat to natural resources by hurting the quality of water supplies and the cleanliness of beaches, and destroying coral reefs. Tourism can also increase pollution in areas such as Mount Everest where tourists have been leaving litter behind, causing serious damage to the surrounding areas. We even have litter known as "space trash" floating around the earth in space.

The travel industry's steady growth in recent years can be attributed in part to the spread of ideas and complemented by safer, easier, and cheaper modes of travel. In 2011, the combined recorded arrivals in the top ten most visited countries added up to approximately 445.9 million and about half of the recorded arrivals that year in the rest of the world. The order of the top ten most visited countries has stayed relatively the same, with France as the most visited country, reporting over 70 million arrivals annually since 1998. Currently, international tourism "accounts for 30% of the world's exports of services" and is ranked amongst the top five worldwide export services. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization, it is estimated that by 2020, "one out of every 10 people" will be in some way working for the tourism industry (UNWTO Tourism Highlights). It is inevitable that international tourism will continue to be a growing trend for the foreseeable future and an integral part of present and future globalization.

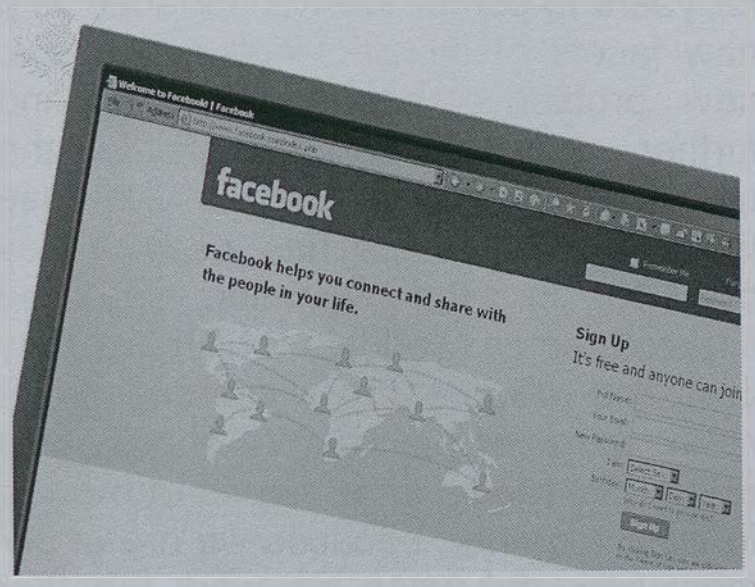
SOCIAL MEDIA AND WORLDWIDE CONNECTIONS

In the past decade, social media has been a catalyst for political, economic, and cultural change around the globe. Not only does social media allow people to connect from all corners of the world, but it also allows for the rapid spread of ideas and creation of new industries. The globalization of social media has led to the development of not only the media industry, but also industries that use advertising to increase consumer awareness of their goods and services. In addition, social networks have facilitated and increased the dispersion of new ideas and trends, and the creation of a new online culture. Social networking has become the medium for the unification of people who have common beliefs and even helped influence political upheavals in the Middle East (Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Libya — to name a few).

The globalization of social media has led to the expansion of many firms and industries into the developing world. As social media becomes more accessible and more widely used, firms and industries follow in its wake. Most businesses use social media as a means of advertisement to promote their goods or services. Companies follow

popular trends on social media sites and utilize social media staples such as 'hashtags' and 'likes' to better appeal to their consumers. The globalization of social media has allowed industries to expand their influence into the developing world as social media become more accessible. This type of globalization has been largely beneficial for firms all across the globe and reflects the new spirit of inclusion that is a trademark of the interconnected world we all live in today.

The globalization of social media has also served as a catalyst for social and political change, as more and more people are becoming aware of world events through interactive media outlets. Twitter, for example, was first created in 2006 and was a platform for sending out *tweets,* short messages no more than 140 characters in length. With more than two hundred million users, Twitter has become popular for sharing news worldwide in real time and often as experienced by ordinary people. It is no wonder that the social network has had its influence spill into the political world. During 2009, Iranians had used Twitter as a way to organize protests against the presidential election. Even with government crackdowns on social media sites, it was difficult to block Twitter as a whole. Similar 'twitter' movements have been experienced in Moldova and Egypt; there, people saw social media as a means for self-empowerment, despite the sometimes-unsuccessful outcomes. The Egyptian Revolution saw many people out on the streets calling for the removal of Hosni Mubarak. Through twitter and other social medias, their voices were heard throughout the world. Various "Twittergate" scandals are yet another instance of media's hand in politics. For example, two German politicians tweeted the results of the country's presidential election fifteen minutes before it was officially announced to the public. Social media allows the world to experience local struggles. It's just as Ethan Zuckerman from Berkman Center says: "social media at this point is most useful at making that what is a local struggle become a global struggle" Social networking has become an invaluable asset to all people, from governments and news reporters to regular citizens, and celebrities.



Social media, though deceivingly ideal at first glance, does have downsides. All sorts of ideas, including those less ethically desirable, are able to spread and proliferate faster with the use of social networking. Additionally, confidential information can be released without consent, putting one's privacy at risk. Young people in our generation resort to social media to express their thoughts and opinions. Cyberbullying is a form of harassment through the Internet with the conscious or unconscious purpose to harm someone through the sharing of videos or photos, or through hurtful messages. It is clearly one of the major drawbacks of the

interconnected, instant, and sometimes anonymous nature of the web. In creating an environment of personal freedom, people often feel more empowered in a negative sense to say things on social media they would not otherwise say. The Cyberbullying Research Center conducted a survey in 2010 that showed that of students 11 to 18, 20 percent said they had been cyberbullied in some form.

With the social media still growing at an incredible rate, there is no doubt that it will continue to develop in tandem with our culturally diverse world for years to come. We will be faced with new facets of the social media puzzle: new problems, new successes, and further advancements of the technologies and platforms we use today. Social media has been a key catalyst in the creation of the interconnected world in which we now live, and we are more interdependent now than ever before. We should thus use social media as a means of moving forward together, because we are at our most powerful when we work together as one.

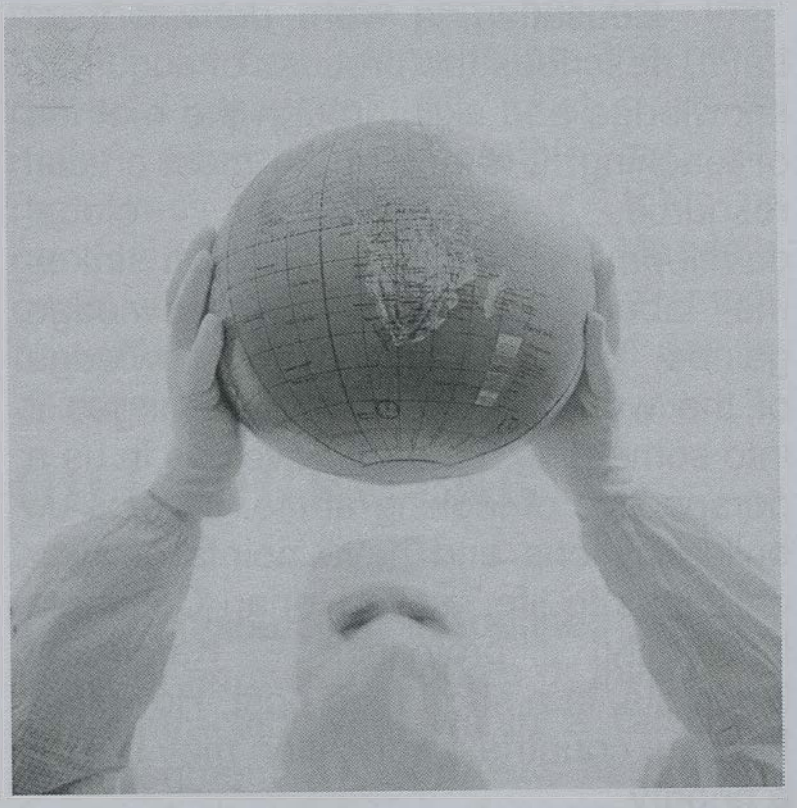
GLOBAL HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights states that "everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of [his or her] self and of his [or her] family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control." This statement applies universally, everywhere on the globe, regardless of race, class, gender, or condition. Globalization–a phenomenon in which the global community and economy become more tightly knit, and in which goods, ideas, and people travel in between nations more easily and rapidly–has affected and will continue to affect the national and international healthcare systems in many ways.

The first way is through the trade and manufacture of medical equipment and medications. For example, Puerto Rico today has a medical industry worth millions of dollars. Eighty percent of all the pharmaceuticals made there are consumed in the United States, and the healthcare industry provides an important source of jobs and economic output for the island (Richards). In addition, the medical equipment and medications can be made more cheaply there than in major industrialized economies, such as the US and Western Europe, and facilitates a drop in price for medications at drug counters. Recent data shows that the cost of generic prescriptions fell a substantial fifteen percent over the past five years, which may be due in part to globalization. Another example of this global medical exchange is in India, which has a massive pharmaceutical industry that has proved a reliable source of economic output, while lowering costs for consumers internationally. There are drawbacks, however, to this system. As medical giants become increasingly focused on the making of money and profit, they may take less heed to workers' rights in foreign countries and the safety of the drugs being manufactured.

Another way in which globalization and health care are interconnected is through "medical tourism," the international circulation of patients, which is prevalent today. Patients who are in need of major medical procedures may go to other countries in which such procedures are not as expensive as they would be in their home countries. One example involves infertile American couples who travel to Europe for fertility treatments because they cost one third less there (Segouin). In another "medical tourism" scenario, patients from less developed countries may travel to more developed countries for safer, more professional procedures not available in their home countries. In short, medical tourism, in the modern, globally connected world allows for patients to seek out better and cheaper treatments. Furthermore, patients who for political or economic reasons could previously have never had access to health care are benefitting from organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and similar initiatives that bring world standard healthcare to the poorest or most volatile areas of the world.

A third, more complex way in which globalization could potentially affect the international healthcare system is through the spreading of pandemics and diseases. As the global economy has become more interconnected, international travel has facilitated the spread of ideas, money, drugs, and, coincidentally, disease. As the number of people travelling outside of their home countries increases, so does the risk that those people will catch a disease and carry it back home. A frightening and relatively recent example of this was the swine flu pandemic of 2009. Although originating in Mexico, it quickly spread north to the US and then to Europe and the rest of the world, prompting world governments to take counter-pandemic measures. If another, more deadly strain of the flu were to spread, it could potentially kill millions worldwide if not quickly contained. This is just one of many nightmarish scenarios involving a global pandemic facilitated by the effects of globalization.



Globalization amplifies the effects of everything it comes into contact with, regardless of whether its impact will be positive or negative. Ideas and information get magnified; they become far more accessible and are exchanged at a much faster rate. Healthcare is no exception to this, and while the benefits are far-reaching, it is inevitably accompanied by equally far-reaching risks. Better quality healthcare, medical assistance reaching those who need it most, and the growth of beneficial pharmaceutical industries all qualify as possible benefits, with increased risk for pandemic as a possible cost. Despite the possible risk, it is evident that the

globalization of the healthcare industry is increasing the living standards of many people. Whether it be through the jobs provided or the medical care received, this byproduct of globalization just might be making life better for the world, one saved life at a time.

EDUCATION

Education, a word derived from Latin, describes the process of acquiring knowledge and skill through the method of teaching. It is one of the most crucial resources needed for global development. “The first thing that strikes me about education is knowledge gained. Education gives us knowledge of the world around us and changes it into something better. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life. It helps us build opinions and have points of view on things in life,” says Ivorian Columbia University professor, Kafoumba Doumbia, in a short blog post. However, in some countries, education may not be a priority.

In fact, a priority for girls in Ethiopia might be retrieving water for their village. These girls may spend up to fifteen hours a week doing this, leaving them little or no time to attend school. As stated in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “everyone has the right to education.” Although education is a considered a universal right, it is still not accessible to many people in certain countries, especially to girls. Education is a fundamental right that all people should have access to, and is in many ways just as important as having clean food and water. Having an education can help to promote gender equality by empowering young girls to pursue excellence in the same way young boys can. Young Malala Yousafzai eloquently stated in her UN address in July 2013, calling for free education for all that, "We can not all succeed when half of us are held back.” Sixteen-year-old Malala was shot by the Taliban in 2012 for speaking out for the equal education of girls in her country of Pakistan, but her sentiment is one that rings true in all spheres, both for gender equality in the classroom and the access of the poorest to education.

UNESCO believes that if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, it would help eradicate 12 percent of global poverty and hunger. As of 2011, 2.5 billion individuals live on less that $2 per day, and in 2010 UNESCO reported that 61 million primary aged kids were not in school ("Reaching Out-of-School Children"). Receiving an education is more than just reading, writing, and being able to solve an algebra equation. It is an open door to possibilities that every human being should have a right to access. Schools are designed to



teach and encourage students to think critically with the general knowledge that they are taught. Children with such skills grow up to achieve better economic status, a healthier lifestyle, and a longer life than their less educated peers and predecessors. Children are our future; they will be our future innovators, lawyers, writers, and decision makers. If they are not educated, we may be forgoing the potential contributions of millions of great minds. Future poet laureates will never write if they are never taught grammar. Future engineers will never innovate if they never get the opportunity to study math and science. Without language classes, language barriers will continue to marginalize those who aren't proficient in the prevalent language, preventing the poorest from ever competing with the more privileged population for jobs. Our best chance to move forward as a united and interdependent world is if measures are taken to make education accessible to all. Our greatest minds may be yet to be discovered, and if the entire world population were to have access to full and equal education, then there would be a greater chance for some to come up with ideas that could influence our future. Even more simply, educated people are capable of obtaining better and more dependable jobs. If all children grow up to be part of the world's educated workforce, we may see a decrease in poverty, and those previously living on pennies a day can earn more money thus improving standards of living.

Having an education opens up many doors that would otherwise be closed to people living in poverty, and also helps to breaks down the walls of gender discrimination and inequality. Without an education there is a much lower chance of a person succeeding, and as the population of the world surpasses seven billion, it goes unsaid that we have an immeasurable amount of untapped potential for the overall advancement of the human race. Such potential would be properly appreciated if, in the words of Malala, we "arm ourselves with the weapon of knowledge and... shield ourselves with unity and togetherness." She emphasizes that "our books and our pens are the most powerful weapons". We must strive to make education accessible for all, regardless of socioeconomic status or gender, for as the late Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

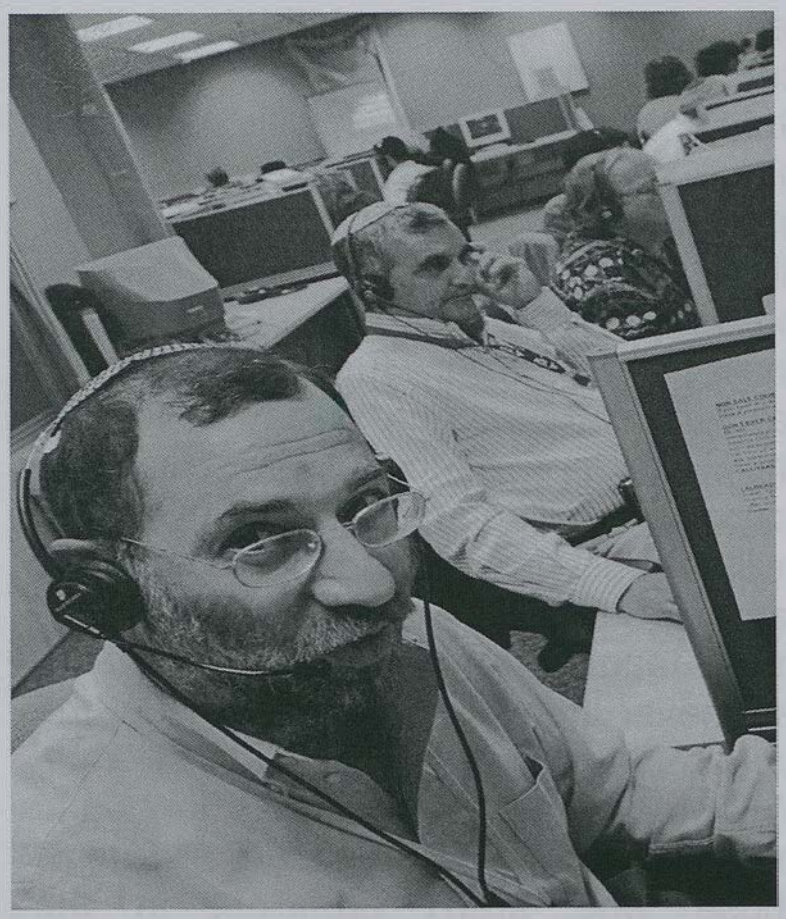
OUTSOURCING

Outsourcing is defined as the hiring of an outside source or third party for contracted work within a business establishment. This process has grown in popularity and importance since the 1980s, when businesses were expanding faster and telecommunications became increasingly important. While some may argue that it does nothing to help (and may even be detrimental to) the local and even national economy, it is one way that globalization is promoted within the free market. Outsourcing is very useful for businesses that do not have the extensive resources or skills necessary to complete tasks that are not part of their core business. Outsourcing takes place on both a small, local scale, and a global scale. Even large American-based companies outsource globally to smaller businesses in smaller

foreign countries. This is because it is cheaper and more efficient for them to do so. The concepts of outsourcing, mixed with the pros and cons of globalization, make it quite a controversial topic. However, these positive and negative factors are two sides of the same coin, and both sides should be kept in mind.

Throughout the years, outsourcing has played a major role in globalization because it connects businesses from all over the world and helps developing countries by creating jobs to supplement the demand for work in their emerging economies. Outsourcing is beneficial to businesses for several reasons. Frankly, companies that provide outsourcing services do the work for a considerably less amount of money because, depending on the country, they do not have to provide benefits to the workers, have no safety procedures, and they have fewer overhead expenses. That said, it also allows businesses to focus on other aspects of their business while the other details are being handled by experts, which means that the business professionals can concentrate on the broader and more important issues within the company. Additionally, for businesses that are looking to expand, outsourcing is a cost-effective way to build infrastructure in different countries.

Outsourcing can sometimes be controversial in that it creates many of the same issues as mass immigration does, flooding a certain labor market with a large amount of people willing to work for significantly lower pay. While the situation may seem bright for potential employers, the percentage of available jobs and the wages earned for



them vastly decrease. As one economist claims, "[With outsourcing... employees don't have… commitment to the long-run health of the organization using their work, and don't care as much about building up their value to the organization" (qtd. in Golub). There are additional disadvantages resulting from outsourcing, other than economic decline. One is that the companies that outsource (mainly in the US) may have trouble communicating with the companies that are working for them overseas because of language and cultural differences. This results in a barrier for communication, the end product being a less reliable, efficient, and mutually beneficial relationship between the client and business.

The drawbacks of outsourcing are largely political; however the economic benefits overrule these shortcomings. Despite the negative factors, it is expected that outsourcing will continue to remain present in our ever-growing world economy. Therefore,

measures must be taken going forward to protect the people who may be negatively affected directly and indirectly as in the recent scandals involving dangerous working conditions in Bangladeshi garment factories. As world markets become increasingly interdependent, a new version of the global workforce will emerge carrying with it new possibilities for productivity but also exploitation. As the role of government in a free market system is to intervene when outcomes become socially undesirable, going forward we must remain vigilant and responsive and stand up for the universal right of every human being to dignity. As a global community, we must strike a balance between efficiency and equity and practice controversial methods like outsourcing with a mindset of respect. In doing so, we might make the future a more socially and economically desirable place for all.

TECHNOLOGY AND POWER

Technology is the force driving the evolution of the human race further away from our primal origins and into the vast unknown of cyberspace. We have come to be empowered by technology that helps us solve problems and improve our lives. Throughout the years, the use of technology has proliferated, to the point where it is an integral part of our lives. Tools such as the cellphone or the computer are not only ubiquitous, but are also being used in increasingly novel and creative ways by users.

As our technology rapidly develops, the true extent of the advantages and disadvantages of this progress have been subject to debate over the past few decades. There are both pros and cons to our increased use of technology in the world today. As our needs become more demanding, more destructive forms of technology are created, such as weapons of mass destruction. In the past, such volatile technologies were symbols of power and superiority as, most notably, during the Cold War. Even now, new, albeit less violent, devices (such as the latest generation of the iPhone or PlayStation) have been shown to contribute to adverse outcomes such as short attention spans or unhealthy dependence on the device. Today we are familiar with technology as a double edged sword. It is not yet fully known whether technology in our post-modern times might worsen or improve the human condition. Technology is evolving at a faster rate than anything else on earth, so a key uncertainty is whether we will be ready for the implications of our advancements. For example, were our forefathers really ready for the “cotton gin” and the social and economic consequences that invention had in the nineteenth century? Will we succeed in mitigating the negative consequences of our fossil fuel-reliant technology, with improved alternatives?



Researchers have discovered that the stimulation generated from the use of technology provokes excitement and triggers a release of the neurotransmitter dopamine in our brains. In this sense, it seems to be a positive thing, as dopamine is the chemical in the brain that may make one feel rewarded, content, or happy. However, researchers have also discovered that it is the same release of dopamine in the brain that can cause people to become addicted to technology. "We are exposing our brains to an environment and asking them to do things we weren't necessarily evolved to do," writes Matt Richtel, a writer for *The New York Times.* "Scientists say juggling email, phone calls, and other incoming information can change how people think and behave. They say our ability to focus is being undermined by bursts of information."

Technology also has a massive impact on power. Since various methods of communication are now easily accessible through a myriad of devices, people and opinions can be heard and cause a significant response across the globe. Take for example the Egyptian Revolution in 2011. A woman posted on Facebook about her complaints and unfair treatment, and within the next week, millions of followers supported her in her efforts to overthrow the dictatorship in her country. This shows the power and influence social media has on the modern world. Women's rights movements, gay pride groups, and a number of other groups and organizations like "MADRE" and UN Women have gained the power of activist fame because of technology. Long ago, the only way one could achieve absolute power was with a strong army, but today, anyone with a device and a connection to the world wide web can speak up for humanity and be heard.

The way we do our jobs has also been affected by technology in many ways. Technology has created new windows of opportunities for us, but not without having closed some. People have lost their jobs to machines that can better perform the same functions. However, technology has also simplified and created new jobs. Currently, approximately two-thirds of the working American population utilizes a computer at work.

Technology is present everywhere we look, including our past, present, and future. Throughout the years, it has developed to a point where it is something that most of us could not imagine life without. It is an important factor that will continue to develop and change our world for years, decades, and even centuries. Technology touches every corner of the globe, and as a force for good as well as bad, requires human populations to be mindful and responsible in our development, use and reliance on technology.

TERRORISM

Terrorism is the use of violence and threats to intimidate others into a state of submission. Individuals use terrorism to achieve a political or social goal. These people take the path of violence as they feel it will have a lasting impact and will be effective and result in the rapid change in favor of what they want. Terrorism is a threat that transcends all borders, nationalities, or religions; it is a global /challenge that needs to be tackled internationally. Terrorism has been used frequently throughout history. For example, certain Roman Emperors, the French Revolution (Reign of Terror), Nazi Germany, revolutionary nationalist movements in India or the militant Zionist Stern Gang, the Soviet Union under Stalin, the IRA, UDF in Ireland, and Argentina during the "dirty war" in the 1970s all employed forms of terrorism.

It is more recently, though, that terrorism has taken a more global rather than a domestic form. During the mid-to-late twentieth century, numerous rebel and revolutionary groups around the world, such as the Irish Republican Army, began to extend their terrorist tactics to further their goals. On July 23, 1968, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) hijacked an Israeli El Al airplane, forced the pilot to reroute to Algiers, and took twelve Israeli passengers hostage. PFLP's purpose in the hijacking was to bring international attention to Palestine's plight in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, as well as exchange the hostages for Palestinians held captive in Israel. Although no one died in the 1968 hijacking, terrorism has become increasingly violent and global since then. One example among many: Sikh extremists in Canada took down an Indian civilian airliner in support of the political movement for a separate Sikh state called Khalistan in the Indian subcontinent, killing over 300 people.

One of the most well-known instances of terrorism is the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City and on the Pentagon in Washington D.C. A total of nineteen terrorists hijacked flights; two of the planes each hit one of the World Trade Center towers, a third hit the west side of the Pentagon, and the fourth crashed into a field in western Pennsylvania after passengers fought the men who had hijacked the plane. The terrorist attacks caused the deaths of almost 3,000 people that day. This event forever changed how the United States', as well as the world's view of terrorism and what it means. The attacks were traced to Al-Qaeda, an Islamist militant organization, founded and led by Osama bin Laden until his death in 2011 at the hands of a United States navy seals team.

Since the 9/11 attacks, there have been numerous other incidents of terrorism around the world. Most recently in the US, there was a bombing during the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013, which killed three people and injured close to 200 others. Two brothers, named Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, refugees from Chechnya, are the suspected bombers; the former was killed in a shootout with police, and the latter is now in custody. While the two brothers, in particular Tamerlan, may have been influenced by the ideology of radical Islam, it has been

noted that the latter's trips to the Chechen diaspora, Dagestan and Chechnya in Russia, may have played a role in his political radicalization. Also, it is not entirely clear if they were in fact linked to any terrorist organizations, which shows that individuals acting on their own are also capable of terrorism.



Terrorism is everywhere, not just sectioned off to one place. These attacks come as surprises, which can occur at any time, in any place, for any duration, and anyone can be caught amidst them. Thousands of innocent lives are lost from individuals taken by surprise while engaged in daily activities. Terrorist attacks cause lifelong scars akin to wars in an individual's life, which can result in phobias, flashbacks, and cold sweats. Lifelong emotional turmoil is caused when one loses his or her lose friends and family.

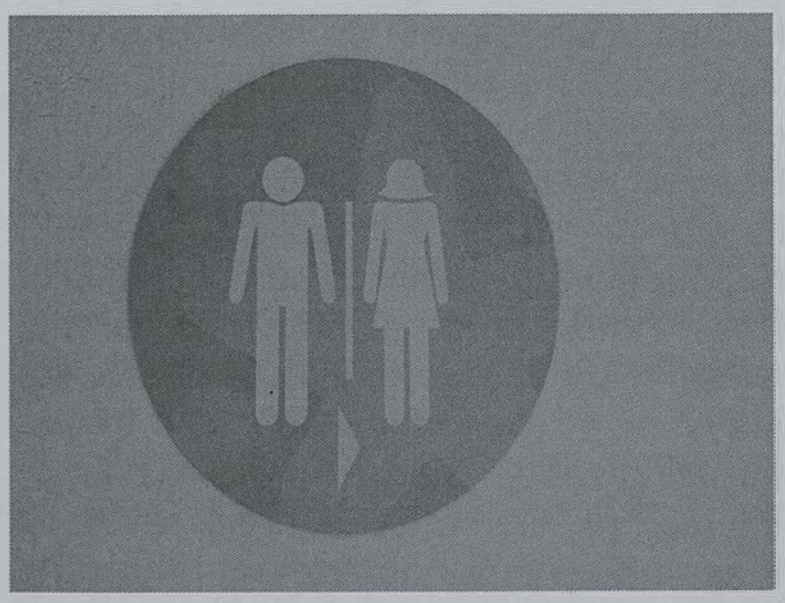
However, progress has been made in combating terrorism. International bodies such as the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have taken steps toward eradicating this threat. NATO, for example, created an Emerging Security Challenges Division, in part to counter terrorism, as well as the NATO Intelligence Liaison Unit, in order to improve analysis of terrorism and learn how to prevent it. Hopefully, with continuing progress, terrorism will someday be fully eradicated, and the world will be one step closer to peace.

GENDER ROLES AND EQUALITY

Gender roles and equality between the sexes have been hot-button issues across the world since the early twentieth century. Some of the differences between men and women can be attributed to natural and biological traits/conditions; most, however, are modern inequalities that come from women *still* falling victim to social norms that often dictate their subordinate position. One example of this in "developed" nations is the pay disparity between men and women that remains significant despite various enacted acts of anti-discriminatory legislation. The assumptions that societies make about what each gender should be like and do, form the basis of gender inequality and gender based discrimination. In China and India, birth histories and census data reveal that there is an unusually high number of male births and males under the age of five in these countries. This suggests selective feticide and infanticide in two of the world's most highly populated countries, where there is a cultural

preference for sons. People in these nations seem to have been using techniques to select the sex of a child in its earliest stages, to regulate births by gender. This is a violent form of gender discrimination, and furthermore, this feticide and infanticide could have the ability to create an unbalanced ratio between males and females in the world's population, although in 2013 men and women are close to equal in global population.

Despite gender inequalities remaining prevalent in the world, things are changing for the better with regard to the lessening influence and predominance of traditional gender roles. The Clinton Global Initiative and similar efforts have been investing heavily in providing funds so that women around the world can gain easier access to technology and social media in their efforts to ascend to greater equality and opportunity, due to its empowering properties. Social media platforms can have a tremendous impact on gender equality and can be used as a potential agents for positive social change. While the mass media is controlled by a few large corporations with their own agendas, social media is run by the public and gives women a greater platform on which their voices can be heard.



Creating equality between genders is the only way to improve the conditions of humanity and our world society. In the future, the countries that show the highest level of gender equality will come closer and closer to achieving complete equality and might one day reach that goal. Just imagine what the world would have been like if, from the beginning, women were more respected and equal members of the household and community, or if men could show emotion to their friends and family. This would be a world in which we are free from the barriers of culturally constricting gender expectations and allowed to define ourselves more accurately by our attributes which could be seen as more important than our gender identity. Together we are moving towards, and must continue to aim for, a world where everyone is offered equal opportunities, everyone is entitled to an education, and where a job is awarded based upon skill and merit and less influenced by factors such as gender.

MIGRATION, DISPLACEMENT, AND REFUGEES

Human migration is the movement of people from one geographical location to another. It can be caused by many disturbances including war, natural disasters, economic motivation, and persecution based on race, religion, nationality, or sociopolitical affiliation. The term displacement refers to a migration that

is undertaken out of necessity and is forced upon a group of people who then become refugees.

According to a recent United Nations report, the number of international migrants worldwide is presently over 232 million. If this growth trend continues, the number of migrants could potentially double by the year 2050, surpassing the current population of the United States of America (UN News Service). These large influxes of populations can positively and negatively impact nations. Take for example the United States: for centuries, immigrants arrived in waves, all bringing with them elements of their homelands and cultural practices. This adoption of cultures resulted in a broadening of the horizons of the country, a competitive edge in the world economy, and a global, multinational society.

Motivation to leave one's country is usually based on the desire to improve one's quality of life. In the case of refugees, thousands of people are disrupted by problems in their homeland and are forced to leave to begin life in a safer country or location. In most cases, refugees receive relief and shelter in the country they have fled to under an international agreement signed by 147 different countries (Doctors Without Borders). Some examples of this kind of refugee migration include: the migration of Sudanese people from Darfur who fled to live in camps in Chad, the people of Laos fleeing to a relief camp held by Lao Hmong in Thailand, and Iraqi people living in overpopulated urban areas in Syria and Jordan at the Zaa'tari refugee camp (the largest refugee camp in the Middle East, home to over 120,000 Syrian refugees) after fleeing their homeland (UNRWA qtd. "Refugees"). In many cases, refugees will not return home for dozens of years due to ongoing conflict or a better quality of living in their new country. However, sometimes these refugees can return home. Many Liberians, Sierra Leoneans, and Afghanis have managed to find their way home after fleeing their countries.



There are many risks associated with fleeing one's country; refugees can lead very dangerous lives. Arriving at a relief camp does not guarantee safety as violence may ensue from militias or rebels operating inside or outside the camps. An example of such violence occurred at the camps in West Timor for refugees who fled from the violence sparked by East Timor's independence vote in 2000. Refugees in these camps formed alliances with pro-Jakarta militia. This caused attacks and intimidation to escalate to such a level that the UN's Referee Agency was forced to suspend its work there. The militia also stopped refugees who wished to return home to East Timor from leaving the camps. Other than attack from militias, camps may also be attacked by troops targeting rebels they think are hiding in the camps. In certain cases, refugees may end up in a country that is unsafe. In 2004, armed men attacked a camp of

Congolese refugees in Burundi and set huts ablaze, killing 160 people ("Refugees").

Refugee women face many dangers, including the risk of physical abuse and rape. In some cases, they have to resort to prostitution to support their families in their new country. They also suffer from domestic violence, which is common when displacement rises. Children are at risk too as they can be abducted and recruited by rebels or government forces, enslaved or sexually exploited. These children are often lacking access to education. Malnutrition levels are also high among displaced children due to limited or absent healthcare. They are at risk for acquiring many diseases like diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, measles, and meningitis.

Refugees and migrants are also in some cases segregated, stigmatized, and discriminated against in their new countries. Because they are foreigners in the country they flee to, perhaps with a different religion or culture, native people of the country may feel threatened by these new people who have encroached on their homeland. America is one of the most popular places for people to migrate to, but these migrants have not been without challenges in America and other similar countries. It is often very difficult to organize and legally process where migrants are allowed to go, and sometimes migrants are illegal aliens in their new countries and risk prosecution. Those who aren't prosecuted still may lead very difficult lives as undocumented workers with low pay. Sometimes, they are even looked down upon by the dominant local culture. However, many migrants are determined to make a better life for themselves in this new country and often succeed (possibly after multiple generations) to become part of mainstream local society while still retaining some of their original cultural values and beliefs. Migration of this kind is often able to benefit the migrant's new country, as migrants bring their own culture and enrich the global quality of their new home. Migration in this sense is a catalyst for globalization and the spreading of cultures, ideas, and beliefs.

Migration should not be completely associated with the aforementioned overriding problems. Migration enhances global diversity, giving each person and culture something new in exchange for something in return. In many cases, this leads to the establishment of transnational communities abroad and the spread of culture. This is evident in New York, arguably one of the most diverse cities in the world. Walk anywhere, and you will experience the rich diversity this city has to offer. In many cases, skilled workers come from abroad to work in countries, which is beneficial to the nations' economies as well. Overall, migration is becoming very common in the modern world and is contributing to globalization and the spread of cultures and people.

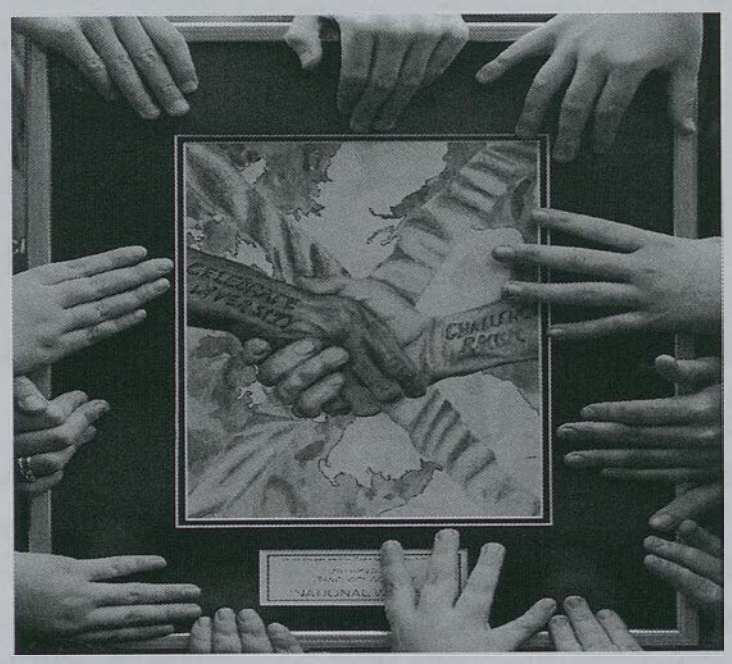
RACISM AND PREJUDICE

Racism refers to prejudiced beliefs and behavior, whether on the part of individuals, groups or institutions, based on a hierarchical segmentation of the human population. This division of

humans into "races" rests on what is perceived to be physical differences, which are supposed to imply shared hereditary qualities. Races are ranked as inherently superior or inferior to others, and people who are categorized as belonging to different ranked races are subjected to unequal treatment.

Although humans have acknowledged differences among themselves through history, and such ranking has been connected to inequality, the emergence and systematization of racial classification and the structured racism of light skinned peoples against the dark dates to western European global expansion, colonialism, and conquest in the fifteenth century. The political domination of Africa, Asia, the "New World," and the Pacific was linked to the creation of an international hierarchy of "races" and cultures, and terms like "Negro," "Oriental," and "Indian" gained pseudo-scientific validity. Even where physical differences did not define groups, ethnicity, religion, class, and other social distinctions were symbolized in racial or biological terms as in English attitudes towards colonized Irish, or Japanese towards the Ainu and Burakumin. Horrifying examples of racism—stigmatization, exploitation, and annihilation—in history are the transatlantic slave trade and slavery in the Americas, segregation in the United States, apartheid in South Africa, and the holocaust in Europe, as well as the oppression of indigenous people by dominant populations on every continent.

According to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1966): "Racial discrimination shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life." Interestingly, this definition does not differentiate between race and ethnicity, which are actually different concepts.



The long history of racist oppression has also been a history of struggles against dehumanization. Following on the work of abolitionists and civil rights pioneers, Martin Luther King Jr. led a mass movement of "soul force" against the physical violence of racism and segregation in the US and dreamed that one day his children would be judged not by the "color of their skin but by the content of their character" (King). Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for twenty-seven years for his resistance against the apartheid regime of South Africa, became the country's first black president. In his words: "Racism is a blight on the human conscience. The idea that any people can be inferior to

another, to the point where those who consider themselves superior define and treat the rest as sub-human, denies the humanity even of those who elevate themselves to the status of gods" (Mandela). The State of Israel stands as a tribute to the struggles of Jewish people against genocidal anti-Semitism and racism; and the Charter of the United Nations is based on the principles of the dignity and equality inherent in all human beings, and all member states are pledged to promote universal observance of human rights with no distinctions of race, sex, or culture.

Science has shown that physical features such as skin color, facial features, and hair type are determined by a tiny fraction of genes, that these vary in expression across populations and that there is no biological line separating "Black" from "White," "Mongoloid" from "Caucasoid". The far vaster number of invisible traits—which are as real as skin color—also vary continuously across populations. Human beings are more genetically alike than they are different, and no gene or set of genes supports the racial categories that continue to prevail. The debunking of the idea of race by scientists and social scientists such as anthropologists, the long history of anti-racist struggles both in anti-colonial and civil rights arenas, and legislation against racial discrimination have all gone a long way towards dealing with its effects.

Though "race" is now generally accepted to be a cultural construction, not a physical reality, and despite advances in the fight against racism, racial discrimination continues to be a reality and may even have had an uptick since the post-1990 era of globalization. As people, technology, capital, commodities, and ideas circulate with greater speed over ever-expanding areas, and populations are brought closer together, the resulting economic inequality, political insecurity, and anxiety about the preservation of cultural heritage have led to the exclusion of segments of the population—often along racial and ethnic lines. Racial discrimination, xenophobia, or the fear of "foreigners," and other forms of intolerance are evident in ethnic cleansing, racial-profiling, anti-immigrant sentiment and policies, and the global management of migration, which criminalizes the poor and people of color. Rather than being in a post-racial, "colorblind" era, analysts suggest that there has been a re-racialization of the divide between the global North and the South. It is still imperative that we fight against racial prejudice, ensure racial justice, and take political action against it.

INDIGENOUS CULTURES AND MINORITIES

Who are indigenous people? According to the United Nations, "the most fruitful approach is to identify, rather than define indigenous people." There are about 370 million indigenous people across 90 countries worldwide, and they have strong historical ties to their respective territories. They retain social, cultural, economic, and political characteristics that are distinct from those of dominant societies. They have their own languages, culture, and beliefs as well as distinct social, economic, or

political systems. These people though are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, marginalization, and oppression by nation states that may still be formed by the colonizing populations, or by politically dominant ethnic groups.

Examples of indigenous peoples are the Aymara in Bolivia, Maori in New Zealand, Maya of Guatemala, Hawaiians in Hawaii, and any number of tribal peoples who originally inhabited lands before the arrival of new people who became dominant through conquest and settlement. So, while we use the term indigenous, the UN has not adopted a specific definition but has developed a system to understand the use of the term.

Globalization is understood as the increasing interplay of cultures as the world is brought closer both physically and virtually, and it has had a negative impact on indigenous peoples. Indigenous communities are increasingly under assault from global actions such as water diversion and hydroelectric energy projects, militarization, and consolidation of natural resources (usually brought about by the historical colonizing populations). Global corporations are constantly trying to push indigenous societies off their ancestral land in order to meet an increased demand for valuable natural resources. Many governments rely upon massive extraction of such resources to generate foreign exchange to pay for foreign debts with no concern for the peoples. The acquisition of land for the construction of dams, mines, pipelines, and roads, energy developments, and military intrusions thus threaten native lands.



The impact of globalization is especially drastic in places where native peoples live in areas with abundant resources such as water, oil, forests, fish, wildlife, minerals, biodiversity, and chemicals for pharmaceuticals. Native people in Canada are one indigenous group greatly affected by globalization. They have been fighting globalization for generations. As governments pursue economic goals, they seek to separate these native Canadians from their land. However, protection of their land is crucial because "when [their] lands disappear, [they] too all will disappear." The forces of globalization have become what some call “a form of cultural genocide,” causing the indigenous people to forfeit the claim to their culture after their historic territories are taken from them.

Indigenous groups in Mexico are also greatly affected by globalization. Economic policies adopted by the Mexican government since 1982 have negatively impacted these indigenous peoples. In 1994, Mexico began implementing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which opened up their lands to exploitation and subsequent environmental degradation. This pushed indigenous

groups in Mexico into the 1994 Zapatista uprising, which brought their struggles to the world's attention and forced the government to sign the San Andreas Accord in 1996, which in turn would provide some protection for native lands and resources.

There have also been ongoing issues between oil drilling and indigenous tribes in Ecuador. Recently, Ecuador's parliament authorized a huge drilling project in the Amazon rainforest. Small tribes like the Kichwa, Achuar, and Shuar tribes would be greatly affected by this drilling. They have lived for centuries in the location of the drilling and will soon find themselves displaced from their homes. The demand for certain products globally is steadily increasing, one of those products being oil. As a result of globalization and the need for oil in so many places around the world, the biodiverse, contained environment of the Amazon is quickly disappearing, along with many other rainforests. These rainforests are not only home to the indigenous people but also to some of the planet's most diverse wildlife. The 2001 census said that indigenous people take up 6.8 percent of Ecuador's population and are thus an ethnic minority. The increasing oil drilling is posing a serious threat to these vulnerable groups in Ecuador. It is said that the drilling could even cause the extinction of small tribes like the Tagaeri and Taromenane.

In order to preserve indigenous communities, people must promote awareness of their struggles. Cross-cultural communication, cooperation, and understanding are key to helping indigenous people maintain their language, culture, and identity. Indigenous people are some of the most vulnerable people in the world, with very unique cultures and histories; if they are not kept protected, diversity, "one of the strongest components to a healthy world" will be lost (Indigenous Peoples Issues and Resources). The human rights of indigenous peoples must be upheld as well as the promotion of peaceful coexistence between these groups and others.

Word Search

H H S E E D U K L C V D I N D I G E N O U S D Y T X U I Y D
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Sociocultural
Migration
Displacement
Urbanization
Industrialization
Commodification
Commercialization

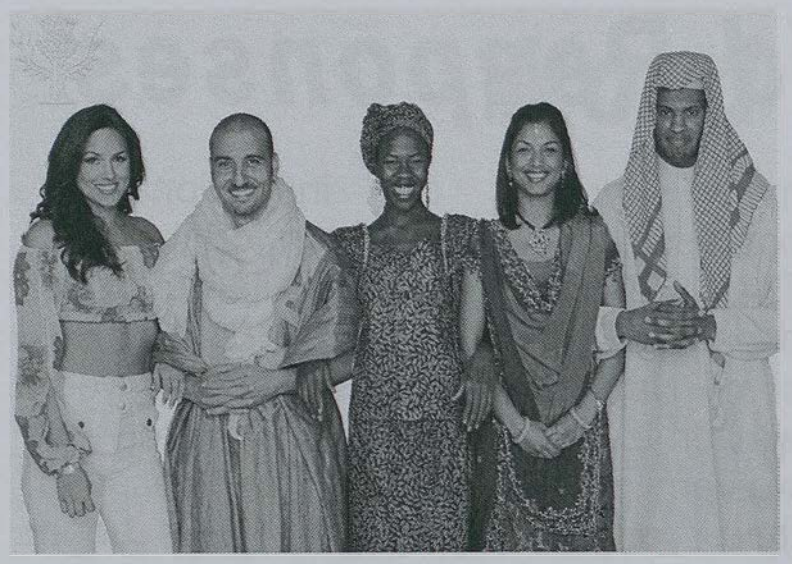
Standardization
Technology
Outsourcing
Isolationism
Syncretism
Hybridization
Indigenous

Chapter 2: World Responses

CULTURAL REVITALIZATION

Cultural revitalization is a movement led by members of a society to rediscover and create a more valued and beneficial culture. Culture offers a unique sense of belonging, woven into the fabric of living experience. It represents individuality and distinction. It is important to all societies in the world because it brings people together through similar morals, values, and beliefs, and gives them each their own "identity." Culture is influential in that it acts as a social cohesive, binding communities together under common practices, interests, or values. Cultural development usually progresses slowly over many years through the cause and effect of minor changes made to a society, including change due to globalization. In contrast, the intention of cultural revitalization is to make instantaneous changes to a society in order to go back to the original, "pure", and authentic culture unique to the society that had created it.

The notion of cultural revitalization is exemplified with the cultures of many Native American tribes in North America today. These tribes are attempting to revive the cultures that existed before European colonization. Many Native Americans lost integral parts of their native culture (art, stories, language, dance, and rituals) during many years of institutionalized oppression and loss of territorial lands. They are now trying to revitalize these aspects of their heritage. For a while, some Native American tribes that were westernized conformed completely to western culture and tradition because their original cultures had been demolished. However, in a push to return to their 'roots', they are now digging up their pasts and piecing back the puzzles that were once rich, fruitful cultures. One important aspect of the cultural revitalization of Native American tribes is the language. Amongst the 600 indigenous Native American tribes, an estimated 1000 plus languages existed and were spoken. These languages "carry unique philosophies, histories, ceremonies, and irreplaceable environmental knowledge of biodiversity accumulated over millennia" ("Endangered Languages"). They represent the fundamentals of these tribes, give them identities, and connect the native people to the rest of the members and land. Despite all this, more than 300 of these languages were forgotten and annihilated after the European conquest in North America (Guisepi). Cultural revitalization serves to reinforce these languages by making them more widespread and common among all the members of that tribe. With the fortification of a language, a tribe can start telling its stories and performing its rituals in the native language and can express its truly unique perspective.



The Native Americans are not the only ones experiencing a surge of revitalization. There has been a movement not just in the USA but also across the world, to preserve and protect fading cultures. One of the more recent projects has been to resuscitate the age-old traditions of the Dayak people in Indonesia. Indigenous protection organizations such as the People's Resources and Conservation Foundation and the KOBUS foundation have been working together with the Dayak to promote their declining weaving traditions through financial incentives, the development of 'apprenticeship' programs, and other initiatives. Revitalization often may stem from government intervention through protective laws and acts. For example, the Sami of the Nordic region have experienced a resurgence in culture and interest due in part to the creation of a Parliament with which to promote and discuss issues pertaining to the ethnic group as well as various regulations which may promote the use and teaching of Sami language in schools and the programming of Sami radio and television on national networks. Although revitalization can bring new life to previously marginalized cultures, a criticism is that at times it may benefit the nation-state a bit more than the group themselves. Returning to the example of the Sami, the revitalization of their Reindeer trade could translate into more gains for governments who could buy reindeer meat to sell abroad for a profit. However, there is still a distinct social benefit in promoting cultural diversity within a nation and reinforcing weakening ethnic groups, as it neutralizes the often homogenizing effects of modernization and globalization.

While cultural revitalization promotes the renewal of forgotten or previously marginalized cultures, it also involves incorporating the ideas of other cultures around the globe. Cultures like those of Native American tribes are restoring their indigenous rituals, language, and art but are also influenced by western culture and values. The revitalization of any given culture can also acquire global attention and the help of organizations in order to make the regeneration obtainable in a more efficient and effective way. While globalization clearly has benefits, in certain cases, when cultures and peoples disappear and are engulfed by dominant ones, revitalization is necessary to maintain the diversity and heterogeneity of our world. In these ways, cultural revitalization fits into the broader topic of globalization in the world today. Cultural revitalization is beneficial in that it also helps to bring communities together; cultural and community revitalization is collaboration that brings people and cultures together once more. On an even wider scale, it helps our generation to advance while maintaining global diversity in culture and perspective for today and for the future.

LOCALIZATION AND ISOLATIONISM

Globalization – an exchange of world views, ideas, and aspects of culture and a fusing together of culture and knowledge – has taken place since the era of the Silk Road that connected Asia, Africa, and Europe from 200 BCE to 200 CE . This inevitable movement towards globalization has been challenged throughout time by isolationism, the withdrawal from social, economic, and political interaction with outside parties, and major conflicts. Another possible response would be the focusing on the growth and enhancements of traditions, languages, trade, and affairs locally. Both localization and isolationism have their advantages and limitations as approaches to globalization.

Localization is the general way in which global ideas and phenomena are interpreted in the local context as a response to globalization and describes the way global ideas are shaped and brought into a local culture. The ways societies experience globalization and use it to benefit their own society differ from case to case. Under certain circumstances, societies could benefit from globalization and the connections it brings with other cultures and societies. Globalization could enrich the knowledge of a society and will help spread the local culture to other countries as well, thus perpetuating local traditions. The economy could be boosted by participation in the global market, and education may be improved due to better networks and modernization. Globalization may also bring with it the possibilities of alliances and connections with other countries that would be of benefit and make certain societies stronger and more stable in these new relations. The process of localization also determines the ways in which societies will interpret and synthesize new ideas and cultural aspects, and to what extent communities allow them to shape and influence their own cultures. In many cases, syncretic or hybrid cultures may be created as a local interpretation of global ideas. On the other hand, societies may resist and fight against this globalization and connection to other cultures fearing other, more seemingly dominant cultures may slowly take over. In such cases the society may even resort to the legislation of voluntary abstinence from the world market as described through the term isolationism.



Japan, the Soviet Union, and China are notable examples of places where at a certain point in history isolationism took place: in Japan until the nineteenth century, in the Soviet Union during the twentieth century, and in Maoist China during the twentieth century. When isolated, countries refrain voluntarily from the exchange of

knowledge and communications with the outside world in an attempt to protect their culture and products, and to prevent conflicts since they are isolated from global issues. A good example of isolationism resulting from avoidance of conflict is seen in US foreign policy under President George Washington in the eighteenth century. George Washington, an avid isolationist, believed that by limiting interaction with European nations, there was no way conflict could arise. He explained that with a lack of conflict came a decrease in the amount of money that needed to be spent on the military and other government endeavors. This money and attention that would otherwise have gone to foreign policies could be spent on the American people and their needs. Thomas Jefferson, a passionate supporter of George Washington, said, "Keep the ships at home and we will have fewer reasons to fight."

Everyday examples of isolationism can be seen in the newfound desire in the western world to buy locally; in New York, the Union Square farmers market brings the produce from nearby farms to consumers; Trader Joe's and Whole Foods follow the trend on a larger scale. Further practical examples can be seen in revival and appreciation of regional cultures and ways of living, seen in the increasing interest in preserving the way of life of the aboriginals in Australia, Masaai tribes in East Africa, and Inuits in Arctic regions. Many indigenous groups are struggling to maintain their own cultures and choose to isolate themselves culturally and geographically from the dominant cultures that are often encroaching on their land.

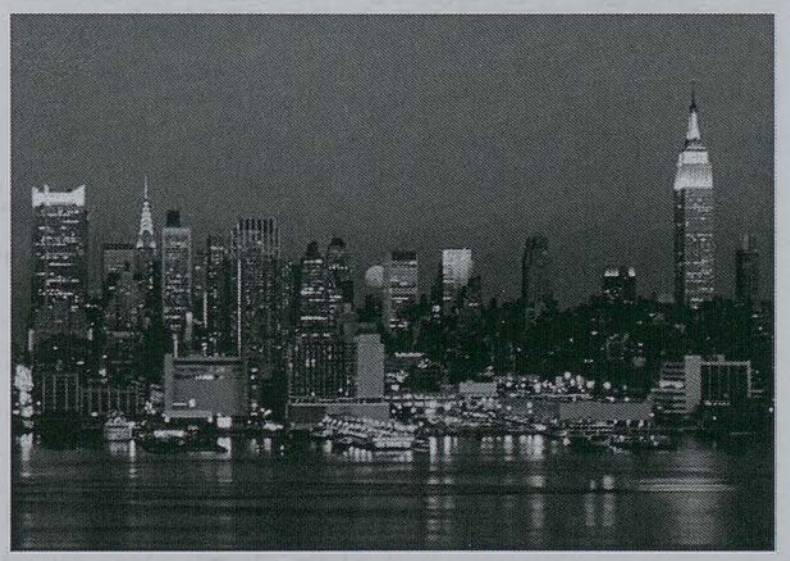
In closing, globalization and isolationism have their advantages and disadvantages. The advantages of isolationism consist, most importantly, of preservation of local cultures, traditions, and economies that have been threatened by competitive and dominating the nature of globalization. Isolationism might be an effective way for a country or region to maintain its cultural and economic self-dependence and sovereignty, even if it may mean losing a chance to use the knowledge or products of others to expand its own systems. A disadvantage of isolationism arises from a nation completely separating itself from the outside world with little to no communication with other countries, resulting in a lack of exchange of ideas and potential progress. This isolationism can, in the worst case, lead to extreme intolerance of outside ideas, cultures, and ways of life. Localization, in contrast, can take and interpret the global ideas in the context of individual communities, thus shaping and possibly bettering the original culture and society, as well as forging new connections in our increasingly unified, modern world.

Chapter 3: World Changes

URBANIZATION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

The Industrial Revolution, which began in England during the eighteenth century, laid the foundation for urbanization around the world. This rise of industry and urban society in turn served as a catalyst for globalization and worldwide connections for centuries to come. Urbanization is the process by which an increasing number of people within a population begin to live in an urban area. An urban lifestyle is one that illustrates a modern form of living and is not agrarian. Industrialization is the process by which a society transforms from having a primarily agriculture and small production based economy, to one based on the large-scale manufacturing of goods and services. The Industrial Revolution was the period of time during which agricultural and rural societies developed into more industrial and urban societies. This shift towards cities and industrial manufacturing began in England in the eighteenth century and spread to the rest of Europe and the Americas by the nineteenth century. During this period, thousands of revolutionary machines and devices were invented and marketed, and factories began the mass production of goods. These factories needed workers to learn how to operate the new machines, and many people left farms to look for work in densely populated city areas, causing urbanization. As a result of this change, cities experienced a growing concentration of people and ideas and more accessibility to resources. Such conditions were the starting point for globalization.

Urbanization has had both positive and negative effects on our global society. Within the next few years, more than half of the world's population will be living in urban areas. The positive impacts of urbanization and industrialization are diverse and numerous; however, the question remains as to whether these benefits outweigh the many negatives. A larger population will result in a higher amount of consumer spending, resulting in a boom for the global economy. Furthermore, urban areas often have strong education systems. There are many museums, scientific research centers, libraries, and learning centers in urban areas that are not found in rural areas. This type of atmosphere attracts people who are very interested in new and revolutionary ideas. Urban centers attract people from all around the world and from all walks of life, making cities huge "salad bowls" of cultural mixing. In the context of America, the majority of migrants congregate in urban areas,



creating distinct cultural pockets and neighborhoods. This makes cities like New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles into global centers with people from all around the world sharing their cultural heritages. The cultures of the people end up shaping the city itself. Migrants bring their own languages, cuisines, religions, and communities.

Though urbanization and industrialization have these positive factors, they come with associated problems. One of the issues faced is overpopulation in urban centers, which poses a problem due to limited living space. This increases poverty levels in cities, which in turn leads to health issues since people living in poverty do not have access to clean water, shelter, or electricity. Additionally, the expansion of cities, destruction of trees, and large, "energy sucking" factories are detrimental to the environment. Underpaid workers, hazardous health conditions, increased crime, and child labor are other ethical issues that may arise as a result of urbanization and industrialization. Furthermore, as emerging economies enter into periods of rapid industrialization and urbanization as a means of development, costs are paid by means of these negative things. Since developed economies experienced these periods of rapid (and often environmentally detrimental) growth decades ahead of today's developing economies, the damaging effects of the processes are once again becoming prevalent. Deforestation, pollution of air and water, and the underpayment of workers could all be distinct cons of the processes of urbanization and industrialization in emerging economies, but many argue that this is the cost of the development of these nations.

It is evident that much of our world culture, economy, and infrastructure has been built upon and are continuing to depend upon urbanization and industrialization. These processes are amazing catalysts for globalization, bringing the world together to exchange globally minded ideas and connect different peoples and cultures. Looking to the future, it is important that we work together to repair the damage to our planet and society that could be caused by periods of industrialization. With a collaborative effort in our truly globalized and aware world, resultant issues such as climate change and poverty can be addressed, and we can come to conclusions about how to industrialize and urbanize responsibly and consciously.

STANDARDIZATION, MERGING, AND DESTRUCTION OF CULTURE

Globalization refers to the increasing exchange of ideas, people, commodities, and traditions among nations and on a global scale. The effects of globalization on culture–on beliefs, arts, customs, values, ways of thinking, social habits–can result in the merging, standardization, or destruction of cultures. Some of the effects that globalization brings about are positive, while others are negative. Globalization, however, is not a new concept. Thousands of years ago, people from distant lands were buying and selling various goods and items, travelling on

long trade routes such as the Silk Road, which stretched all the way from Southern Europe to China.



The historic Silk Road is an excellent example of the merging of cultures. It connected people with different religious beliefs, languages, and completely dissimilar cultures from around 200 BC to 200 CE, and, as a result, built new interactions and trans-cultural diffusion ("What Is Globalization?"). In the present, we still benefit and learn from different cultures, as modern globalization is largely driven by its appeal and the effectiveness of international travel, electronic commerce, and wireless communications. With popular culture, the Internet, and social media, people of different cultures and nationalities can be interconnected, leading to adaptations between cultures, as well as the enhancement of strengths and alleviation of weaknesses of said cultures. Without a doubt, globalization has increased cultural diversity, and this is commonly considered a positive attribute of globalization. Metropolitan centers such as New York, London, and Chicago are prime examples of global melting pots of cultures, with people of various backgrounds and origins coming together to create one unique city.

Westernization of the world is a clear example of standardization of cultures, as a product of globalization. Standardization of cultures is seen to result in a situation where the uniqueness of individual cultures is forgotten or destroyed, and individual cultures are transformed by a dominant outside culture. For example, American TV shows are broadcasted all over the world, American movies are distributed globally, and American corporations like McDonalds and Coca-Cola are present everywhere. Even though standardization of cultures is mostly seen as an undesirable loss of cultural identity and is a controversial issue today, in the past, cultural standardization was regarded differently. In the mid-nineteenth century, Karl Marx imagined a homogenous world through uniformity in rights, economical repartition, and political structuring. With the elevation of the proletariat and abolishment of hierarchy and private ownership, this kind of world could be attained. Aldous Huxley and George Orwell criticized Marxist thinking and tried to show in their writings *Brave New World* and *1984* that homogenization of cultures is bound to happen as it is an incurable plague affecting humankind.

Globalization physically threatens indigenous cultures and can in some cases lead to their complete destruction. An example of such is the threat towards the lifestyles of the indigenous tribes in the rainforests of the Amazonian region. Many advocate for the leaving alone of the native tribes and consider outside influences to be disruptive and in time detrimental to the tribal culture. Imposing means of living, entertainment, and job opportunities on

tribes threatens their tribal culture and traditions and ultimately leaves them in danger of being engulfed by dominant, modern cultures. When cultural aspects of one country are brought over to another and introduced throughout it, the outer influence can destroy the uniqueness and result in the disappearance of ancient traditions and identity.

Merging, standardization, and destruction of cultures lie in the shadow of globalization and our ever-changing world. Some changes that globalization brings about are positive, such as improvement of overall well-being due to the intensified sharing and competition of ideas and discoveries. However, still others pose negative effects, for example, the complete breaking down of vital and even endangered cultural elements. Since globalization is inevitable, our role as perpetrators and victims of this movement is to minimize the negative effects and maximize those that are positive. If everyone were to speak the same language, wear the same clothes, and abide by the same beliefs, what will distinguish us? While we should embrace the new global community created by the merging and sharing of cultures, we must remember to be sensitive to the cultural identity of the individual. Merging of cultures can create circumstances where certain dominant cultures emerge, which may appropriate specific aspects of a different, marginalized culture without acknowledging its background or unique and diverse origin. As a globalized society, we should approach the embracing of other cultures with a spirit of both sensitivity and inclusion and create in our new interconnected world a global culture of respect.

COMMODIFICATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION

Commodification and commercialization are the acts of taking a good or service that may have had cultural or social value and making it into something that can be sold to create a business and profit. The aim to profit through commodification and commercialization is driven by the world's modern capitalist economy, which forces companies to look for ways to make more money by selling at a price higher than the cost to produce. Globalization has also increased trade connections, and import and export networks span the globe. Whichever country can produce a certain product at the lowest cost will be able to export the most of a certain product. Incentivized by profits, companies from around the world need to be innovative, increase quality, and decrease costs in order to maintain power in the world economy.

These effects of commercialization cause many positive and negative changes to the global economy. Innovation, the global spread of ideas, and the increased knowledge of business and entrepreneurship increase the quality of products and provide a perfect setting for the invention of new products that can benefit us in our daily lives. The mass scale production that comes with commercialization also often leads to decreased costs. Unfortunately, decreasing the costs that go into making a product can have negative and positive effects for different people. The decreased cost is good for the

consumer, but is often detrimental to the producer in that it reduces the wages each worker receives for their job.



The decreasing of costs that go into products can cause changes in employment. Often, it is less expensive to have products produced in emerging countries, like China, than in the United States. This can lead to increased unemployment in developed countries and an increased number of factories and manufacturing companies in emerging countries. Another way companies cut back on spending is by having machines replace human workers. This means that often, less skilled labor is replaced, or work is shifted to more skilled workers to help run the machines. Overall, the outsourcing and replacement of workers with machines decrease costs and increase unemployment. It is debatable whether this helps or hurts the economy. In emerging countries it helps the economy by getting more people working, making money, and spending that money. However, in more developed countries, unemployment is increased. This means that fewer people are making as much money, and there is a decrease in spending. As we can see, there are many positives and negatives coming out of a globalized economy and an international commercialization of goods.

In many cases, especially involving minority and indigenous groups, people may be forced to commodify their own way of life. This means to say that they publicize culture as exotic and different in the global economy in order to generate incomes and support livelihoods that might otherwise be lost due to circumstances such as lost land or increased taxes. Indigenous groups like the Kayapo and followers of the Candomblé syncretic religion, both in Brazil, often resort to making their culture into a commodity to perpetuate their beliefs in the global market. In some cases, they promote their "exotic" ways to tourists by selling tickets to sacred rituals, or making their religious deities into souvenirs. This can be interpreted as the devaluing and exoticization of integral parts of their native religion for economic gain or more prevalently, cultural survival. Globalization has had a negative impact on certain groups like these, and on a new global scale involving tourism, mixing of cultures, and disappearing cultures, some societies are forced to join the global market in an attempt to keep their culture and beliefs strong.

In summation, commodification and commercialization have greatly impacted our world: making the access to goods more easy and creating trade bonds between nations and cultures, but also negatively influencing struggling societies that suffer from this new commercialized era. Change and progress are integral parts of the world

that we live in today, and as we look to the future, commodities and their constant exchange of commercial goods will continue to be at the forefront of our new interrelated global society. Constant adjustment and reflection should be made for the future needs of our global society. As global citizens we should try to be aware and conscious of the effects that our purchases may have beyond what we will gain from them, and going forward into an era of global connections it will continue to become more and more important that we support and respect all cultures for the betterment of not only their lives, but the diversity of the world.

SYNCRETISM AND HYBRIDIZATION

As the world is changing and developing, so too must the ways in which we think about the world. The concepts and terms with which we describe and understand the world have been evolving, and two of these terms are syncretism and hybridization. Syncretism can be understood as the merging of two cultures, usually by religious traditions, as a consequence of colonial cultural influence. Hybridization, or hybridity, is a process of cultural fusion between cultures in contact, in which cultures borrow and incorporate elements from each other, creating new and hybrid forms. The result is more than simply the sum of the parts because no one culture predominates. These two concepts have been growing in significance during the post colonial era, where culture is defined in purely homogeneous and static terms and increasingly considered as an outdated way of thinking. Syncretism and hybridization are processes that can be seen as the evolution of cultures. There are many examples of this evolution throughout the modern world.

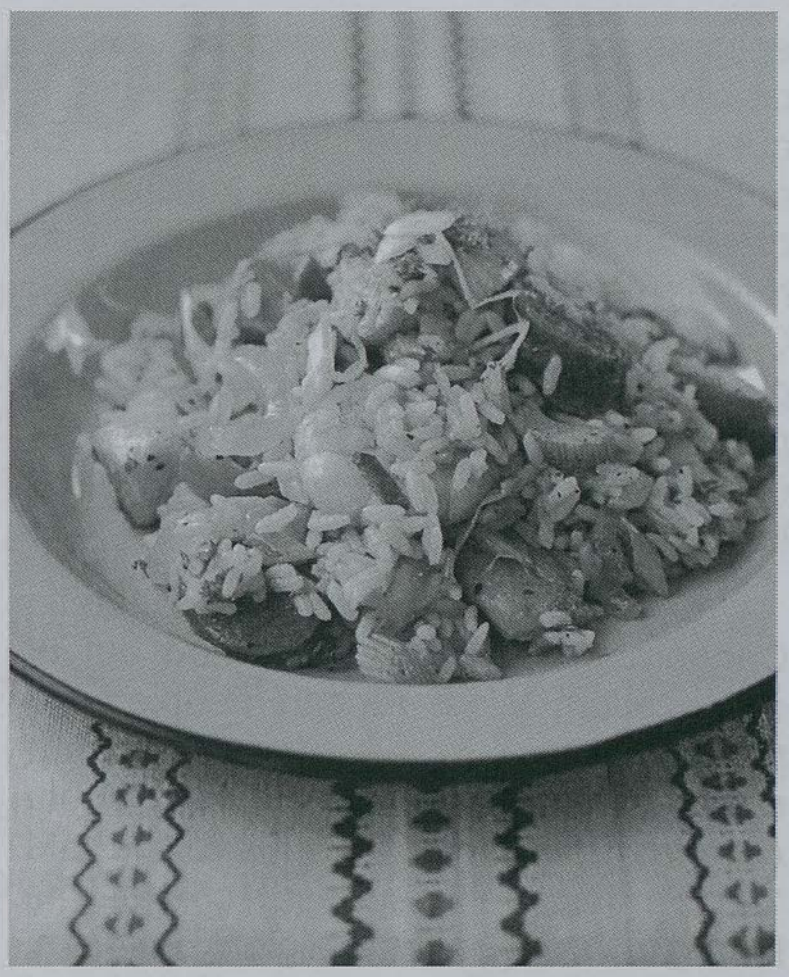
Holi is an ancient Indian festival in which Hindus celebrate the victory of the cosmic good over evil, as well as the arrival of spring, by throwing colored powder called "abir" and colored water at each other joyfully. The festival is celebrated in India, and the day is typically a national holiday, with streets crowded with masses of celebrators. For families of Indian origin who live outside of India, Holi has been a somewhat difficult tradition to celebrate. In New York City, for instance, Indian immigrants either do not celebrate Holi at all, or celebrate with relatively staid parties in the privacy of their own gardens. Interested neighbors perhaps look on with curiosity, although some occasionally join in.

An example of syncretism and hybridization in this case would be westernized Holi parties such as those organized by *Run or Dye* or *The Color Run*. *Run or Dye* is a trademarked entity that bills itself as the "world's most colorful 5k." Organizers set up races at venues throughout the United States and draw inspiration from the ancient festival of Holi. Participants are encouraged to dress in white (during Holi celebrations in India, revelers dress in white to symbolize the purity of spring) and are sprayed with paint as they run. *The Color Run* is a similar entity that advertises itself as the "happiest 5k on the planet" and hosts events all over the world. This example illustrates how a religious and cultural tradition from one country has rapidly evolved in several foreign countries. Ritualistic behaviors have been

transformed to suit new landscapes, while holding onto the essence of the original–in this case, pure fun.

Syncretism and hybridity are by no means entirely modern phenomena in the age of mass migrations and a hyperconnected world constantly exchanging ideas and cultures. The process has been observed for as long as history has been recorded. During the colonial era, racism and xenophobia were extremely prevalent in the British Empire. The unwillingness of citizens to open their minds to new cultures existed despite the fact that many aspects of the empire itself, like its language and art forms, come from the fusion of Gaelic, Anglo-Saxon, and Roman influences. It is exceptionally ironic that most Englishmen thought of their society as pure and distinct when in fact their very culture can be traced back to the combination of several distinct source cultures.

There is also the example of Algerian Rai music, which is a mixture of heavy African, Arabic, French, and Spanish influences. Rai music encompasses different techniques and instruments from both Islamic and Western cultures; because of this, the music is difficult to place in one single musical category or genre. Rai music has been an important facet of contemporary Algerian culture and an important channel for social, political, or economic commentary. Rai music is a symptom of the fusion of traditional Islamic and Western cultures in Algeria, and it remains an important method of expressing cross-cultural ideas and defies the idea that Algerian culture is homogeneous.



Very often, colonialism brings about new, syncretic religions and cultures. A group of people of one culture will be colonized by another group. The dominant group will then try to force their culture and beliefs on the colonized culture. Often times, the culture being dominated will resist by keeping their religions. However, the two religions or cultures often get blended together, and a new kind of culture is born. Creole cuisine is one such example of syncretism and hybridization in the modern world. This cuisine is a result of Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, African, and Cajun influences. The Spanish and French colonies in Louisiana and elsewhere did not simply modernize the native civilizations, but rather intermingled and changed with them to such an extent that the French and Spanish colonies were held as significantly different from their European counterparts in terms of culture and daily life. Creole food is the

epitome of these European influences on local culture, and in essence it questions the conventional ideas of ethnicity and nationality. The cuisine is a celebration of the many influences that make up the culture and life of the Creole people. America has become the global country it is today because of the plethora of different peoples with their own cultures who have come to inhabit it, exchanging ideas and practices.

Similarly, in Brazil, the syncretic Candomblé religion was formed out of colonization. West African people who practiced the Yoruba religion were colonized and brought to Brazil in South America from the late 1500s to the late 1800s. Their Portuguese conquerors forced their Christian religion on them. However, over time, a new religion and culture known as Candomblé was formed, blending traditional African Yoruba practices with Catholicism. It became a strong, expansive religion that brought these Afro-Brazilian people together and eventually helped shape Brazilian culture into what it is today.

Syncretism and hybridization encompass multiple themes that are occurring throughout the global community. This fusion of culture and civilization questions the idea of culture as homogeneous or static, as well as the traditionalist or fundamentalist ideas of culture; it therefore celebrates the creation of new cross-cultural ideas. These are concepts that ultimately reinforce the human connection that all of us share and celebrate and that ultimately brings us closer together in a global society.

AFTERWORD

In the coming years, we will be seeing the fruits of this new era of globalization more prevalently, with many new effects of the world's increasing globalism still to be seen. We will enter into adulthood in a world with over 7 billion people, with about 20% of them living in poverty on less than $1.25 per day (World Bank). It will be in our hands to change this figure. Globalization creates a fantastic forum for hearing new globally aware voices due to the benefits of social media, the ease of inter-continental travel, and the standardization of education as an inherent right of every child. Global health will also improve as a product of increased resources and accessibility. It will be our generation's responsibility to help shape this ever changing, interconnected world. We need to increase awareness and knowledge of the benefits and drawbacks to this new globalized world to ensure that the integrity of unique people and cultures is retained for the future.

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