Globalization History and Glossary

At the end of this session, you should be able to understand
- Glossary, terms and definitions related to globalization (a card game with prizes)
- Characteristics of the history of globalization (copies from “Project South”)

Questions about Globalization and its History
- When did you first hear about globalization?
- What did you learn from the reading? Did anything surprise you? What?
- How is globalization today different from previous periods—50 years ago, 100 years ago—500 years ago?
- How have things changed over time? For the better or worse?
- What connections do you see between politics, economics, and people movements now and in the past?
- How can popular movements influence corporate globalization?
- What alternatives to globalization exist?
- What are the challenges and obstacles of globalization to grassroots movements?
- What would you predict for the future of globalization? Where are we heading?

When did you hear first about globalization?
- Prague 2001 anti-IMF demonstration
- Seattle 1999 anti-WTO protest
- In a SB class in 2001
- News media: TV & print media
- In early 1990s at home about interference of West into other countries

What did you learn from the reading? Did anything surprise you? What?
- CoIntelPro
- Atlantic Charter
- Sexual Liberation
- Chinese Exclusion Act
- World Conference in Durban
- Opening up of Japan 1853

Glossary Game
- Student pairs receive a question with a card number
- The dice selects a number
- Students have to define and explain the term listed on their card
- If they give an answer that satisfies everyone in class, they will receive a sweet prize.
- If other students raise their hand (using the “WHOA” alert), other class participants have a chance to win the prize.
What is globalization?

1. Globalization is based on the pillars of surplus production, commodity exchange, accumulation and circulation of capital via financial markets, and investment for profit.
2. Globalization is characterized by interdependence, trade & exchange of ideas, values, information, knowledge, technology, migration…
3. Globalization creates new “transnational” spaces. It leads to the dissolution of boundaries (space, time, state borders, legal, cultural) & improves transportation/movements.
4. Globalization is driven by the profit motive and accumulation of capital based on improvement of technology, labor division, and search for comparative advantage (Ricardo) on a global scale = global capitalism.

Characteristics of globalization history

- Modern capitalist globalization, beginning in the European Middle Ages (around 1500), triggered the search for new investment opportunities and the conquest (violent & peaceful) of markets and goods, lands to colonize and settle, human subjects to exploit (slaves, indigenous populations) outside the European borders, the so called Age of Discovery (Columbus 1492).
- Capitalist globalization stages are:
  1. Mercantilism ➔ Colonialism;
  2. Industrialization ➔ Imperialism;
- Globalization is characterized by struggles between economic & political elites and the masses who want to address their own needs within the core and periphery countries.
- Anti-Globalization, labor, civil rights, women, environmental, national liberation, and democracy movements propose alternatives to corporate and hegemonic globalization projects and--in most cases—push for progressive reforms.
- Progressive reforms in favor of justice and equality, the rule of law, advances in democratic and human rights (universal suffrage, minimum wage, social security, health insurance, unemployment benefits, free speech, individual liberties etc) are not freely given. They have to be continuously fought for—otherwise they can be lost.
- There are no “good old days.” The past was marred by racism, sexism, inequality, poverty, ignorance, discrimination, violence….