

WELCOME to FLC 301/SOC 393-F
December 9, 2003

Prospects of Justice in an Age of Globalization

At the end of this session, you should be able to understand:

- What has been improved globally over the recent decades?
- What are the global setbacks & continuous problems?
- What scenarios for the global future are discussed?
- What can be done to change or reform the global commons?

Global Progress over recent decades

- Literacy
- Longevity of life
- Access to safe water
- Overall health
- Gender equality
- Environmental sustainability & awareness
- Democracy, human rights, individual liberties, grassroots participation
- International Treaties and Organizations
- Transnational Social Movements, NGO's, Unions
- Global civil society, rule of law, human rights
- Global awareness
- Access to Technologies

Global setbacks & continuous problems

- Scorge of war, armament, (il)legal arms trade & WMD threat
- Slavery/prostitution/child exploitation
- AIDS, global diseases
- Overconsumption
- Environmental pollution
- Poverty & unequal distribution of wealth within & between nations
- Lack of education (children, women, poor, farmers)
- Terrorism, crime, narcotraffic
- Corruption and government oppression, Human Rights violations
- Lack of economic growth & environmental protection
- Weakness of global institutions vs power of multinational corporations
- Ignorance, lack of knowledge and awareness

Present and future economic challenges

Major challenges:

- Globalization
- Poverty
- Environment

Other challenges

- Detrimental effects of free-trade
- Debt trap

- Structural adjustment policies
- Capital mobility-unregulated financial markets
- Attack on trade unions
- De-development

The Globalization Challenge

- Fragmentation of international politics vs. Integration of the global economy
- Knowledge replaces mass production as main source of national wealth
- Massive deficit in global public goods

The Poverty Challenge

- Out of 4.4 billion people in developing countries 1.3 billion subsist on less than \$1/day
- 3 billion on less than \$2
- 15 million people die of poverty related causes annually
- 1.2 billion lack access to safe water
- 3 billion lack access to basic sanitation
- 2 billion lack access to power

The Environmental Challenge

- Per capita waste generated has trebled over past twenty years in developed countries
- Carbon emissions have quadrupled over past fifty years
- A sixth of land area has been degraded
- Fish stocks down by one quarter
- 350m people live in areas prone to environmental hazards
- Deforestation @ 1 acre/second
- Wild species extinct at a rate 50 times higher than naturally

Crisis of Neo-liberal Globalization and the Rise of Anti-Globalization Movements

- Anti-globalization & Anti-neo-liberalism (from Seattle to Cancun)
- Identity politics
- Cultural survival movements
- Regional autonomy movements
- Social movements

Possible scenarios for the global future (Snarr/Snarr 2002 & Isbister 2003)

- World government
- Regionalism
- Decentralization
- Global Anarchy (Kaplan)
- Status quo

Regulating Global Capitalism (Isbister 2003: 234f)

- Reforming the global commons
- Regulating global capitalism
- “New International Economic Order”
- Wages, Hours, Working conditions, Child labor
- Labor unions
- Nondiscrimination, Human Rights
- Taxation

- Disclosure, Banking practices
- Crime and corruption
- Environmental protection
- Capital flow-Tobin tax
- International taxation for foreign aid
- Cultural protection
- Enforcement—International Organizations & Treaties

What Can Be Done?

- (Self-) Education
- Lobbying-Letter writing
- Grassroots democracy
- Voting
- Joining “global networks”
- Recycling products
- Buying fair-trade products
- Protesting publicly
- Be media savvy
- Develop a global consciousness
- Engage yourself...???