Debating Globalization

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

- The negative legacy of past racism, discrimination, and inequality on nation-building and the establishment of democratic traditions in LDC’s at the example of multiracial and formerly apartheid-governed South Africa, see guest lecture by Sanser Yener/Political Science on “Democratization and Race”
- How maps shape our view of the world, its continents, countries, borders, civilizations, distance & the economic, political, social, cultural spaces
- Major controversies about the future of globalization and possible alternatives

Background of race-relations in South Africa

1652: Arrival of Dutch "Afrikaaner" settlers in the Cape area
1806: British Empire takes over the Cape region. Afrikaaner migrate to the Northeast and establish a separate, racially exclusive state dominated by Whites
1899-1092: Boers War. Conquest of the Afrikaaner territory by the British and establishment of the Union of South Africa with a 60% majority of Afrikaaner among the White population
1912: Foundation of the African National Congress (ANC) as representative of the Black and non-White majority population in South Africa
1914: Foundation of the Afrikaaner dominated National Party (NP)
1980's increase of national and international protest, boycotts, and violence against apartheid regime. Blacks represent 75%, Whites 13%, Asians 3%, and 'mixed' persons 9% of the population but Blacks control only 34% of the wealth compared to Whites 54%.
1994: First free elections with Black enfranchisement under international pressure lead to a victory of the ANC under President Mandela (who was freed from over 30 years of imprisonment)

Discussion of Reading (Gibson 2003)

- Findings: Exclusive legacy of apartheid affects negative perceptions of Blacks about democracy. If this trend continues, it will not bode well for the future of democracy in South Africa
- Gibson's survey among all 4 major ethno-racial groups finds:
  - modernization theory (role of education) only holds for Whites but not Blacks
  - identity theory (role of ethno-cultural identification) explains democratic perceptions particularly among Blacks
instrumentalism theory (effect of economic satisfaction) is also related with attitudes

dogmatism theory holds up as a valid criteria to explain attitudes among Whites and Blacks

• The question is if these pessimistic findings can be generalized for similar cases where people have been oppressed and deprived, such as Haiti, Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan…?
• What effects have education, economic well-being, liberties in the middle and long run to promote democracy, tolerance, peaceful conflict resolution, multiparty system, and multiculturalism?

The Problem of Projection for Attitudes about Global Issues

• Important: From which viewpoint? For which purpose?
• All maps of the earth distort either by area, shape, or scale?
• Examples:
  o Mercator Projection = a straight line is a line of constant bearing
  o Miller cylindrical world map projection.
  o Peters equal area projections

Cultural World Quiz

In what geographic region of the world are the following countries located (be specific)?
• Greenland: North Atlantic, between Canada and Scandinavia
• Madagascar: Indian Ocean, east of Africa
• Papua-New Guinea: Pacific Ocean, north of Australia
• Cape Verde: North Atlantic, west of Africa (Senegal)

What important geopolitical characteristic do they all share in common?
They are all islands and have a multiethnic-multilingual population.
Two are stable democracies and belong to the developed world (Greenland/Denmark & Cape Verde), the others are developing and poor countries

A World Put In Perspective....

From “Rotary International”
If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people with all existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like this:
• There would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the western hemisphere, and 8 Africans
• 51 would be female, 49 would be male
• 70 would be non-white, 30 white
• 70 would be non-Christian, 30 Christian
• 59 percent of the entire world's wealth would be in the hands of only 5 people, and all 5 would be U.S. citizens
80 would live in substandard housing
70 would be unable to read
50 would suffer from malnutrition;
40 have made a phone call
9 have used a computer
1 would be near death, 1 would be near birth
Only 1 would have a university education
No one would own a computer.

Class Discussion about the reading
1. Why do you agree/disagree with the following hypotheses?
   - Globalization is nothing new
   - Globalization leads to uniformity & disempowerment
   - Globalization encourages a clash of civilizations
   - Globalization will be a dystopia
2. In your opinion, what are the characteristics of an “ideal global society”?