

May 4, 2004  
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**The Future of Globalization and Alternative Scenarios**

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

- Alternative Scenarios: regionalization, decentralization, status quo, sustainable development (=development today should not negatively affect the lives of future generations)....
- Universal ethical criteria to promote global peace, justice, and democracy (“Golden Rule”)
  - every human must be treated humanely
  - what you wish done to yourself, do to others

**A Global Ethic as a Foundation of Global Society? (Kueng 2000)**

Kueng, a German Catholic theology professor, tries to understand global conflict through non-Western eyes. Kueng argues for a religious-based global ethic of tolerance as a door to world peace in spite of all our differences. Global ethic means a basic consensus on binding values, irrevocable criteria, and basic personal attitudes that inform politics, law, and leadership. Kueng's global ethic has two main principles: every human being must be treated humanely and what you wish done to yourself, do to others. There are also four directives that all religions should agree on: have respect for life, deal honestly and fairly, speak and act truthfully, and respect and love one another. The UN Declaration of Human Rights is such a model of common rights and shared responsibilities. Kueng maintains that we all can keep our separate cultural, religious, and ethnic identities if we can find a way to follow universally valid principles based on axioms of world religions, i.e., values of tolerance, respect, participation, empathy, and non-violence.

*Assumptions:*

Cause of conflicts is lack of respect, of dialogue, of understanding and a focus on differences instead of on commonalities

Religion is a common thread b/w cultures, peoples, nations & ideologies. What unites religions is greater than what divides them

*Hypotheses:*

- An ethical consensus is possible for the entire world, despite differences in religions
- Democracy will not survive unless religions learn to live peacefully, in mutual respect and dialogue.
- There will be no peace between civilizations without peace between religions
- The world has changed as a result of globalization and this makes an agreement on a global ethic even more important

*What Should a Global Ethic Be?*

- Global ethic means a basic consensus on binding values, irrevocable criteria and

personal basic attitudes. A global ethic should precede politics & law and inform leadership

### *Chicago Delegation of World Religions*

passed in 1993 (over 6000 religions represented) met and agreed on a global ethic which should encompass all spheres of life, family, community, race, nations, religion

- Every human must be treated humanely (respect for life, deal honestly and fairly, speak and act truthfully, respect and love each other, recognize and help protect the rights of others)
- What you wish done to yourself, do to others
- Without distinctions of age, race, skin color, physical or mental ability, language, religion, political view, or national or social origin

Four directives that all religions should agree on

- have respect for life
- deal honestly and fairly
- speak and act truthfully
- and respect and love one another

### *UN Declaration of Human Rights*

is a model of common rights and shared responsibilities

- The UN promotes human dignity, freedom, equality, solidarity, interaction, dialogue
- The UN charter offers hope that in time, such a global ethic of common rights and shared responsibilities will develop

### *Tasks*

Develop a Global Charter of Civil Society on global security, economic interdependence, international rule of law, UN reform, global leadership with global responsibilities:

- Contribute to the common good and equitable distribution
- Think about the impact of our own actions on others
- Actively participate in governance
- Think about our footprints on future generations/promote sustainable development/preserve human heritages
- Eliminate corruption

## **Alternatives toward a better future?**

### *Actions to promote a sustainable future*

- Consumer pressures
- Regulating financial institutions
- Environmental actions
- Participation, solidarity, global networking
- Alternative media
- ?????

### *Pressure of Consumers*

- Product campaigns
- Behavioral codex & setting standards
- Social clauses & contracts

### *Regulating financial movements & global economics*

- Tobin Tax
- Regionalism

### *Environmental action domestically*

- Ecological tax reform
- Export environmental technology
- Sell pollution rights
- Start doing something individually and locally → recycling, conservation, reducing consumption, responsible shopping, organic food, hybrid cars...
- Critical stock ownership
- Agenda 21 (Europe)

### *Environmental action international*

- Appeal to LDCs
- Import restrictions on certain products to preserve wildlife, forests, fish, farming....
- Boycott
- Equalize environmental standards
- Development aid
- Credit conditions

### *Media from below*

- ??

### *Global participation, solidarity & networking*

- International Unions
- International Conventions
- Human Rights
- NGO activity
- Internet activity
- Participate in the global social movements-recruit new members
- Write to congress & vote
- Work with local government and media in creating awareness
- Protest in the public—demonstrate—voice opinion

### *Anti-Globalization Political Movements*

- Public Citizen (founded by Ralph Nader)-Global Trade Watch (GTW) promotes democracy by challenging corporate globalization, arguing that the current globalization model is neither a random inevitability nor “free trade.”
- CorpWatch - “For the past five years San Francisco Bay Area-based CorpWatch has been educating and mobilizing people through the CorpWatch.org website and various

campaigns, including the Climate Justice Initiative and the UN and Corporations Project”

- Can you think of others?

### **Examples of Anti-Globalization Social Movements**

- People’s Global Action - “In February 1998, movements from all continents met in Geneva to launch a worldwide coordination of resistances to the global market, a new alliance of struggle and mutual support called Peoples' Global Action against "Free" Trade and the World Trade Organization (PGA)”.
- World Social Forum - is an open meeting place where groups and movements of civil society opposed to neo-liberalism and a world dominated by capital or by any form of imperialism, but engaged in building a planetary society centered on the human person, come together to pursue their thinking, to debate ideas democratically, for formulate proposals, share their experiences freely and network for effective action
- United students Against Sweatshops - “United Students Against Sweatshops is an international student movement of campuses and individual students fighting for sweatshop free labor conditions and workers’ rights”

### **The New Global Governance System should be based on**

- Subsidiarity
- Specialization
- Pluralism
- Transparency
- Selectivity
- Public legitimacy

### **Questions and Tasks for Class Discussion**

Assume you are a member of a White House Global Advisory Panel (=groups with 3 students each):

- 1. Make a prognosis. How will the world look in 50 years?
  - a) economically & socially
  - b) culturally
  - c) environmentally
- 2. What core ethical criteria should guide behavior of actors? List and explain for:
  - a) governments and states
  - b) organizations/NGOs
  - c) individuals

### **Class Discussion Results**

ad Question 1:

- continuing and perhaps greater inequality & poverty OR decrease?
- middle class will disappear
- new global power houses
- more regionalism
- World War III & regional wars/economic divide EurAsia vs West (North America)
- the developing world will compete with developed world and improve living standards

- new tech & more aid to impoverished places like Africa
- epidemics controlled
- McDonaldization but diversity remains
- environmental tech improving but more pollution overall it is getting worse
- U.S. will be more diverse racially=can create division & conflicts (Hispanic influx)
- sale and trade of environmental tech to LDC will reduce pollution
- -safety will decrease (WMDs proliferation)
- population control will reduce demographic pressure on planet
- AIDS will have long term consequences on nations and distribution of drugs

ad Question 2: Government tasks

- Keep environment clean
- Gender and racial equality
- Money to UN and sharing of dues
- Equal treatment of people
- Government should behave more democratically, more transparency
- Eliminate debt of impoverished countries-enforce foreign aid quota
- Treat people as ends not means
- Education accessible to everyone everywhere
- Encourage entrepreneurship
- Enforce labor standards and minimum wages universally
- More respect for life and human rights
- Provide safety, security, aid,
- Promote peace & justice & democracy & sustainable development

ad Question 2: orgs/NGOs tasks

- Ending poverty & disease in LDCs
- Sharing tech
- Global trade laws
- Collective decision making
- NGOs should monitor governments to end misallocation, corruption etc
- Mediate b/w individuals and governments, check & balances

ad Question 2: Individual responsibilities and opportunities

- Recycling
- Voting and addressing representatives
- Participation in global affairs
- Better and more informed by various sources
- Question authority
- Respect for humanity, passion, tolerance, equality and other basic “human rights”

Thank you !

