

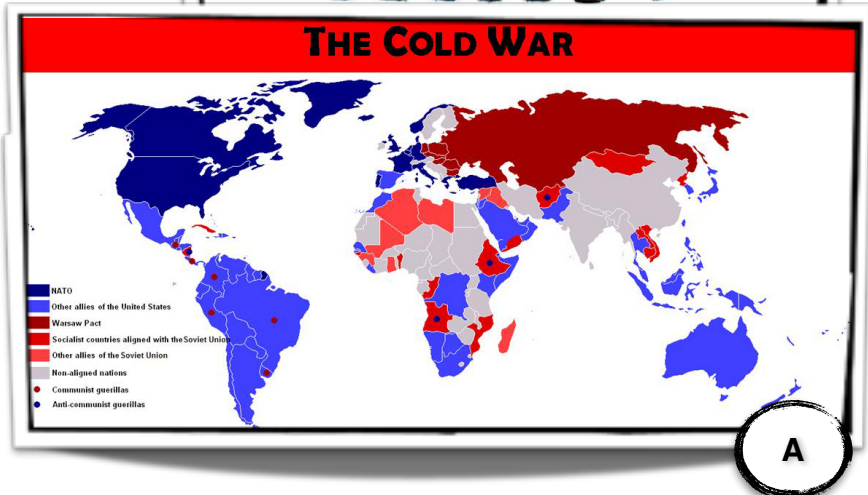
AS THE WORLD TURNS: 1992-NOW AD

Overview

To review: the Ancient Era laid the foundations for every aspect of society (language, government, war, economics, etc). The Medieval Era was a time of transformation, that saw the ending of the old methods and institutions with a metamorphosis into what will become the “modern” methods and institutions. The 1300-1500s set the stage for the first global era with the rebirth of ancient knowledge mixed with Muslim advances. 1500-1640 saw the Europeans explore and colonize around the world, bringing great wealth and great destruction. 1650-1815 brought forth revolutionary ideas in Europe that began to overturn ancient institutions of Monarchy and the church. These ideas inspired the American colonies to break away, kings to be beheaded and for a common man to attempt to take over the world (Napoleon). From 1800-1914, the industrialization brought the world into Globalization 2.0. Those who had industry rose to great power and prominence. Those who did not fell to ruin. 1914-1945 saw the world fall into two massive global wars over land and global empire, costing the world 100 million deaths. 1945-1992 was an era of great tension between two global super powers: USA & USSR

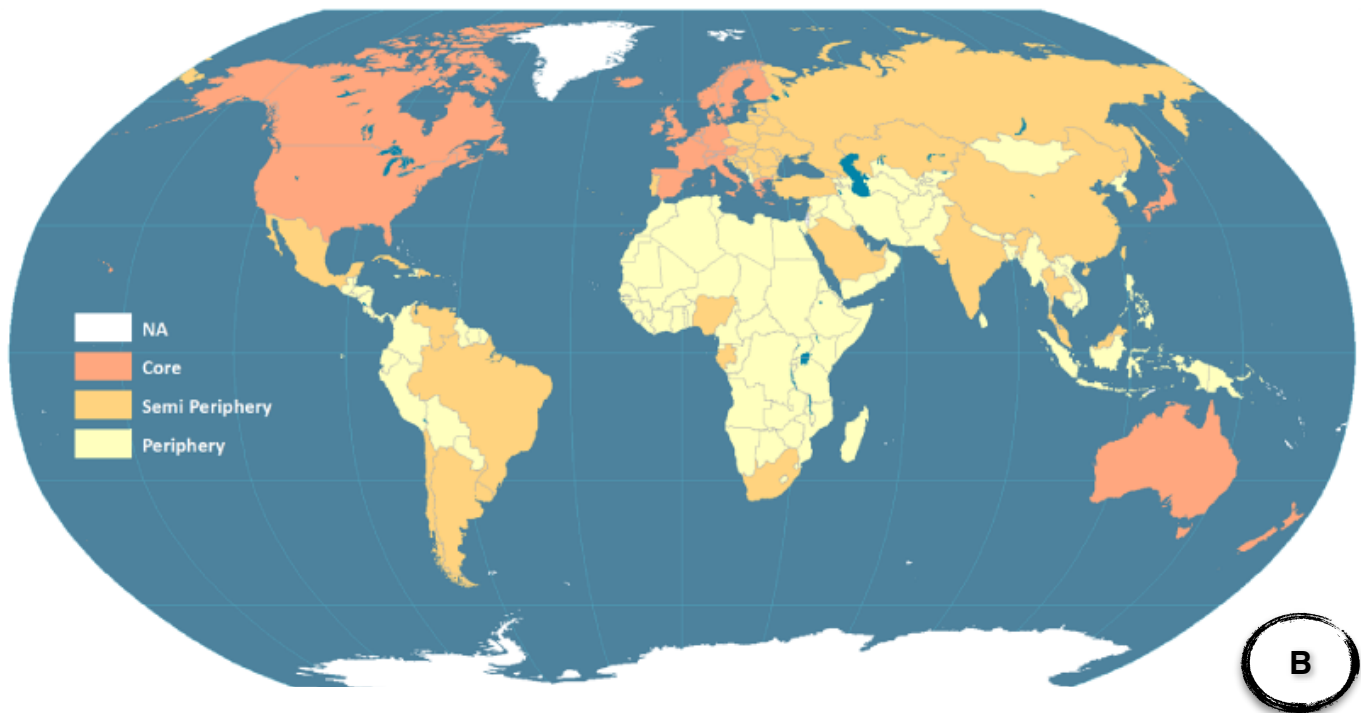
- A war of ideologies: Capitalism & Communism. Each idea forced countries to decide which “side” to join on. Each side spent billions to inspire rebellions to fight against the spread of the opposing idea.
- The creation and mass production of atomic weapons that could be sent around the world in minutes and bring global destruction
- Wars that were fought to keep words and ideas of Marx and Adam Smith and John Locke from spreading, using the most advanced technology in the world.
- An era of fear and distrust between the people and their governments, sparked by controversy, corruption and assassinations. Spy agencies were used to get vital information about their enemy and to keep their own people in check.
- A massive boom of technology: sending people into outer space, satellites, television, pop culture, computers, etc.

In 1992, the world experienced the sudden, unexpected collapse of the broke, broken Soviet Union, leaving one world superpower: the USA. Communism had lost, Capitalism was victorious.



World Development Snapshot

Moving into the modern era, it is first important to understand the economic development of the world. The world has essentially been divided into three worlds: First World (Core), Second World (Semi-Periphery) and Third World (Periphery). The core countries have the world's most robust economies, with excellent/advanced industries and a the highest standard of living. The Semi-Periphery are the "up-and-coming" economies. They have successful, growing industries, but a massive gap between their rich and their poor. The periphery countries are struggling to make it, with extreme poverty. Take a moment and compare Map A (Above) and Map B (below). What commonalities or patterns are there between these maps?



Globalization 3.0

The story of history is one of growing interconnectivity. Globalization 1.0 began with the Europeans exploring the world and bringing Afroeurasian knowledge and technology to every continent on the planet. Globalization 2.0 was brought about by industrialization. American and European industry created machines that allowed more people and goods to travel faster, farther. They could travel over land, across the sea, under the sea and in the air. Globalization 3.0 begins with the advent of computers and the internet.

Computers & The Internet In the 1940s-1970s, the British and Americans created machines that could compute massive numbers of equations (millions per second). As the technology developed, so to did its functionality. Computers became a way for people to type, draw and compete with the machine. In the 1980s-1990s computer scientist developed the Internet: a way for information to be rapidly shared between computers. With the advent of the Internet, information could be shared around the world in a fraction of a second.

The Internet created an explosion of knowledge and information sharing, unlike anything the world had seen since Gutenberg's printing press. With new, cheap access to knowledge, there was an explosion of... everything. Companies could now communicate in seconds around the world, allowing goods and money to be exchanged multiple times in a day, leading to a massive increase in profits. People could now communicate and share information instantaneously. This has begun to move power, freedom and economic potential into the hands of the average person.



Multinational Organizations... As the world became interconenctive, there was an explosion of multi-national organizations. Countries can no longer isolate themselves. Instead, they band together to be apart of larger groups, much like alliances, that have more economic and political power. As an example: The United Nations is a group led by the USA, France, Great Britain, Russia, and China that creates political decisions that are enforced around the world. The Word Bank is a collection of banks and funding used to give affordable loans to struggling countries to help them develop. The G8 is a group of the 8 largest economies that decide the direction of the worlds economy. OPEC is a group of Oil Producing countries that set policies for how much oil is pumped and the price it will be sold. ASEAN is an organization of Southeast Asian countries to promote more trade. Business also expanded to having headquarters in multiple countries (Coke, IBM, Nike...)

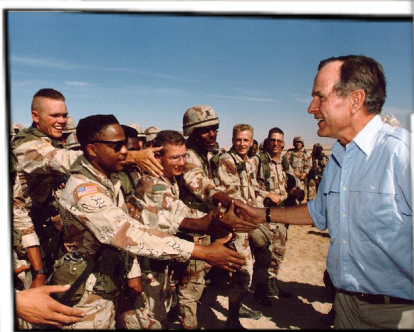
USA: Part 1 - So... Now What?

With the USSR in pieces and the threat of communism all but gone (hang in there N. Korea), the USA was left as the lone superpower in the world. But with the “Evil Empire” gone and no credible threat on the horizon, America was stuck on a critical cross-roads: to Police the World or to not Police the world? What obligation did it have to the world to solve its problems and intervene with its military?

America decided the answer was more of the same: spread capitalism and expand/defend democracy around the world... kind of. Economically and culturally, it continued to accelerate the spread of capitalism and around the world. By 1993, there was a McDonalds and Pizza Hut in the Red Square in Moscow, Russia. Coca-Cola and Marlboro cigarettes became staples of Asian culture. Music by Nirvana, Madonna, and Michael Jackson were played globally, along with the latest hollywood movies. American designed cell phones and computers were being used in the heart of Africa by nomadic herders. 98% of the world’s websites were created by Americans. American economic and cultural prowess reached all corners of the world.



Politically, the answer was much more messy. America’s willingness to be the global police was tested early by an old friend Saddam Hussein. Saddam had been America’s ally in fighting communism and containing the power of Iran in the 1980s. In 1991, Saddam was setting up Iraq’s army to threaten Kuwait and Saudi Arabia’s oil supplies. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, long friends of America, asked for helped and America responded with an amazing display of force. “Operation: Desert Storm” lasted 100 hours, with America stopping just outside of Iraq’s capital Baghdad. President George H. W. Bush decided NOT to overthrow Saddam as he was afraid it would spark an uncontrollable civil war. Saddam was allowed to stay in power, but with heavy restrictions.





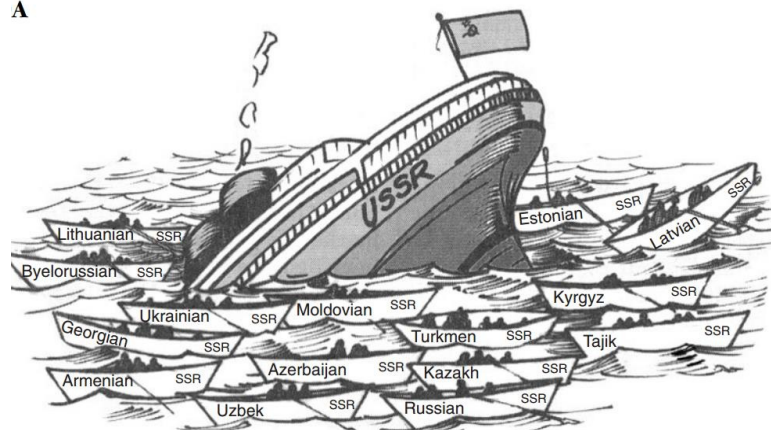
America's willingness to police would be soon tested again, but with less savory results. In 1992, a genocide began in Bosnia in Eastern Europe, resulting in over 1 million dead. Around the same time, a severe drought ravaged Somalia, killing 750,000 people. In 1994, a civil war-turned-genocide broke out in Rwanda, bringing the death of over 1 million Tutsi people. America, and the United Nations, stood by and did nothing. This mixed message was heard loud and clear around the world.



Europe & Russia: Part 1 - New Roles in a New Era

E Europe & Russia.... Soviet economic policies of Government control had failed gloriously. By 1992, starvation and bankruptcy was rampant throughout Russia and Eastern Europe. The path forward was paved with difficulties, made worse by inflation and corruption. It was a painful time, with many setbacks. The USA and The World Bank provided billions of dollars in loans and aid to help the fledgling economies take off.

As the USSR collapsed, smaller ethnic groups saw this as a chance to finally have self-determination, deciding for themselves who had the right to rule their lands. The early 90s saw Eastern Europe violently fragment into 15 countries. The violence of these wars even turned into Genocide. The Serbs that were fighting in Bosnia Herzegovina "cleansed" the country of over 1 million Muslims and Croats living in the area.



In 2000, Russia began to experience success under its new leader, Vladimir Putin. Putin was a former KGB spy who had worked his way into being "elected" as Russia's president. Under Putin, Russia experienced rapid progress, thanks to its large amount of oil and natural gas reserves. With the new found economic success, Putin began to look for ways to reestablish Russia as a key player in world politics.

W. Europe & the EU.... After WWII, Billions of dollars had been invested into Western Europe by America to keep it from becoming communist. By the 1990s, the economies of W. Europe were strong and the area was stable and at peace for the first time in 150 years.

The Europeans used this period of peace and prosperity to create the European Union. In order to compete economically with USA, Russia, India and China, the European countries needed to work together and stop fighting each other. The European Union allowed the Europeans countries to work together, have a common set of laws, a common currency (The Euro), and allow people to move freely between countries, and share resources for mutual gain.

Africa

No Winners in the Middle... During the Cold War, Africa had been an pseudo-battle ground between Communism and Capitalism. Many sub-saharan African countries had just earned their independence in the 1950s after being brutally ruled over for close to 100 years by the Western Europeans (not to mention the whole slave trade movement), so they sided with USSR and Communism. The Americans had funded rebels and weapons throughout Africa to disrupt these countries and install Capitalism and Democracy (... or at least dictators friendly to the USA) throughout the continent.

Unfortunately, their government-run Communist societies failed. Most of the young African countries were heavily reliant on the USSR for weapons and support. What little government they did have was full of corruption and inefficiency. When the USSR fell, so too did their main source of money and weapons. To make matters worse, when the USSR fell, the USA lost the threat of global communism. Without the threat of communism spreading, USA stopped caring about these African countries and stopped sending money and weapons.



Most countries in sub-saharan Africa were left with broken, backward economies. Their fledgling governments were divided from the USSR/USA created rebel groups that would not work together. They lacked industrialization and technology to move themselves forward. These countries succumb to ruthless Dictators who used their armies to ruthlessly control the population, and who used the taxes for their personal gain.



Attempting Westernization... In trying to find a path forward, Africa looked to the USA for ideas and (financial) support in promoting development on the continent. The USA was willing to offer money, but with strings attached. The country had take steps towards democracy. It had to follow Americas recipe for success in what it spent the money on. If the country did not do what America said, it would lose the funding. This program had mixed results.

One shining example of success in Africa is South Africa. A former British Colony and ally to America in the Cold War, South Africa had developed a robust industrial complex and rapidly growing economy. In 1994, South Africa ended Apartheid, a set of legal policies that divided whites and blacks and brutally suppressed the black population (South Africa's version of the Jim Crow Laws). The following year they held elections that elected Nelson Mandela as president. Mandela had led the fight against Apartheid from prison for 27 years and now was the first elected black president in South Africa. Once President, Mandela brought reforms and freedoms to the country, while fighting for better living conditions for all S. Africans.



Nigeria and Kenya also serve as shining examples of development in Africa. Nigeria discovered Oil reserves during the 1970s. By the 90s, Nigeria had the largest economy and largest population in Africa, serving as home to over 500 ethnic groups. In 1999, Nigeria held free-and-fair elections making it Africa's largest and most successful democracy. Kenya, though struggling more financially, has held democratic elections since 2002, seen improvement in women's rights, and has been working to fight corruption. These countries serve as promising examples of what Africa can become.



Unfortunately, the bright examples as overshadowed by epic struggles throughout the rest of sub-saharan Africa:

- Poverty and starvation plague the continent, with millions dying of starvation in Somalia and Ethiopia.
- Most Africa countries are drowning in phenomenal debt. They have borrowed billions of dollars to help develop their country, with little success.
- Incessant Civil War backed by corrupt Military-Dictators, funded by international loans, have been ongoing in Benin, Mali, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Intertwined with the civil wars is the story of the child soldiers: children who have been kidnapped around 6-8 years old, forced to kill their families, then trained to fight. Civil war has turned to genocide in Rwanda and Darfur (Sudan).
- Disease outbreaks are frequent on the continent. An HIV/ AIDS epidemic has infected 28 million Africans, with 1 million new victims each year. In 2015, there was a massive outbreak of Ebola that killed 30,000 in a couple months. While there are positive examples of development in the Africa, it is a continent full of complicated and costly issues.



South America

The Struggle... Much like Africa, poor South American countries had looked to the Communist model after years of feeling “mistreated and neglected” by the USA. After the fall of the USSR in 1992, the Communist leaning leaders gradually faded, as their government policies failed to bring development to their countries. This left a massive economic gap on the continent: Brazil has the worlds #7 largest industrialized economy and, along with Argentina, have found great success. Venezuela and Columbia have struggled forward, backed by selling oil and natural resources. This created a small percentage of rich, and a large percent in poverty. The rest of S. America struggles with immense poverty.

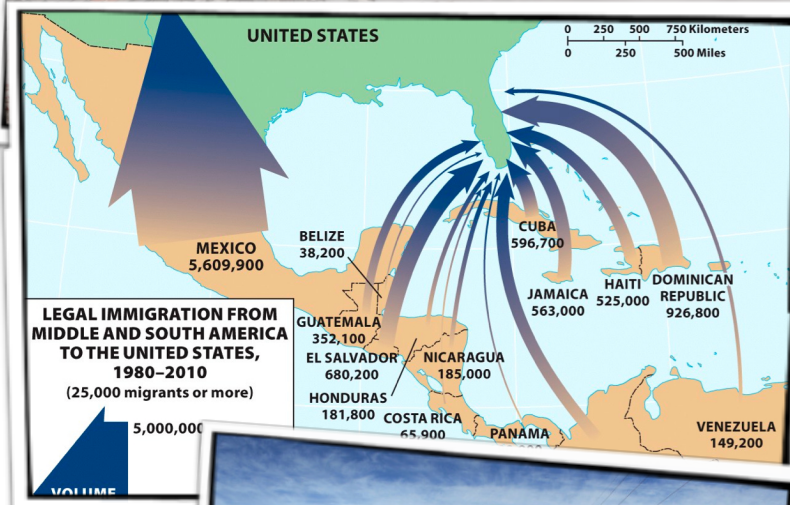
Mass exodus... The gap created between rich and poor was filled by corruption and the illegal drug trade. Just like Africa, the struggling South American countries have received hundreds of millions of dollars in loans from the USA and the World Bank. However, much of this money has been mismanaged or lost to corruption. This has left the countries in massive debt with little to show for the amount borrowed.

As the South American countries have struggled, the poor have turned to the one place where money can be found: the illegal drug trade. Since the USA can grow enough corn and wheat to feed the entire world, it is hard for small countries to compete. The improvised turn to illegal drugs, as they can be grown and sold for great profit with minimal competition from the major industrial powers. The drug trade has created international cartels that funnel illegal drugs into the USA and Europe and brings millions of dollars in profit.

Unfortunately for the bulk of the people living in South America, the quality of life is miserable to the point of unbearable. The poverty is so great that it is nearly impossible to put food on the table each day. The violence created by the cartels makes the areas unsafe. This has motivated 100s of millions of people to leave their homes in hopes of finding a better life. They pack what little they have and start the long and dangerous trek north through jungles, mountains, deserts, sneaking across borders... clinging to the hope of making it into the USA.

South/East Asia & Australia

Japan... Coming out of the Cold War, Japan had the worlds second largest economy. Japan, continuing their long tradition of copying the world superpower, used billions of dollars from the USA to become the USA's mini-me. Their industrialized economy had created global automotive and technological power house companies: Honda, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Sony, Nintendo... Japan also became home to the Tokyo Stock Exchange, making it a major force in the Asian Financial markets. Their rapid growth from war-torn-nuked-defeated Japan to #2 in the World Japan served as the model of the benefits of capitalism and laid a path for other Asian countries to follow if they wanted to develop.



With the peace treaty signed after WWII, Japan has been forbidden to use its military except for defending its islands. As Japan entered the 21st century, it struggled with its role in the world. Should isolate itself, keep refusing migrants, and stay as an economic power... or should it begin to engage the world.

Australia... Much like Japan, Australia has served as a strong sidekick. Benefitting from the Industrialization brought by the British during colonization, Australia has built a strong economy mining resources and selling them throughout Asia. Australia became a launching point to spreading democracy and capitalism throughout Asia.

Tigers & Cubs... During the Cold War, the countries of Southeast Asia benefitted from great investment from the USA. The key location of S. Korea, Malaysia, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Singapore in relation to communist China (plus the fear they would become communist) made them prime targets for the USA to invest millions of dollars in economic and industrial development to fight communism. These countries saw the rapid growth and success of Japan and wanted to follow on the same path. In the 1990s, these countries became known as the Asian Tigers and Cubs, due to their rapidly growing economies. These countries have specialized in electronic parts, and motor companies, building companies like Samsung, Kia, and Hyundai. While there is still a large amount of poverty, the industrial power of these countries has seen them rapidly develop into future financial powers.

India... During the 1990s, this former British colony developed into one of the worlds fastest growing economy. Having been industrialized during British occupation, and with English having been taught in all Indian schools during British occupation, the country was in a unique position to step into the Internet revolution. With over one billion english speaking citizens, India was able to produce massive amounts of computer engineers and software developers. This prompted US and British companies to relocate their businesses to India. They could get high-quality, cheap labor while still being able to rapidly communicate with America thanks to the internet. Like China, this has resulted in an explosion of business and an increasing upper and middle class. Also like China, this has created a massive gap between the rich and poor. However, thanks to the Caste system, Indian society has always been divided into rigid castes/ classes, with extreme wealth and extreme poverty. Thus, India has not faced the political rebellions.

One major problem for India is the Muslim-Hindu tension. Having been conquered by the Muslim Mughals in the 1800s, Islam was spread throughout the country. After WWII, part of India was split off to create Pakistan and all the Indian-Muslims were encouraged to move to Pakistan and all Hindus to move to mainland India. Dispute over who owns the land and controls the resources has created immense amounts of tension and violence between Pakistan and India (which both have nuclear bombs).



ASSIGNMENT

1) Fill out this chart with the the strengths/positives and weaknesses/negatives of each region.

Region	Strengths	Weaknesses
Europe		
Russia		
South America		
North America		
South Asia		
East Asia		
Australia		
Middle East		

2) Create an impact chart. As you read you are to evaluate each area on the level of impact the people in that region had on the world culturally, militarily, and economically.

- Rate each area as to how impactful you believe them to be at the at 1800 AD (■) and at 1918 AD (▲).
- Draw arrows to show whether they grew or shrunk in impact and influence.
- If there is change, ask yourself “What caused them to grow or shrink or stagnate in their influence?” and make note of it on your chart

Example

