

Unit 12 - Current Issues: a new world order

173) new world order

- a) Think of some potential problems that could be caused by having only one superpower.
- b) Why does the US condone some countries having nukes, but tells others they cannot? Is this fair? Explain.

174) China

- a) Many people make the mistake of confusing economic (capitalist, socialist) and political (democracy, monarchy) systems. Because the United States is democratic and capitalist, people assume that capitalism is democracy. China has a capitalist economy, but they also have an authoritarian government that denies people basic rights and freedoms. In theory, socialism and democracy could combine to form a nation that protects people's rights and liberties, but also mandates more equality (less of a gap between the rich and the poor). Pretend you are forming a new country; pick an economic and political system, and explain why you choose each system.
- b) The U.S. borrows money from China, uses the borrowed money to buy stuff from China, and then basically borrows the money again to buy more stuff. Why is this problematic in the long-term? Do you think this makes China an ally or a threat? Explain.

175) Globalism

- a) Define outsourcing. What effects do you think it has on the American job market?
- b) Define globalism. Do you think it is a good thing, bad thing, or both? Explain.

176) Africa

- a) What caused many of the problems in Africa, such as poverty and violence?
- b) If you were an African leader, what might you do in an attempt to help your nation?

177) Third World economic development

- a) Do you think it is a coincidence that many former colonies are still struggling? Defend your position with knowledge you have gained during the semester.
- b) How has Japan become so successful economically? What evidence is there of their success?

178) Latin America

- a) Explain Hugo Chavez's statement that "The U.S. government sees itself as the owner of the world." Do you think that this is a fair or unfair statement? Explain why.
- b) During the Cold War, do you think the U.S. was trying to help itself, or trying to help the people of Latin America? Explain your position.

179) ethnic cleansing

- a) Define ethnic cleansing.
- b) Answer the questions in the second paragraph: *"Did the U.S. have the right to interfere in the internal affairs of Serbia? Does the world have a moral responsibility to stop atrocities like genocide or ethnic cleansing? Who should decide when war will be waged to enforce morality? Should it be international organizations like the United Nations or NATO or individual countries like the U.S. or Russia?"*

180) the Arab-Israeli conflict

- a) Why is there some resentment toward the U.S. (and the West) in the Middle East? This anger also has

roots in history back to ancient times; tell me about those roots.

181) Iran

- a) Does the U.S. government have the right to act in secrecy, or do citizens have the right to know? Explain.
- b) Even though you may not agree with them, make an argument supporting the Iranian revolutionaries.

182) terrorism

- a) ~~Tell me what you remember about the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Where were you? What did you think? How did you feel?~~ Briefly share a little of what you know and how you feel about the terrorist attacks on 9/11/01.
- b) Why do you think governments often call attacks against civilians “war” or “maintaining order?”

183) Iraq

- a) What is a preemptive war? Argue for or against it. Explain.
- b) Why/How did this war damage our standing in the world? Can the damage be undone? Why or why not?

184) The Arab Spring

- a) Who led the protests and what technologies do you think facilitated their efforts (not in the reading, just use your brain!)?
- b) What changes did protestors want? Were those changes achieved? Explain why or why not.

185) biotechnology

- a) Respond to the questions posed in this section: *“Will people be tempted to alter their children in this way, and would it be morally acceptable to do so? Would this amount to humans trying to play God? If such technologies are developed, would it be possible to prevent people from using them?”*

186) capitalism

- a) Do you agree with Keynes' economic philosophy, or that of Adam Smith? Explain your position.

187) democracy

- a) How might the huge sums of money needed to run a political campaign threaten true democracy?
- b) Why is it important for citizens to take an active interest in government and politics?

188) the environment

- a) Some people argue that cutting back on pollution might hurt our economy. Others say that developing around and addressing environmental problems could actually help the economy. Take a side and defend it.
- b) Respond to the questions in this section: *“What will historians write about America 50 years from now? Will they say the United States was unable to adjust to new realities and declined like other superpowers of the past? Or is America exceptional, and future historians will say the U.S. was able to maintain its creativity and keep pace with a changing world?”*

176) extreme poverty (NOT IN NEW REVISION & SOME OTHER NUMBERS SHIFTED AFRICA 178 TO 176, AND 177 SHIFTED UP ONE)

- a) ~~Based on the percentages in the first paragraph, do you think the US does enough to help those suffering in other countries? Explain why you think we do, or why we should do more.~~