

Definition of Political Geography

"Who gets what where when and how?"

Who – nations, states, neighborhoods, corporations, cities

What – resources (territory, humans, tariffs, oil/gas, police powers, media control, etc)

Where – location

- absolute: latitude/longitude, place, region
- relative: distance, virtual (e.g. Internet)

When – time – also relative with respect to event (e.g. 9-11)

How – use of power or persuasion

- a) Hard power – military, economic (boycott)
- b) Soft power – persuasion – voting bloc, coalition, carrots

Three Basic Elements of the World System

1) A Single Capitalist World Economy

Capitalist mode of Production: Workers do not consume all they produce. Instead, production is for exchange in a market, which determines the price of a commodity through supply and demand.

2) A System of Multiple States

- a) states protect those without power
- b) states protect those with power
- c) political fragmentation
 - i) prevents price fixing
 - ii) prevents challenges to the system

Three Basic Elements of the World System

3) A 3-tier hierarchy based on 2 processes

Peripheral processes:

primary economic activities, low wages, low value added

Core processes:

Secondary, tertiary, quaternary processes, high wages, high value added

Three tiers: Core, Periphery and Semi-Periphery

→ Division of economic activities across the globe (the geography of international capitalism)

Kondratieff waves

- 50-60 year cycles
 - A-phase: 1st half of cycle marked by innovation and growth
 - B-phase: 2nd half of cycle marked by stagnation or depression

The four Kondratieff cycles

- | | INNOVATION |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| I. A. 1780/90-----1810/17 | Steam power |
| B. 1814/17-----1844/51 | |
| II. A. 1844/51-----1871/75 | Railways/steel |
| B. 1870/75-----1890/96 | |
| III. A. 1890/96-----1914/20 | Gas/electric power |
| B. 1914/20-----1940/45 | |
| IV. A. 1940/45-----1967/73 | Petrochemicals/electronics |
| B. 1967/73-----1989/92? | |
| V. A. 1989/92?----- ? | IT/biotech? |

Kondratieff B-Phase

- Four processes:
 - Production costs reduced by relocation
 - Mechanization
 - Rise in economic disparities
 - Flux period
- Anti-systemic movements
 - Rise in oppression as protests develop
 - Expectations not met (esp. for middle class)
 - Faltering power of ruling class

WST Application

Application of K-Waves to politics with use of three tiered hierarchy can explain world politics.

Must examine:

- Location: core, periphery, semi-periphery (not just in terms of country, but of locality)
- K-wave: A or B phase? Effects on Global, national and local scales.
- Relationships: what are the connections between people and place in area you examine with other peoples and places?

Political economy and geographic scales

Scale of Reality	--	Global Scale
Scale of Ideology	--	State Scale
Scale of Experience	--	Local Scale

The state acts as a filter between the local and the global.

- The state can expose or protect localities to and from the global market.

Globalization & the new international division of labor (NIDL)

What?: The shift of secondary economic activities to the developing world.

- Primarily light industrial activities, but increasingly heavier industries as well

Why?: Wage differences

Result?: By 1990 the majority of goods imported to the US from less developed countries were manufactured goods (1955 = 5%)

Also by 1990, the majority of the world's manufacturing labor force lived in developing countries.
