

Globalization in the Periphery

Lecture Outline

1. Linking U.S. Geopolitics to Globalization
2. Linking Barber (1992) to WST
3. Why is Africa so Poor?
 - a. Colonialism
 - b. Post-Colonial Period (Neo-colonialism)
 - Drought and famine in the Sahel
 - Wheat Trap in Nigeria

U.S. Geopolitics in the Middle East and Globalization

Opposition to Iranian nuclear program

- Preventing the proliferation of WMD
- Roll back Islamic fundamentalism
 1. Possible links to terrorist organizations
 2. Energy security in the Middle East
 3. Islamic fundamentalism represents an ideological challenge to U.S. hegemony and globalization
- Viable alternatives to the hegemon's order are a threat: hegemony depends on the degree to which the hegemon convinces others to play by its rules (Gramsci)
- Islamic fundamentalism threatens to divide the world as communism once did

Jihad vs. McWorld (Barber 1992)

- **McWorld**: centripetal force, homogenizing world
- **Jihad**: centrifugal force, Balkanization of states
 - Driven by parochial hatreds
 - National states and subnational factions in rebellion against uniformity and integration

Critique

- What explains cultures that hate integration? Hate their neighbors?
- Is cultural nationalism the end or the means?
- WST: what is the political-economy of anti-globalization?
 - Exclusion from economic processes or exploitation
 - Environmental scarcity

Intro to Africa

- 50% of Africans live in poverty
- 2000: 13% world's pop, 1.1% world GDP (1.8% in 1985)
- Africa needs 7% GDP growth per year to reduce poverty in half by 2015
- GDP growth
 - 1970s 14% per year
 - 1980s - 5% per year
 - 1990s 3% per year
- Most economies are resource economies
 - Nigeria/oil
 - Kenya/coffee
 - Angola/oil
 - Ghana/cocoa
 - Gambia/peanuts
 - Gabon/oil
 - Uganda/coffee
 - Ethiopia/coffee
 - Zambia/copper

Colonialism: expanding the world economy (1886-1914)

1. Demand for raw materials
 - Feed industrial revolution
 - No shortage of labor in Europe
2. Need for markets
 - By late 19th C. Europe was producing more goods than it was selling, African colonies would be protected markets
3. Core country competition
 - Colonial borders constructed arbitrarily
 - Conference of Berlin 1884

Colonial Strategies of Development

1. Mineral exploitation
2. Large-scale agriculture for export
 - Monocropping (shift away from diverse subsistence)
 - Cash crops (cocoa, coffee, tea, cotton, peanuts)
 - > **Undermined subsistence agriculture**
3. Movement of labor
 - From periphery to core areas within Africa to work mines or in monocrop agriculture
 - > **Undermined subsistence agriculture**
4. Infrastructure designed for export

Post-Colonial Africa: neo-colonialism

- Political independence, economic dependence: why?
- Colonies were too expensive to maintain: Europeans decided to use markets instead of colonialism to acquire cheap raw goods
- African states continued to supply commodities to world market using existing infrastructure
 - 1970s: boom
 - 1980s: bust

Poverty in Africa

- Main questions:
 1. Why are African states so poor?
 2. Did they have other choices?
- Case Studies
 1. Famine in the Sahel
 2. Wheat Trap in Nigeria
- WST: African states are trapped in a Politics of Failure; their position in the world-economy radically constrains their options

Famine and Ecology in the Sahel

- Sahel: Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia
- Traditionally agro-pastoral; survived colonialism due to interior location, marginal land
 - Polyvarietal cropping: sorghum, millet, cowpeas, etc.
 - CPR pastoralism, diverse herds, fallow field fertilizing
- Neo-colonial period: foreign commercial agricultural interests enter newly independent states (1950-60) and orchestrate switch to cash crops
 - Bribery of state elites
 - Inducements: high initial prices and local pressure
 - ❖ Use income to purchase food on world market

Famine in the Sahel 1973-4, 1983-4

- Linking local geographies with the global economy
- Famine usually blamed on environmental factors:
 - Poor rainfall
 - Expanding desert
- Famine has socio-economic causes and can occur with no decline in food availability
- Entitlements Framework (Amartya Sen)
 - People must have access or “entitlement” to food; in a market economy, entitlement means cash

Consequences of Switching to Cash Crops in the Sahel

1. More intensive land use and irrigation > salinization and desertification
2. Traditional cropping regimes severely damaged – esp. polyvarietal strategies (millet is drought resistant)
3. Larger herds destroy fragile Sahelian rangelands, profit undermines CPRs, wind erosion intensifies
4. No fallow field fertilizing
5. Mixed herds less common > less drought resistant, damage more lasting

Drought Now Causes Famine

- Onset of drought in highlands: herders cannot bring herds to fallow fields in the lowlands; begin selling off animals before they starve
 - Market oversupplied, price drops, herders cannot afford food purchases
 - Increasing social inequality, as herders later lease back animals from wealthy
- Cash crops not drought resistant
 - farmers lose income, cannot afford food purchases
- In the 1983-4 famine there was food available for purchase
