Post-Cold War World, 1990–Present

Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!
—Ronald Reagan, speech in West Berlin, Germany, June 12, 1987

President Ronald Reagan’s appeal to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev came two years before the Berlin Wall fell in 1989. Two years after the fall, a coup ousted Gorbachev from power. The Soviet Union had officially collapsed. The Cold War was over. Communist governments remained in only a few countries, including China, North Korea, Cuba, and Vietnam. For some 45 years, the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union had dominated the world stage. For much of that time, the threat of nuclear war loomed large. However, after 1991, the world was not free of problems.

The end of a bipolar world presented myriad opportunities, as well as several formidable challenges. Political alliances changed, and economic interactions among nations expanded. With this new openness, particularly with regard to trade, the world became more interconnected than ever before, which produced greater wealth for many, but hardships for others. The post-Cold War world had to grapple with new democracies, vast economic inequality, ethnic conflict and genocide, terrorism, environmental degradation, and global epidemics.

**Economic Globalization**

Globalization is the process of interaction among peoples, governments, and companies of different nations around the world. Although the Indian Ocean trade and European imperialism are both examples of globalization, the term usually refers to the increased integration of the global economy since the 1970s. Global trade exploded with the end of the Cold War. The Eastern Bloc nations that had been under Soviet control suddenly could trade freely with capitalist democracies. India and other countries that had been nonaligned during the Cold War relaxed restrictions on trade in the 1990s. International trade agreements and organizations helped further integrate the world.

The new global economy was part of a renewed emphasis on market-oriented policy advocated by leaders such as Ronald Reagan in the United States and Margaret Thatcher in Great Britain. They advocated cutting taxes, regulations, and government assistance to the poor as a way to promote
economic growth. While Reagan and Thatcher were strongly nationalistic, corporations used the shift in emphasis to move jobs to countries with lower wages, lower taxes, and fewer regulations. Critics charged that the market was more powerful than any national government, and that globalization led to labor exploitation and environmental damage.

**Rise of Japan** Following the end of World War II, Japan implemented economic policies similar to eighteenth-century mercantilist policies designed to increase exports and decrease imports. To encourage exports, the government coordinated its finance and labor policies with large corporations and gave them subsidies to allow them to keep their costs low. To discourage imports, the government used high tariffs and other trade restrictions on goods made abroad. And to prepare its citizens to be productive workers, Japan emphasized rigorous education. These policies, aided by large investments from the United States and other countries, turned Japan into a manufacturing powerhouse, creating jobs and wealth.

However, Japan’s impressive growth came at a high cost for its consumers. Low-wage workers producing items for foreign markets often could not afford to buy what they made. For example, Japanese-made cars were more expensive in Japan than they were in the United States. Over time, Japanese unions became strong enough to negotiate higher wages, and international pressure forced Japan to relax its trade restrictions. Japan’s economy diversified and it became an international center of banking, finance, and information technology.

Japan’s growth slowed after the 1980s. A weak government response to a financial panic in the 1990s and a combined earthquake and tsunami in 2011 created drags on growth. Despite problems, Japan remained the third largest economy in the world in 2014, behind only the United States and China.

**The Tigers and China** Closely following Japan’s economic model were four smaller states known as the *Asian Tigers*—Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan—and the world’s most populous country, China. Like Japan, these five states prospered through government-business partnerships, high exports, intense education, and a low-wage workforce. China’s growth began after Deng Xiaoping became the country’s leader in 1978. Under him, the Communist government began enacting reforms. It reopened the Shanghai stock market and allowed private ownership of some businesses. These moves attracted investments by foreign firms, which rushed to build factories in China to take advantage of low wages and lax environmental laws. The success of the Asian Tigers and China raised hundreds of millions of people out of dire poverty.

**India, Brazil, and Russia** In the early 1990s, India opened its markets and allowed in more foreign imports. With its highly educated English-speaking workforce, India developed a software and information technology powerhouse, drawing investments from American and European companies who looked to outsource jobs and take advantage of lower labor costs. Multinational corporations, such as *Microsoft* and *Google*, also invested in the Indian economy. The influx of corporate wealth and foreign goods created
a thriving consumer culture among India’s middle class, the ranks of which swelled tremendously after 2000. In 2014, the Indian middle class was estimated to be the largest of any country in the world, with more than 350 million people.

In spite of India’s growing middle class, hundreds of millions of Indians remained in poverty. The government had not provided the basic infrastructure needed for growth, such as roads, clean water, health care, and education.

Brazil was another rapidly growing country starting in the 1990s. Its agribusinesses and steel industries brought considerable wealth to the nation. However, its urban poor continued to live in dire conditions in favelas, or slums, on the outskirts of major cities such as Rio de Janeiro.

Russia’s oil wealth markedly expanded its economy after the end of the Cold War. In the early 1990s, Mercedes-Benz dealerships and high-fashion boutiques appeared in Moscow, and Russia’s wealthier citizens became accustomed to luxury goods and prosperity. Russia and other oil-producing countries prospered as long as the price of oil stayed high. However, whenever the price of oil dropped, the economies of these countries declined rapidly. The number of homeless and unemployed in Russia, for example, rose astronomically when oil prices dropped in the early 2000s.

**Trade and Economic Development** Several organizations contributed to the growth of the global economy in the decades following World War II. Some countries joined regional organizations such as the European Economic Union, Mercosur (in South America), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Many countries signed an international accord, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which lifted restrictive barriers to trade. Protective tariffs, taxes on foreign imports, had been at a world average rate of 40 percent prior to GATT. By lowering and eliminating tariffs, the agreement promoted more international trade and helped restore economic prosperity to war-ravaged Europe. By the 1990s, average tariff rates had sunk below 5 percent, easing the movement of goods across national borders.

In 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) took over GATT’s operations. The WTO made rules that governed more than 90 percent of all international trade. In part because of its power, the organization became very controversial. Its meetings were closed to the public, and its board members represented mostly corporate interests. Also, the organization’s rules favored trade over considerations that many considered moral issues. For example, through strict application of WTO rules, a member nation that refused to purchase clothing made from sweatshop labor could suffer trade sanctions from the organization.

**Resistance to Globalization** Critics of globalization asserted that free trade was not always fair trade. Large global corporations often ignored the rights of workers, disregarded environmental impacts, and forced small businesses into bankruptcy. Developing nations complained that their economies could not grow properly when their businesses had to compete with established corporations from the developed world.

In 1999, the WTO’s meeting in Seattle was shut down by a variety of interest groups, including labor unions, environmental groups, and family farmers.
Though the protests did not force the WTO to change its rules or to become a more inclusive organization, the WTO protests brought issues at the heart of the new global economy to the world’s attention.

**Globalization and Technology** Globalization made the world feel smaller, as did advances in telecommunications technology. The *Internet*, first developed for the U.S. Defense Department during the Cold War, became a regular tool of communication for the public by the late 1990s. Not only had communication become easier, but information was also more abundant and accessible than ever before. Distance and national borders nearly disappeared as barriers to the flow of ideas. Theorists predicted that, just as nationalism had undermined multiethnic empires, an emerging global consciousness could undermine nation-states. As people built stronger ties to others around the world who shared their values, their identities based on where they lived would weaken. Maybe a new global consciousness—or a renewed regionalism—would replace nationalism.

**Technology and Revolution** Mobile technologies such as cellphones and other portable devices put the tools of information creation and dissemination into the hands of individuals around the world. Twitter, Facebook, and other social networking sites made the “fourth estate,” as the media was known in the United States, accessible to anyone anywhere. The impact of this revolution became apparent quickly. In the United States, videos taken on phones of police shooting or assaulting African American men sparked outrage, inquiries into racial profiling, and riots against injustices perceived in the justice system.

**Upheaval in Muslim Countries** December 2010 marked the beginning of a series of popular uprisings in many Arab countries known as the *Arab Spring*. The uprisings were sparked when a man in Tunisia set himself on fire to protest the confiscation of his fruit stand by police. Videos of the protests that followed the incident were shared on Facebook, disseminating the story to millions who would not have learned of the incident through official news channels. In Egypt, protests organized through social media soon erupted in Cairo and other cities against the regime of authoritarian President Hosni Mubarak. After a month of protests, Mubarak stepped down, handing power to his vice president.

In February 2011 in Iran, thousands of people, prompted by messages on social media, went to the streets in rare protests against the government. These and other similar uprisings revealed the power of new social media technologies.

**Global Popular Culture** Globalization reshaped popular culture. As multinational corporations advertised and distributed their products around the world, people everywhere became familiar with *global brands*, such as Apple, Nike, and Rolex. Michael Jordan and other American celebrities became international superstars. After 2000, the cultural marketplace diversified. A style of Japanese animation known as *anime* became hugely popular among Western youth. And Indian musicals made in *Bollywood*, the popular name given to the film industry in Bombay (Mumbai), enjoyed popularity worldwide.

However, the United States remained the world’s most influential culture. Through *Americanization*, people the world over learned more about the United
States than Americans learned of the rest of the world. Through the influence of American movies, corporations, and scientific research, English became a second language in much of the world. The dominance of the United States in globalization created resentment among those who felt that American popular culture diluted their unique cultural identity.

![Image of flags from different countries](image)

Source: Thinkstock

Since Olympic athletes represent their home nations, the games demonstrate the strength of nationalism. However, since the Olympics draws people together from nearly every country in the world, it is also an example of internationalism.

**Sports** The globalization of popular culture included sports as well. The establishment of the modern Olympic Games in 1896 reflected an early sense of internationalism. In 2012, the opening ceremonies of the Olympics attracted nearly 900 million television viewers. Soccer emerged as the most popular sport in the world, in part because it required so little equipment that it could be played anywhere. The World Cup soccer competition rivaled the Olympics as a global event. Basketball also became a global game. In 2014, the National Basketball Association included players from 30 countries or territories.

**Religion** Globalization promoted new religious developments. In the 1970s, former Beatles band member George Harrison released a song containing the words of a Hindu mantra, or sacred utterance. This launched the popularity of the Hari Krishna movement, which was based on traditional Hindu scriptures. It quickly gained popularity in the United States and Europe. In what some called New Age religions, forms of Buddhism, shamanism, Sufism, and other religious traditions were revived and adapted for a largely Western audience. In China in the 1990s, Falun Gong, a syncretic movement based on Buddhist and Daoist traditions, gained popularity. Although the movement was initially allowed by the Communist government, the Chinese authorities began to restrict it in 1999. The suppression prompted international protests against the Chinese regime for human rights abuses.
Struggles for Democracy

The fight for civil rights was also a global effort. In India, the 1949 Constitution outlawed discrimination against the dalits, also known as untouchables. In the United States, African Americans won major victories against discrimination and segregation. Through the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which banned discrimination in voting, the federal government stepped in to protect the rights of all citizens.

South Africa’s Apartheid  South Africa’s system of apartheid, instituted in 1948, tried to separate whites and blacks as much as possible. Although white South Africans made up only 15 percent of South Africa’s population, apartheid reserved good jobs and other privileges for them. So-called pass laws required black South Africans to carry identity documents when entering white areas, which they often had to do when traveling to their jobs. They were banned from living in certain areas of the country. Mixed marriages were prohibited. For a while, schools for blacks were taught only in Afrikaans, the language of many of the white South Africans who ruled the nation. These dehumanizing decrees marginalized the 85 percent of South Africans who were black, South Asian, or mixed race. (Test Prep: Write a paragraph connecting apartheid with South Africa’s colonial past. See pages 471–474.)

Challenges to Apartheid  In 1964, Nelson Mandela, a leader of the African National Congress (ANC), was imprisoned for life for agitating against apartheid. The ANC’s primary goals were to end white domination and create a multiracial South Africa. Mandela’s imprisonment throughout the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s inspired a global movement to end apartheid. Black protests in South Africa, which were often peaceful, were crushed violently by the government’s forces. South Africa’s reputation grew worse in the eyes of the global community. Musicians staged concerts calling for Mandela’s release from prison, college students urged their universities and corporations to divest from South Africa, and many countries voted for strict economic sanctions against the country.

As South Africa became a pariah state (undesirable state) in the 1980s, its leadership began to notice. Mandela himself began negotiations with the government in 1986 while still in prison. In 1989, F. W. de Klerk became the nation’s acting president. He recognized the need for change. Within six months, de Klerk announced Nelson Mandela’s release from prison.

Although euphoria was high in the weeks following Mandela’s release, apartheid remained the law of the land. Police violence against protesters persisted, which stalled negotiations between Mandela and de Klerk. However, a series of reforms in the 1990s ended apartheid. In 1994, South Africa held its first free elections. The African National Congress won the majority of the seats in the Parliament. The Government of National Unity was established with ANC members in the majority. On May 10, 1994, Nelson Mandela was sworn in as president, South Africa’s first black leader.
Uniting South Africa  Immediately the Government of National Unity set up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Unlike the Nuremberg Trials that sought retribution for crimes against humanity committed by Nazis during World War II, the TRC sought to restore and establish an atmosphere of trust in the new multiracial South Africa. The TRC organized a series of 19 public hearings designed to expose the truth of human rights violations that had occurred during apartheid, while at the same time granting amnesty to members of the apartheid regime who agreed to testify.

China’s Citizens Protest for Freedom  After the economic reforms of the late 1980s and 1990s, China quickly became an economic powerhouse. The economic liberalization, however, was not matched by democratic reforms. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) ruled the People’s Republic with an iron fist. It censored the news industry and controlled what students were taught in primary and secondary schools. Such practices limited freedom of speech and thought. The CCP also required all nonstate organizations and groups to register with the government. International nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) were not free to operate in China unless they were willing to undergo strict regulation. Opposition political parties did not stand a chance in China’s governing system, although some debate was allowed in the legislative process. Overall, however, the governing system was designed to thwart all challenges to the CCP’s authority. (Test Prep: Write a paragraph connecting China’s government in the 2010s with the development of the Communist Party in China. See pages 557–558.)

Tiananmen Square  Chinese intellectuals and students had a history of protesting against their government based on the May Fourth Movement in 1919. In the spring of 1989, prodemocracy activists organized a public event mourning the death of a sympathetic high official. The protesters demanded a chance to speak with Chinese leaders about freedom of the press and other reforms. After the Chinese government refused to meet with the activists, citizens in more than 400 Chinese cities staged sit-ins, refused to attend classes, and began hunger strikes. Hundreds of thousands of students, professors, and urban workers staged a massive protest in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square. After seven weeks of protests, the government decided to end the protest. It declared martial law and sent troops armed with tanks and assault weapons into Beijing. Citizens responded by setting up barricades to block the troops.

On June 4, 1989, the army arrived in Tiananmen Square and attacked the unarmed protesters. The Chinese government claimed that nobody died in Tiananmen Square that day. No mention of the event was included in school texts and all Web sites that discussed the Tiananmen Square incident and human rights abuses in China were blocked. However, estimates by Amnesty International, the International Red Cross, and the New York Times indicated that anywhere from several hundred to a few thousands civilians were killed.

Minority Rights in China  The Communist government in China struggled with the demands of its 55 ethnic minorities. Some prominent examples were calls by Tibetans for more autonomy or independence and the complaints of
the Uighur people concerning religious and political discrimination in the northwest province of Xinjiang.

In 2011, some of the Mongolian people in China protested against the high number of Han who had moved into Inner Mongolia, an autonomous region of northern China, and disrupted their pastoral way of life. The Mongolians staged protests against the environmental damage that came with settled agriculture, strip-mining of coal, building of highways, damming of rivers, and overgrazing of land.

**Environmental Degradation in China** China’s rapid industrialization and economic growth, combined with the impact of global warming, resulted in severe environmental problems beginning in the 1990s. Reduced rainfall led to the expansion of the Gobi Desert, which covers large parts of western China and Mongolia. At certain times of the year, Beijing’s air filled with sand blowing in from the desert. All Chinese cities experienced air pollution resulting from the increased use of coal to run power plants and factories and the increased number of motor vehicles on the streets and roads. Water pollution was another serious problem. The Huang He, or Yellow River, was so polluted that it couldn’t provide drinking water.

**Water Problems in China** Major construction projects in China had significant and widespread consequences. For example, the world’s largest hydroelectric power station was built in the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River. Its construction and the rising waters displaced some 1.3 million Chinese people. In the years after the dam was built, fears developed that the banks of the reservoir were collapsing and that earthquakes could cause landslides and massive flooding. The holding of so much water upstream deprived people who lived downstream of needed water for transportation and irrigation. Moreover, the building of the dam altered the ecosystem of the river.

Beijing and many other large cities used up the water in nearby aquifers, and water had to be shipped in from elsewhere. These cities called for the construction of one or more large canals to divert water from the Yangtze or the Huang He to more arid areas and cities in the north. This South-North Water Diversion Project would cost twice as much as the massive Three Gorges Dam and would require some 350,000 people to relocate.

**Global Security**

In the early 1990s, after the fall of the Soviet Union, President George H. W. Bush declared a New World Order, one in which the United States would take the lead in creating a unified and secure world. He believed the United States could bring Russia into the free market economy and world economic organizations that were led by the wealthiest nations. Bush also used the term in describing the coalition of nations that joined in a war against Iraq in 1991 after Saddam Hussein’s forces invaded Kuwait. This Persian Gulf War resulted in Hussein’s forces being driven out of Kuwait. However, the coalition, fearing that deposing Hussein would destabilize the Middle East, did not drive him from power.
Despite the lack of enmity between Russia and the West in the early 1990s, anger toward the United States existed in many regions of the world. Part of the anger was political. Other countries opposed how the United States exerted its influence as the world’s sole superpower. Part of the anger was toward the Americanization of popular culture. Clerics in socially conservative societies, particularly those in the Middle East, objected to American media’s permissive attitudes toward sex and gender roles. Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran was one of the first such clerics to reject American popular culture for such reasons.

Many Muslim nations were hostile to the United States for more than Hollywood images or global brands. They criticized the United States for supporting Israel in the seemingly intractable Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The United States donated millions of dollars to Israel every year, supplied its military with weapons, and did not stop its occupation of Palestinian territory.

**The Growth of Terrorism** In the post-Cold War period, large-scale open conflict between sovereign states was rare. Instead, individuals unaffiliated with any government formed *terrorist networks* that intimidated and murdered civilians. For example, in the United Kingdom, Roman Catholic militants carried out several bombings to protest Northern Ireland’s status as part of the United Kingdom rather than of the Republic of Ireland. In Spain, Basque separatists committed acts of violence to further their cause. In the United States, two right-wing extremists bombed a federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995, killing 168 people.

Several terrorist groups used a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam to justify killing others. Among the deadliest of these groups was *al-Qaeda*. Financed by Saudi billionaire *Osama bin Laden*, al-Qaeda carried out devastating attacks on the United States on *September 11*, 2001. In these attacks, terrorists killed themselves and more than three thousand innocent people when they hijacked and crashed planes in New York City, near Washington, D.C., and in rural Pennsylvania. Most of the world, even bitter foes of the United States such as Iran, rallied to support the United States.

In the years following the September 11 attacks, al-Qaeda and similar groups carried out additional bombings and shootings that killed thousands of people. While high-profile attacks occurred in Madrid, London, and Paris, most victims were Muslims living in rural communities in countries such as Yemen, Nigeria, or other countries throughout the world.

**War in Afghanistan** The September 11 attacks had been orchestrated from bin Laden’s camp in Afghanistan, which was under the control of another right-wing Islamic group, the *Taliban*. When the Taliban refused to extradite bin Laden to the United States, the U.S. Congress authorized the use of force to capture him. A U.S.-led coalition invaded Afghanistan and overthrew the Taliban. The Afghans formed a new government. U.S. troops remained in Afghanistan, but the country remained beset by violence and instability. In 2011, U.S. forces located bin Laden in a hideout in Pakistan, and killed him.

**War in Iraq** As war in Afghanistan heated up, the administration of President George W. Bush (the son of President George H. W. Bush) claimed
that Iraq’s brutal dictator *Saddam Hussein* was connected to the September 11 terrorists and was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction. In May 2003, the United States and a few allied forces invaded Iraq, marking the beginning of the *Iraq War*. However, the invasion touched off massive protests in the United States and around the world. Opponents of the war charged that the Bush administration had provided no credible evidence to support its claims, so United States had no justification for attacking Iraq.

Early in the war, Hussein was captured. A special Iraqi tribunal prosecuted him for crimes against humanity and had him executed by hanging. The war continued until 2011 when a peace agreement was achieved. In that time, more than 4,000 U.S. soldiers and several hundred thousand Iraqi civilians died. After the peace agreement, Iraq soon returned to violence.

No links between Hussein and al-Qaeda were found, nor were any weapons of mass destruction located in Iraq. The war caused President Bush’s popularity to plummet, and it tarnished the reputation of the United States throughout the world. It depleted much of the international community’s post-September 11 sympathy for the United States.

**Confronting Terrorism** The defeat of the Taliban and the death of bin Laden did not end terrorism—other groups and leaders emerged. Many countries increased their military spending to counter the new threats. However, even the United States, with a defense budget more than triple the size of any other country’s, continued to struggle to defeat terrorism.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries with the Largest Military Budgets, 2012</th>
<th>Total Military (U.S. Dollars)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>$656 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>$126 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>$66 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>$61 billion</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
<td>$59 billion</td>
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**Genocide and Human Rights**

The global community said “never again” to genocide after having seen the horrors of the Holocaust. However, genocides continued to occur.

**Bosnia** Ethnic conflict drove the genocide in *Bosnia*. The end of World War I brought with it the creation of several new nations in Eastern Europe, including Yugoslavia. That country was home to Serbians, who were Eastern Orthodox Christians; Croats and Slovenes, who were Catholic; and Muslims in the regions of Bosnia and Kosovo. Marshall Tito led Communist Yugoslavia
from the end of World War II until his death in 1980. The dictatorial Tito managed to suppress separatist tendencies among the peoples of Yugoslavia.

After the Soviet Union collapsed, so did Yugoslavia. When Serbia, Slovenia, and Croatia declared independence, they each defined citizenship in terms of ethnic background and religion. Serbian nationalists led by the demagogue Slobodan Milosevic were particularly emphatic about ethnic purity. Serb forces, in attempts to dominate states such as Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, committed horrific acts of ethnic cleansing against Muslims from Bosnia and Kosovo, killing or driving people who were not part of the main ethnic group from their homes. Bosniaks, Kosovars, and Croats fought back, causing more casualties. Serb soldiers raped untold numbers of Muslim women. In total, more than 300,000 people in the region perished over the course of Yugoslavia’s balkanization, or disintegration into separate states.

Rwanda One of the smallest countries in Africa, Rwanda was the site of one of the worst genocides in modern history. Ethnic hatred going back to the colonial era was behind the slaughter. Belgian colonizers had treated the minority Tutsis better than the majority Hutus. The latter group resented all the power that the Tutsis enjoyed. When Rwanda won independence from Belgium in 1962, the Hutu majority easily won control of the government and took revenge on the Tutsis by discriminating against them. In response, tens of thousands of Tutsis fled the country and formed a rebel army.
In 1993, Tutsi and Hutu forces in Rwanda began negotiations for a coalition government in which both ethnic groups would share power. The negotiations were cut short in 1994 when Rwanda’s president, a Hutu, was killed in an airplane crash, supposedly shot down by rebel forces. This incident lit the flames of genocide. Over the next three months or so, between 500,000 and 1,000,000 civilians—mostly Tutsis and some moderate Hutus—were killed. Some sources estimate that casualties were even higher.

International responses ranged from insufficient to callous. United Nations peacekeepers were instructed not to use force to restore order. There were also too few peacekeepers to protect all Rwandans. Individual countries, including the United States, evacuated their personnel from the country after Belgian peacekeepers were killed. UN peacekeepers and individual nations failed to evacuate any Rwandans. The Rwandan genocide focused attention on the lack of leadership in the international community. It became clear that the United Nations needed to think seriously about its role in violent conflicts if it wanted to effectively protect human lives and human rights.

Sudan Another genocide erupted in 2003 in Darfur, a region located in western Sudan. The people involved were all Muslims, but some were nomads of Arab descent while others were non-Arab farmers. The government of Sudan was controlled by Arab Muslims. Two Darfur rebel groups composed of non-Arabs took up arms against the Sudanese government in response to attacks from nomads. In response, the Sudanese government unleashed Arab militants known as the Janjaweed on the region. Together with Sudanese forces, the Janjaweed attacked and destroyed hundreds of villages throughout Darfur, slaughtering more than 200,000 people, mostly non-Arab Muslim Africans. More than one million people were displaced, creating a refugee crisis that spilled into neighboring Chad. Despite negotiations, appeals, and the International Criminal Court charging Sudan’s President Omar al-Bashir with war crimes, the genocide continued.

The genocides in Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan became stains on the conscience of the world. International organizations and the broad global community were supposed to defend human rights after the Jewish Holocaust. Considering the millions of lives lost and human dignity shattered, the failure of the international community appeared obvious. (Test Prep: Write a paragraph comparing recent genocides with the Holocaust. See page 542.)

Global Challenges

The global community also had to grapple with hunger, environmental damage, and global epidemics. Many of these problems continue today.

Hunger There had long been relief organizations, such as CARE and the UN’s World Food Program, which distributed food to starving people in times of emergency. However, many people looked for more long-term solutions to the problem through economic development and better farming practices.
The Green Revolution In the mid-twentieth century, the *Green Revolution* emerged as a possible long-term response to hunger. Scientists developed new varieties of wheat, rice, and other grains that had higher yields and greater resistance to pests, diseases, and drought. The new varieties were first developed by *crossbreeding*—breeding two varieties of a plant to create a hybrid. More recently, scientists have used *genetic engineering*—manipulating a cell or organism to change its basic characteristics. Farmers also used more irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticides. In Brazil and elsewhere, forests were burned down and the land was plowed for agriculture. Acreage devoted to crops increased dramatically worldwide. Grain production increased sharply.

The Green Revolution solutions were not free of problems. Many small farmers could not afford the new fertilizers or pesticides, reducing their ability to compete with large landowners. Many small farmers were forced to sell their land, increasing the holdings of large landowners even more. Also, since some of the techniques developed in the Green Revolution involved the use of mechanized equipment, fewer jobs were available for farm laborers. Finally, the heavy applications of chemicals damaged the soil and the environment.

Genetic engineering created its own set of concerns as well. Some argued that a genetic modification designed to give a plant resistance to insects might inadvertently cause a decline in the population of pollinating insects, such as bees. Another problem was the loss of old seed varieties as new genetically engineered plants were adopted.

**Environmental Challenges** In the early twenty-first century, societies were confronted by many environmental problems, including global warming.

**TOTAL GRAIN PRODUCTION IN CHINA 1945-2010**

![Graph showing total grain production in China from 1945 to 2010](image)

Scientists cited data showing that the emissions of carbon dioxide caused by the burning of fossil fuels were causing global warming, an increase in the average temperature of the world. If nations did not curb their carbon footprint—the amount of carbon dioxide that each person produces—global warming would produce catastrophes: more powerful hurricanes, more severe droughts, and rising sea levels that could flood islands and coastal areas.

Efforts to Fight Global Warming People agreed that global warming required a global response, but countries disagreed on how to reduce carbon emissions. Developed nations in Western Europe and the United States argued that developing countries, such as China, India, Russia, and Brazil, needed to curb their rapidly increasing output of carbon dioxide. For example, in 2007, China surpassed the United States as the world's biggest emitter of carbon dioxide. Developing countries responded that they were trying to provide electricity, automobiles, and a path out of poverty for their citizens, things developed countries had done by using immense quantities of coal and oil. They wanted the wealthier countries to make greater reductions.

The first major international agreement to reduce carbon emissions was the Kyoto Protocol, signed in 1997. However, the United States refused to ratify it, and China and India were not required to agree to the strictest terms of the protocol. A deal signed by 195 countries in 2015, the Paris Agreement, renewed hopes for progress against global warming. It was supported by the leaders of both the United States and China.

Earth Day Initiated in 1970, citizens in the United States designated April 22 each year as Earth Day, a day for people to focus on environmental themes. Organizers hoped to highlight recycling, developing alternative energy, eating locally grown and organic foods, and passing antipollution legislation.

Greenpeace Founded as an organization to advocate for the environment, Greenpeace grew into a multinational agency with offices in 40 countries. It battled deforestation, desertification, global warming, the killing of whales, and overfishing. Greenpeace engaged in lobbying and education, but it became famous for its direct actions, such as confronting whaling boats in the ocean.

Green Belt Movement In 1977, the National Council of Women of Kenya organized the Green Belt Movement to plant trees to stop deforestation, to reduce soil erosion, and to provide more fuel for home cooking. It then expanded its mission to encourage ecotourism and to set up Green Belt organizations in Tanzania, Uganda, Lesotho, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.

Nonfossil Fuel Energy As concerns about global warming increased, companies and nations began to invest in alternatives to coal and oil, such as wind, solar, tidal, and geothermal power. High costs initially slowed development of such sources. However, as new techniques and technology reduced costs, these sources became increasingly attractive options.

Nuclear power was a widely used replacement for fossil fuels. However, serious accidents at three nuclear power plants—Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania (1979), Chernobyl in Ukraine (1986), and Fukushima in Japan (2011)—caused people to consider how to make this energy source safe.
Gender Issues During the twentieth century, women made great strides toward equality. In the first part of the century, the percentage of women who could read and who attended college increased, and in country after country, women won the right to vote.

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1932</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1934</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1947</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>1963</td>
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</table>

In 1979, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The treaty outlined many rights and protections, including the right to vote and to hold office, the right to freely choose a spouse, the right to access the same education as men, and the right to access family planning resources and birth control. The convention also outlined laws against sexual crimes against women. Much progress was made after the signing of the convention. The availability of microcredits allowed many women to start small businesses and to improve their economic condition and education. The spread of information about family planning improved the health of families. As of 2015, only two nations did not allow women to vote.

Challenges remain, however. According to a report issued by the World Health Organization on March 8, 2012, “In many countries, women are not entitled to own property or inherit land. Social exclusion, ‘honor’ killings, female genital mutilation, trafficking, restricted mobility and early marriage among others, deny the right to health to women and girls and increase illness and death throughout the life-course.”

Medical Challenges and Breakthroughs
Advancements in science and medicine, combined with government-run public health measures, drastically reduced illnesses and death from many diseases. But other diseases persisted and new ones emerged. Some diseases were related to poverty, including malaria, tuberculosis, and cholera. Others emerged as new global epidemics, such as HIV/AIDS and Ebola. Yet others were known as lifestyle diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease. Some conditions, such as Alzheimer’s disease, afflicted mainly the elderly.

Antibiotics In 1928, Scottish biologist Alexander Fleming was working in his lab in London when he accidentally discovered that a particular fungus produced a substance that killed bacteria. He had discovered penicillin. Penicillin
became the first antibiotic, a useful agent in curing bacterial infections. During World War II, antibiotics saved the lives of soldiers who would have died in any previous war from a minor wound that became infected. After the war, antibiotics spread to civilian use, where they fought a range of illnesses.

However, the extensive use of antibiotics carried a risk. By killing off certain strains of a disease, antibiotics allowed the evolution of strains of the disease unaffected by them. These antibiotic-resistant strains could be untreatable, raising fears of renewed epidemics of diseases once under control.

**Malaria** A parasitic disease spread by mosquitoes in tropical areas, malaria killed more than 600,000 people per year, the majority of whom were young African children, in the early twenty-first century. The international NGO *Doctors Without Borders* treated about 1.7 million people annually with drugs. Preventative approaches were also developed, such as distributing mosquito nets treated with insecticide.

**Tuberculosis** A bacteria that affects the lungs causes tuberculosis. Before 1946, there was no effective drug treatment available, and many people died from the disease. A cure was developed involving antibiotics and a long period of rest. In the early twenty-first century, a strain of tuberculosis resistant to the usual antibiotics appeared. The number of patients increased, especially in prisons, where people live in close quarters. The *World Health Organization (WHO)* began a worldwide campaign against tuberculosis in the 2010s.

**Cholera** A bacterial disease that spreads through contaminated water, cholera caused more than 100,000 deaths per year, mostly in developing countries. Methods to counter cholera include boiling or chlorinating drinking water or pouring water through cloth filters, a less effective form of prevention. Like tuberculosis and malaria, cholera affects mainly poor people.

**Smallpox** The disease smallpox had plagued the ancient Egyptians and devastated the native population of the Americas and Australia. As recently as the 1960s, it killed millions of people a year. However, the WHO conducted a global vaccination campaign to eradicate the disease. In 1979, scientists declared success. In one of the greatest accomplishments in modern medicine, smallpox had been eliminated from the entire world.

**Polio** Caused by water contaminated by a virus transmitted in fecal matter, polio once infected 100,000 new people per year. It could result in paralysis and sometimes led to death. So the world cheered when an American researcher, *Dr. Jonas Salk*, announced on April 12, 1955, that an injectable vaccine against polio had proven effective. Six years later, an oral vaccine, developed by *Dr. Albert Sabin*, became available.

Vaccines became the centerpiece of a global public health campaign to eliminate polio. A joint effort by governments, private organizations, and United Nations agencies began in 1988. In less than thirty years, polio was eliminated in all but a few countries. In places where it still existed, such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, war made administering the vaccine difficult and religious fundamentalism made people fearful of programs advocated
by outsiders. Still, the success of the campaign demonstrated that coordinated global efforts could address global problems.

**HIV/AIDS** Between 1981 and 2014, *acquired immunodeficiency syndrome* (AIDS), which is caused by the *human immunodeficiency virus* (HIV), killed more than 25 million people around the world. HIV weakens the immune system, so people more easily succumb to other illnesses. The virus is contracted through the exchange of bodily fluids, usually through unprotected sex, blood transfusions, or sharing intravenous needles. By the mid-1990s medical researchers had developed ways to treat the disease, but not to cure it. *Antiretroviral drugs* could stop HIV from weakening the immune system, thus allowing a patient to live with the virus for many years. However, the drugs were very expensive, so access to treatment was difficult, particularly for patients in poor countries. After 2000, the WHO, the United States government, and private groups increased funding for AIDS prevention and treatment in Africa, but the disease remains a serious problem today.

**Ebola** Discovered in the Congo in 1976, *Ebola* is a deadly disease caused by a virus that infects the African fruit bat, humans, and other primates. Humans get the virus from exposure to fluids of infected people or animals. The disease causes extensive bleeding, organ failure, and, for the majority of infected people, death. In 2014, a massive outbreak in West Africa caused fear around the world. However, a coordinated, intensive public health effort contained and then ended the outbreak. As with polio, countries demonstrated their ability to work together to confront a danger.

**Diabetes** In 2015, almost 350 million people around the world had *diabetes*, a disease that affects how the body uses blood sugar. Considered a lifestyle disease, diabetes can damage a person’s heart, kidneys, eyes, and extremities. The treatments included an improved diet, regular exercise, weight control, pills, and *insulin* injections.

**Heart Disease** Like diabetes, *heart disease* is associated with lifestyle changes, genetics, and increased longevity. One of the major discoveries in fighting heart disease was the *heart transplant*, first performed by the South African Christiaan Barnard in 1967. Robert Jarvik led a team that designed an *artificial heart*, which was used as a temporary device while the patient waited for a compatible human heart. Other researchers developed less invasive procedures, such as replacing valves, installing stents in arteries, and replacing the vessels leading to the heart, and medications to reduce blood conditions that led to heart disease. In the 2000s, people with heart disease lived longer than similarly affected people did in the 1970s.

**Alzheimer’s Disease** As people lived longer, a form of dementia known as *Alzheimer’s disease* that affected elderly and some middle-aged people became an increasing concern. Alzheimer’s patients progressively lose their memory, eventually leading to a stage in which they do not recognize their loved ones. Since the disease undermines bodily functions, it leads to death. As of 2015, researchers continued to search for a cure.
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES: WHAT HAPPENS TOMORROW?

One reason people study the past is to provide insight into the future. And even though predictions are risky, people continue to make them.

Optimism After Communism  Ending the Cold War permanently altered the global paradigm. Inspired by the fall of the Soviet Union, the decline of communism, and the spread of democracy throughout the world, some intellectuals felt hopeful. In his provocatively titled 1992 book, *The End of History and the Last Man*, Francis Fukuyama posited that history as people knew it was over. He argued that democracy was the ideal form of government and capitalism was the best economic system, and they were spreading throughout the world. Eventually, all countries would adopt them and the political and economic conflicts that had driven wars in the past would vanish.

Critics pointed out that 150 years earlier, Karl Marx had reasoned that scientific socialism would be the final phase of history. His prediction had not come true.

Cultural Conflict  One of Fukuyama’s former teachers, Samuel Huntington, rejected the entire end-of-history argument. In response, he wrote *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (1996). While Fukuyama was influenced by the end of the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, Huntington was struck by the increasing tensions around religion and culture. He claimed that people’s beliefs and affiliations would draw the fault lines for conflicts in the post-Cold War world. Huntington cited several examples of cultural conflict, including Hindu and Muslim tensions in India and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and its hostility toward Western culture.

Cultural Understanding  Critics asserted that Huntington’s generalizations were oversimplified and reflected a pro-Western prejudice. One of these critics is Nobel prize-winning economist Amartya Sen. In his 2006 work, *Identities and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny*, Sen rejected Huntington’s suggestion that people of different beliefs and ethnic groups could not get along, pointing to the existence of peaceful diverse societies around the world. Further, as globalization spread through all parts of life, people found many ways to identify themselves in the twenty-first century besides by religion and ethnicity.

Hope in Technology  Debates over the post-Cold War world began before the Internet and smart phones were common. By 2011, technology was connecting people around the globe. When physicist Michio Kaku published *Physics of the Future* (2011), he was optimistic that technology and trade could break down the cultural barriers that divide people. He did not predict the end of history, but he did hold out hope for material abundance and greater peace.
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MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Questions 1.1 to 1.3 refer to the passage below.

“For the underprivileged billions in the forgotten world, hunger has been a constant companion, and starvation has all too often lurked in the nearby shadows. To millions of these unfortunates, who have long lived in despair, the Green Revolution seems like a miracle that has generated new hope for the future...

The Green Revolution has won a temporary success in man’s war against hunger and deprivation; it has given man a breathing space. If fully implemented, the revolution can provide sufficient food for sustenance during the next three decades. But the frightening power of human reproduction must also be curbed; otherwise the success of the Green Revolution will be ephemeral only.”

Norman Borlaug, agricultural scientist, 1970

1.1 Which most directly led to the increase in food supply as part of the Green Revolution?

(A) the colonization of Africa by several European powers and subsequent control over food production
(B) the crossbreeding and genetic engineering of crops, such as wheat, rice, and other grains
(C) the decolonization of Africa and subsequent repurposing of arable farmlands for the production of cereal grains
(D) the domestication of new types of beasts of burden to assist farm laborers in cultivating land

1.2 According to this excerpt from his Nobel lecture, Dr. Borlaug feared that

(A) the Green Revolution had not had success in alleviating world hunger
(B) scientists had gone too far in altering naturally occurring plant species
(C) the world’s population would begin to decline due to efforts to curb hunger
(D) global population could once again overtake the available food supply

1.3 One criticism of the Green Revolution is that

(A) engineering cannot change a grain’s genetic characteristics
(B) it ignores new techniques of irrigating and fertilizing farmlands
(C) it could increase the number of pollinating insects, such as bees and beetles
(D) its costs make small farmers unable to compete with large-scale farming
Questions 2.1 to 2.3 refer to the cartoon below.

"WE'VE STOPPED OUTSOURCING. WE'VE REPLACED CHEAP FOREIGN LABOR WITH CHEAP ILLEGAL ALIENS IN THE GOOD OLD U.S."  

Sources: Harley Schwadron / Cartoonstock

2.1 Which economic change does this political cartoon most directly address?
(A) the increasing influence of governments on economic decisions
(B) the expansion of global trade under the World Trade Organization
(C) the ability of companies to take advantage of low wage costs
(D) the transformation of the economies of India, Brazil, and other countries

2.2 Which trend most directly led to the shift identified in the cartoon?
(A) the increasing competition among workers for employment
(B) the resurgence of indentured servitude
(C) the migration of laborers from urban to suburban areas
(D) the increasing isolation of developing countries from the global economy

2.3 How were the policies of the company described in the cartoon also followed in other countries?
(A) China also used low-wage domestic labor.
(B) The Asian Tigers relied on illegal immigrant labor.
(C) India relied on outsourcing work to other countries.
(D) Russia prospered after it stopped outsourcing.
Questions 3.1 and 3.2 refer to the passage below.

“The issue of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission has generated much public debate and some apprehension. The Minister of Justice is working to achieve broad agreement on this sensitive matter. In a nutshell, what this issue raises is how we deal with a past that contained gross violations of human rights—a past which threatens to live with us like a festering sore.

The question of amnesty for those who had done wrong is dealt with in the interim constitution. The challenge is to ensure that amnesty helps to heal the wounds of the past by also addressing the plight of the victims.”

Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa, speech to the South African Parliament, August 18, 1994

3.1 To what circumstance is Mandela referring when referencing “a past that contained gross violations of human rights”?

(A) Political disenfranchisement of the Afrikaans minority at the hands of the ruling black majority.

(B) Strict segregation and political disenfranchisement of the black majority at the hands of the ruling white minority.

(C) Political disenfranchisement and repression of all South Africans, black and white, by British colonizers.

(D) The violent battles and the atrocities during the Boer War between British colonizers and Dutch settlers.

3.2 Based on the passage, what can you conclude about South Africa’s plan for moving beyond their past?

(A) Black South Africans would get revenge against the repressive white minority that had instituted apartheid.

(B) Punishment of those who committed violence during apartheid was the new government’s top priority.

(C) Blacks and whites would seek ways to work together for the good of the whole nation.

(D) The white minority government’s repressive actions would be erased from history and not be spoken of.
Question 1 refers to the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>People Ages 18–29</th>
<th>People Ages 50 or Over</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>57%</td>
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1. Answer parts A and B.
   A. Identify ONE conclusion and ONE trend that this table shows about Americanization.
   B. Identify ONE other example of pop culture from 1950 to the present, and analyze its impact on the development of global pop culture.

2. Answer parts A and B.
   A. Briefly analyze the impact of TWO medical innovations on global populations in the twentieth century.
   B. Identify and explain ONE continuity in global health concerns from 1800 to the present.
THINK AS A HISTORIAN: USE SYNTHESIS IN A PARAGRAPH

When synthesizing information in a paragraph, the topic sentence should prepare the reader to see information from different sources or fields of study. Consider this sentence: “The conflict in Yugoslavia had religious, political, and historical roots.” It suggests that the writer will follow-up with examples of three types of information that help explain the conflict in Yugoslavia. Which TWO of the following statements would make the best topic sentences for a paragraph that emphasizes synthesis?

1. With the new openness of the post-Cold War era—created by changed borderlines, expanded trade among nations, and more—the world is more interconnected than ever before.

2. Russia’s oil wealth caused Mercedes-Benz dealerships and high-fashion boutiques to pop up in Moscow in the early 1990s.

3. Although the government claims to have built roads in India’s rural areas, many contracts exist only on paper.

4. Japan had an economic boom in the 1980s, but by the end of the 1990s, a financial panic, a severe earthquake, and a tsunami combined to present severe challenges that are still delivering aftershocks today.

5. The Chinese government claimed that no one died in the Tiananmen Square protest, but Amnesty International and the International Red Cross have reported otherwise.
WRITE AS A HISTORIAN: USE COMMAS CORRECTLY

Commas provide guidance for natural pauses and breaks in the text. While writing essays, commas can help ensure that your sentences have rhythm and feel natural for readers. Using commas too often, however, can interrupt the fluidity of a passage. Write down each word that should be followed by a comma. Not every sentence needs a comma.

1. Although India has experienced economic success in the past twenty years several social and political problems still plague the nation through poverty and corruption.

2. The Internet has enabled convenient communication accessible information and globalization.

3. Crimes against humanity still occur in the twenty-first century despite the advancements in equal rights for all people.

4. Serbian nationalists sought to eradicate the people of states like Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina through ethnic cleansing.

5. If humans do not work to shrink our carbon footprint people will deplete the resources making the planet unsuitable for life.

6. The examples of two diseases small pox and polio demonstrate how when countries and international organizations work together people can make dramatic progress against terrible diseases.

One common use of commas is to separate items in a list of three or more items. The items might be single words, multiple-word phrases, or a mixture of the two. Lists are easiest for readers to follow if all items are the same part of speech. Write down each word that should be followed by a comma.

7. Countries that suffered from genocides in the 1990s or 2000s included Bosnia Rwanda and Sudan.

8. Subsidizing exports discouraging imports and keeping wages low were all part of the economic development strategy in many East Asia countries.