

Chapter 20: Culture and Community in the Global Age Chapter Introduction
Book Title: The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History 7th Edition Update, AP® Edition
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Chapter Introduction

Overarching Questions

1. How have social categories, roles, and practices been maintained and changed over time? (SIO)
2. How and why has globalization changed culture over time? (CDI)
3. How did responses to increasing globalization differ between 1900 and the present? (CDI)
4. How and why has globalization changed international interactions among states? (GOV)

AP® Framework Terms

United Nations Declaration of Human Rights

globalization

popular culture

liberation theology

As discussed in the previous chapter, China began an ambitious program of economic reforms at the end of the 1970s. Until then, China, with the world's largest population, was a very poor nation with a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of approximately \$309.00 per year (total goods and services produced divided by population). Even poor developing nations like Kenya or Bolivia outperformed the Asian giant. Since the reforms, China has experienced rapid economic growth, becoming one of the few socialist nations to successfully make the transition to a market-based economy. In 2020, China's GDP per capita reached almost \$11,000.00 per estimates of the International Monetary Fund.

Despite this remarkable expansion, however, millions of Chinese still live in poverty or communities that have more in common with villages of the late nineteenth century than the

modern metropoles that dot their own nation today. Archaic technology and poverty can exist in close proximity to modernity and affluence, both in China and elsewhere. The contrasts of poverty versus prosperity and traditional society versus globally connected communities can be found across the globe. In an era of astounding technological change and—until the recession of 2008—spreading prosperity, more than a billion of the world's population still live on less than \$1.25 a day, participating little—if at all—in the urban cultures where global economic networks generate wealth and prosperity.

In the first decades of the twenty-first century, population growth continues to outstrip economic resources in many of the nations of the developing world. Since the deep recession that began in 2008, politicians as well as social reformers in the wealthy industrialized nations have criticized the effects of high levels of unemployment, family breakdown, substance abuse, and homelessness. At the start of the twenty-first century, as in the Industrial Revolution, an era of relative affluence, increased global economic integration, and rapid technological progress has coincided with problems of social dislocation and mounting inequality.

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