

Chapter 20: Culture and Community in the Global Age: 20-3 Resistance to Globalization After 1900
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20-3 Resistance to Globalization After 1900

The turn of the millennium saw the intensification of [globalization](#) (The economic, political, and cultural integration and interaction of all parts of the world brought about by increasing trade, travel, and technology. (p. 596)) trends that had been building since the 1970s. These came together in a loose economic pattern known as *neoliberalism* (see [Chapter 19](#)). Accelerating trade and travel and new information technologies brought all parts of the world into closer economic, political, and cultural integration and interaction (see [Map 20.1](#) and [Map 20.3](#)). The collapse of the Soviet Union completed the dissolution of territorial empires that had been under way throughout the twentieth century. As colonies disappeared, autonomous national states (numbering about two hundred) became the norm, and a growing number of them embraced democratic institutions and reduced government controls on private businesses. Selling off government-owned enterprises to private ownership enriched a new class of extremely wealthy transnational investors and managers. The sunny future that seemed in store for democracy and free enterprise exploded in 2008, however, when a massive accumulation of debt in American financial institutions became unsustainable and plunged the world into financial crisis.

Map 20.1

Global Distribution of Wealth

Early industrialization and efficient investment contributed to individual prosperity for the citizens of Japan and Western countries by the 1990s. However, economic dynamism in late-industrializing countries like China and India began to change the world balance of economic power in the early twenty-first century. In nearly all countries the distribution of wealth among individuals varies tremendously, with the gap between rich and poor generally increasing.

A color coded world map shows the shapes of countries designed out of small squares. A note mentions that each square equals G D P of 30 billion dollars in 2015. The map shows names of some countries and for some countries, the map shows their name and their G D P. A note reads, the top fifty countries are named; the G D P of the top twelve is given below the country name. Countries with G D P lower than 15 billion dollars are not shown. G D P rounded to nearest 30 billion dollars. The color coding is based on the per capita income. The countries and their G D P in billions of dollars, where the figures are provided, based on the per capita income in dollars are as follows. Over 40,000: United States, 18,037; Canada, 1,551; United Kingdom, 2,858; Germany, 3,363; Australia, 1,339; Ireland; Norway; Sweden; Denmark; Netherlands; Belgium; Switzerland; Austria;

Finland; United Arab Emirates; Hong Kong; and Singapore. Between 20,000 and 39,999: France, 2,419; Italy, 1,821; South Korea, 1,378; Japan, 4,383; Spain; Israel; and Saudi Arabia. Between 10,000 and 19,999: Chile, Argentina; Portugal; Poland; Czech Republic; Greece; and Kazakhstan. Between 5,000 and 9,999: Brazil, 1,775; China, 11,008; Mexico; Colombia; South Africa; Russia; Turkey; Thailand; and Malaysia. Between 2,000 and 4,999: Egypt; Nigeria; Indonesia; and Philippines. Under 2,000: India, 2,095; Pakistan; and Bangladesh.

Is per capita a good measure of wealth in countries where there is a deep chasm between the wealth of the elite and the incomes of ordinary people?

Map 20.2

World Religions

The distribution of Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam reflects centuries of missionary efforts. Hinduism and Judaism have expanded primarily through trade and migration. Chinese governments have actively curtailed religious practice. As religion revives as a source of social identity or a rationale for political assertion or mass mobilization, the possibility of religious activism across broad geographic regions becomes greater, as does the likelihood of domestic discord in multireligious states.

A world map shows the spread of religions in the various regions. It also shows the percentage of minorities in those regions. The world region, the religion to which most of the population are adherents, and the percentage of the religious minorities in those regions are as follows. North America: Christians; 24 percent are unaffiliated. West Indies: Christians; 23 percent are unaffiliated. South America: Christians; 41 percent are unaffiliated. South and Central Africa: Christians, Northern Africa: Muslims, Southern coastal parts of Africa: Christians. 21 percent in Botswana are unaffiliated, 35 percent in Tanzania has Muslims, 35 percent in Ethiopia are Muslims, 33 percent in South Sudan are unaffiliated, 41 percent in Chad are Christians, 49 percent in Nigeria are Christians and 49 percent are Muslims, 24 percent in Benin are Muslims, 44 percent in Togo are Christians and 36 percent are folk religionists, 23 percent in Burkina Faso are Christians, 38 percent in Cote D'Ivoire are Muslims and 44 percent are Christians, 21 percent in Sierra Leone are Christians, 45 percent in Gambia are Muslims and 31 percent are folk religionists. Europe and Russia have Christians. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, 45 percent are Muslims and in Cyprus, 25 percent are Muslims. Central Asia and the Middle East region have Muslims as the majority population. In Lebanon, 38 percent are Christians and in Kazakhstan, 25 percent are Christians. India and Nepal have Hindus as the majority population. Bhutan has Buddhists in majority while 23 percent are Hindus. The majority in China are unaffiliated while 22 percent are folk religionists. The majority in Mongolia are

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Buddhists while 36 percent are unaffiliated. The majority in Southeast Asian countries are Buddhists while in Indonesia, the majority are Muslims. In Vietnam, 30 percent are Christians, and between Sunni and Shi'ite in Islam? unaffiliated and 45 percent are folk religionists, in Laos 31 percent are folk religionists and in Taiwan, 21 percent are Buddhists and 44 percent are folk religionists. In South Korea,

23 percent are Buddhists, 29 percent are Christians, 45 percent are unaffiliated while in Japan, 36 percent are Buddhists. The figure also shows a bar chart of the population, in

Regional Trade Associations, 2004

Map 20.3
 Unaffiliated: 1126.5; Hindus: 1033.08; Buddhists: 487.54; Folk religionists: 405.12; Jews: 13.85; Other religions: 58.11. Notes on the figure read as follows. Israel: most of the population is Jewish; Tibet: most of the population is Buddhist; Chinese province of Xinjiang: most of the population is Muslim; Indonesian island of Bali: most of the

population is Hindu; Europe: 18 percent of the population is unaffiliated; India: has the second-largest Muslim population in the world, at 178.19 million.

NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement): Canada, Mexico, and United States.

MERCOSUR (Mercado Comun del Cono Sur): Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay (suspended in 2012), Uruguay, and Venezuela. APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum):

Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, United States, and Vietnam. E U (European Union): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States): Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. PAFTA (Pan-Arab Free Trade Area): Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. S A D C (Southern African Development Community): Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. SAFTA (South Asian Free Trade Agreement): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. S C O (Shanghai Cooperative Organization): China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Observers of S C O:

Afghanistan, India, Iran, Mongolia, and Pakistan. Do regional trade agreements signal increasing globalization or simply formalize linguistic and cultural connections with roots in earlier centuries?

People around the world tried to make sense of the increasing violence perpetrated by

nonstate organizations like al-Qaeda in terms of their own value systems. With 7 billion people, the world was big enough to include many different approaches, whether religious or secular, local or international, traditional or visionary. Islam stood out, however, as the label most often attached to frightening acts of violence.

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