*Article Summary Assignment #2*

**Summary Article**

Waste is an unavoidable result of modern human life. It endangers the environment, health, and safety. Furthermore, it also impacts communities in the financial and social aspects. One example of how it damages the environments is when pollution runs into rivers or filters into ground water. Furthermore, diarrhea and respiratory infections spreads through a population when waste is not gathered. The biggest social impact is that waste affects more low-income communities than affluent neighborhoods in the United States and around the world. This is due to the fact that trash ends up being disposed near low-income neighborhoods that result in low quality of air and disease contraction.

In addition, this inequitable distribution of waste does not stop at the place where it originated. According to the article, the more urbanized and industrialized a country becomes, the more trash it produces. Therefore, the countries that are the leading trash generators are the United States (624,700 metric tons per day), China (520,548 metric tons per day), Brazil (149,096 metric tons per day), Japan (144,466 metric tons per day), and Germany (127,816 metric tons per day).

The fact that the United States is the major generator of waste in the world raises a debate on how to decrease the amount of trash produced. The main reason the United States produces the most waste is because unlike most utilities, most cities charge a flat fee for trash service or include it in property tax. The solution is to charge for trash disposal by weight or other metrics, like other utilities. An American company named WasteZero promotes this program that is currently used in 800 cities and counties across the nation. The program charges a fee in cash for each bad they dispose at a drop-off location. According to their statistics, the program reduced 44% of the waste and it doubles recycling rates.

**Course Readings**

This article relates to Lecture 13: Distancing of Waste in a Global Economy. As mentioned in lecture, the globally disperse production and waste handling makes the consumer unaware of the trash. Also, another factor that affects recycling in the country is that recycling happens out of sight of the consumers; therefore, they do not think about it. In the United States, contamination results from distancing of consumers from recycling. Furthermore, we learned about wealthy areas dispose their waste in peripheral cities, poor areas. Poor communities receive trash of many specialized types. One of the interesting facts in lecture was that most of the waste was in the form of containers and packaging, which can be a result of massive online shopping.

**My point of view**

There are multiple approaches to solve the global waste crisis. One of the approaches is the one mentioned in the article, to charge consumers for every single bag of trash they dispose. This program will motivate citizens to increase the amount of garbage they recycle. Additionally, another solution discussed in lecture is that better design of containers and packaging would minimize waste and optimize the potential to recycle the products. Therefore, it is needed to have a combined effort of producers, government, and individuals to have a successful decrease in waste.

Hyperlink to the article:

http://www.latimes.com/world/global-development/la-fg-global-trash-20160422-20160421-snap-htmlstory.html