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Period 3

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Global Trends of the Great Gatsby

Scott Fitzergerald's, *The Great Gatsby*, is about the lavish and immoral life that Tom, Gatsby, and other characters live during the early twentieth century. There are several global trends during this time period that the story demonstrates. One such trend is the rise of the idea of white supremacy. At the party in the beginning of the story, Tom attempts to entertain others at his party by bringing up a book called *The Rise of the Colored Empires*. Tom agrees with the book that the white race is the dominant race and is responsible for modern science and art. This is symbolic of lack of respect for everyone who is not white, which leads to things such as Nazi Germany and the KKK. The global trend of increasing amount of the rich ignoring what happens to the poor is highlighted by the great difference between rich places such as West Egg and New York city and desolate places, such as the gray ash covered valley that is in between the previously two mentioned places. This is a global trend persistent even today. The rich does not care about the environment or its people. Factories and mines still continue to dump toxic products such as lead and even water that is too hot for the environment. Gatsby is very rich and holds lavish parties, which he never attends. However, this money is earned illegally. Gatsby gets money from bootlegging alcohol. This reflects the banning of alcohol that happened in the early twentieth century in places such as the United States, some parts of Russia, and Norway due to concerns about morals.