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Africa In The World Economy

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Reading Response for Lecture on Aug. 13th

It is interesting to realize that the world has had to shift its thought about resources as we continue to use more of our non-renewable supplies. Similarly, on page 193, it states how as a result of the industrial revolution we as a society have destroyed the natural reserves of resources accumulated over several million years in just a couple decades. This has resulted in a shift from mining these minerals in the areas of Europe that underwent this industrial age, to moving the focus to Africa, America, and India. Upon searching and retrieving these resources from around the world, we as the human race put other ecologies into danger as we remove vital pieces of life for other beings. This also creates an issue of forcing these country’s economies to rely on the income that is a result of this global need for these minerals, raising the question of what will happen when supplies are depleted. This inevitable situation will cause numerous issues such as forcing countries into becoming rent based and not offering enough jobs for its population, where thirty percent of the low-income population relies on these resources as their income as well. From prior experiences, it becomes obvious that the lower income nations will suffer first, and even more so with the richer nations continually working on new cities. These issues converge together in a very unfortunate way. As cities continue to grow and consequently pollute the areas surrounding, it further expedites the inevitable issue of the less wealthy areas suffering from no longer having the resources needed to make any income, as well as destroying the natural and renewable resources they rely on for their communities to survive. These urban areas are the first to see the direct impact that forming a largely unregulated and improperly built city can cause. These “mega-cities” as they are called, continually attract new people and as a result, require more and more resources. It is said that the population of some African cities are growing at ten percent annually, while only depleting its resources. The reality of this situation is that these cities attract many people, and the resources that are needed for that many people simply are not currently available. Whether the bottleneck be the transportation, electricity, sanitation of water, or food, the current state of these areas cannot seem to support this influx of population and shift in lifestyle so suddenly. Without a large shift in resources and priorities, it does not seem plausible to continue this direction as a society. This lifestyle requires a vast infrastructure that can be formed, but needs specific attention.

Word Count: 460