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History 51

15 August 2023

Intersections of Power and Mobility

In an age characterized by unparalleled intertwined global connections and shared reliance, the interactions of late capitalist globalization have made significant changes on a worldwide level. During this complex interplay of influences, two urban landscapes stand out and have risen as pivotal focal points, attaching themselves to the intricate tapestry of economic, societal, and security dynamics that define this era of worldwide change. New York and Dubai, despite their lands being apart a tremendous distance, stand united as prominent hubs within this current surge of globalization. They're not just important for making money – they also play a big role in things like people moving for work, global money, and how money and safety are connected, even including the fear of terrorism. As we explore the intricate links that bring these cities to the global currents of late capitalism, the coming together of historical viewpoints from materials like "Places of Encounter and Traditions and Encounters," alongside perspectives from "Witness to the Age of Revolution," and "Abina and the Important Men," have the potential to reveal the intricate nature of their roles and influence. By examining these various stories, we can better comprehend how New York and Dubai not only symbolize globalization but also play a role in forming its complex designs.

The tale of late capitalist globalization is closely connected to people moving across borders to find better economic opportunities. This idea becomes clear in the primary texts from "Traditions and Encounters". For instance, the excerpt detailing the experiences of Chinese immigrants during the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad exemplifies the significant role of immigrant labor in shaping the American landscape.¹ This illustrates how the contributions of immigrants, driven by economic aspirations, played an integral part in transforming the physical and economic contours of the United States. Similarly, "Abina and the Important Men" highlights how African laborers were mistreated during colonial times, showing how labor migration was a global phenomenon. "By the 1790s, European and American slave traders were embarking about 74,000 enslaved Africans per year".² Furthermore, in Places of Encounter, through the primary text of "Human Rights Watch Letter to UAE Minister of Labor" we see that "the Ministry of Labor currently employs eighty inspectors to oversee the labor practices of the 246,420 companies that employ migrant workers."³ The sheer amount of workforce goes to show the power that was held by Dubai and how it had more and more migrants coming from all around the world to work. Today, both New York and Dubai attract labor migrants who want to help these thriving cities grow. In the past, many immigrants came to New York through Ellis Island during the late 1800s and early 1900s. They helped make the city diverse and culturally vibrant. These newcomers, often escaping economic difficulties and looking for better prospects, worked in industries like manufacturing and services. Immigrants from around the world helped build famous landmarks like the Empire State Building and the

¹ Jerry H. Bentley, Herbert F. Ziegler, and Heather E. Streets-Salter, *Traditions and Encounters, Volume 1: From the Beginning to 1500* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2015)

² Getz, Trevor R, and Liz Clarke. 2016. *Abina and the Important Men : A Graphic History*. (New York: Oxford University Press), 107

³ Aran MacKinnon and Elaine McClarland MacKinnon, *Places of Encounter: Time, Place, and Connectivity in World History, Volume I: to 1500* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2012), 430

Brooklyn Bridge. Similarly, Dubai's rapid ascent as a global city is fueled by the arrival of foreign labor, mainly from South Asia, who have played a crucial part in constructing the city's impressive skyline and top-tier infrastructure. Both cities showcase how labor migration drives the gears of late capitalism. The blend of diverse cultures and skills in New York and Dubai has not only boosted their economic progress but has also added to the lively urban atmosphere that characterizes these worldwide hubs. The personal stories of sacrifice, determination, and ambition we encounter in "Traditions and Encounters" and other readings help us understand the immense influence of labor migration on shaping today's urban landscape and the global economy.

Besides the movement of people for work, global money matters significantly in late capitalism. This idea is shown in "Places of Encounter," where they talk about how the global capitalist system formed the modern global economy. The primary text says, "Dubai benefited enormously from tourists hailing from Russia and other former Soviet republics. Lured to Dubai because of its proximity, lax visa regulations, cheap prices, and reputation as a shopping paradise, customers from throughout the former Soviet Union flocked to Dubai"⁴. The shared dominance of these cities in international finance manifests the interconnected nature of the global economy. New York's Wall Street and Dubai's financial institutions channel investment capital across borders, shaping the destinies of nations and corporations alike. Also, in "Witness to the Age of Revolution," they explore how financial institutions and markets started during the Enlightenment era, affecting the world's economies. It says, "Stock markets and investment banks changed how businesses could grow".⁵ Their significance extends beyond their immediate

⁴ Aran MacKinnon and Elaine McClarland MacKinnon, *Places of Encounter: Time, Place, and Connectivity in World History, Volume I: to 1500* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2012), 417

⁵ Charles F Walker, and Liz Clarke. 2020. *Witness to the Age of Revolution : The Odyssey of Juan Bautista Tupac Amaru*. (New York, Ny: Oxford University Press)

geographical confines, making them nerve centers of late capitalist globalization. The primary source documents and historical insights presented in "Places of Encounter" and "Witness to the Age of Revolution" help illuminate the evolving dynamics of global finance and its profound implications for the contemporary world.

In addition to their economic might, both New York and Dubai deal with complex security situations that show how economic interests and safety worries are connected in the time of late capitalism. These ideas are seen in the primary source in "Places of Encounter," in "Shaken Lower Manhattan Neighbors Find Each Other After September 11 Disaster," it is stated "we stand ready to return to normal. Gain access to our homes. Open our schools. Socialize our youth. Open our Little Leagues, recreation programs, and care for our seniors."⁶ This was after the events of terrorism which brought people together. The tragic events of September 11, 2001, show how money and safety are connected. The attacks on the World Trade Center remind us that important money centers can be targets of terrorism. These attacks are talked about in "Places of Encounter," which says how New York's big role in money made it a target, changing how people think about safety. As one primary source says, "After September 11, the United States initiated the National Security Entry Exit Registration System (NSEERS). The program tracked men from twenty-four predominantly Muslim nations in the United States. Nearly eighty-three thousand men complied with the requirement to register and be interviewed by the federal government."⁷ Dubai also faces a mix of money and safety. The city is a big global business hub, and that's why it could be a target for terrorism, like the failed attack on Jumeirah

⁶ Aran MacKinnon and Elaine McClarland MacKinnon, *Places of Encounter: Time, Place, and Connectivity in World History, Volume I: to 1500*, (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2012), 405

⁷ Aran MacKinnon and Elaine McClarland MacKinnon, *Places of Encounter: Time, Place, and Connectivity in World History, Volume I: to 1500* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2012), 396

Lake Towers in 2007. These cases show how money's importance and safety issues are closely connected. The mixing of money needs and safety thinking goes beyond these cases, changing how rules are made and even how cities look. After 9/11, New York made rules to keep things safe, like watching more carefully and having stricter controls on who comes in. These rules show how hard it is to balance safety with keeping things open for money. Dubai also works on safety. They made a place called the Dubai Security Industry Regulatory Agency to make things safe. This is like a worldwide trend of making money and safety work together.

In the story of late capitalism around the world, New York and Dubai stand out as important pieces, bringing together many different parts of a big story. These cities, even though they're far away from each other, are alike in being places where people come to work, where money moves globally, and where safety is connected to making money. The stories from "Traditions and Encounters," "Witness to the Age of Revolution," and "Abina and the Important Men," help us see how these cities are connected to the big picture of late capitalism. In the big story of the world coming closer together, New York and Dubai are more than just cities. They are examples of how things are connected, how they influence each other, and how they're part of a bigger plan. By looking at how people move for work, how money goes around the world, and how safety is connected to money, we see how these cities show what's happening with late capitalism. The stories from "Traditions and Encounters," "Witness to the Age of Revolution," and "Abina and the Important Men," teach us that what's happening now and what will happen in the future are tied together by money dreams, different cultures, and wanting to be safe in a world that keeps changing. As we think about what we've learned from these sources, we see that New York and Dubai's stories are not just about the past, they're also about what's happening in the world today.