Anthropology 452 – Globalization

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Prep Globalization and Food:

The first major change of food has been its ability to be produced at a much larger scale thanks to globalization. The ability to transport food across the world to different countries and continents has enabled the population to be supported. Especially in areas that have had continued growth but never could have supported that kind of food production. Now obviously this could be either good or bad depending on your beliefs of our current population levels in certain areas but for the point of this argument I will say that it’s a good thing.

The globalization of supply chain has enabled more cultural diversity when it comes to food and the ability to growth such food in more efficient environments while still consuming it in other locations. One of the most popular examples of new food supply chain growth is bananas. The reason this is such a special item is because the process of getting them to other locations like the United States from their origin of India or Indonesia is much more complex than you might think. And yet when we go to the market and pick out some that are up to our standards, we seem to completely forget that they just traveled across the world. Something that is especially amazing for an item that is so perishable.

But there are also the negatives that many other countries outside the United States are currently experiencing. For instance, fast food production is now taking over many countries that relied on their home-grown cuisine to maintain their health levels. Because of the cheap and easy nature of American fast food other countries that have maintained their poor status are now also becoming unhealthy because the fast food is the best cheap option for food. Issues like the spread of obesity and “the consumption of high-calorie, nutrient-poor foods high in fats and sweeteners is increasing throughout the developing world.” (Hawkes 2007)

Another negative that can be associated with most supply chain in globalization but is especially important in food supply is safety issues. This issue is commonly related to the transmission of disease and other hazards that could affects the country the food is being shipped too. The expansion of overseas food production has only increased the risk of mass disease spread across borders and is something that is especially important has of late. Because of these issues many other things like policy change in other producing countries has actually happened. A countries reliance on there exports of food can actually make them venerable to outside intervention from there customers.

Hawkes, Corinna (2007). *Globalization and the nutrition transition*. Ifpri.org. Retrieved March 13, 2022, from https://www.ifpri.org/publication/globalization-and-nutrition-transition