

WEEK 13 GEOGRAPHY & IDENTITY

FOOD SECURITY

1. *Available*: food is available in sufficient quantities & on a consistent basis
2. *Accessible*: people can regularly acquire adequate quantities of food through socially acceptable methods
3. *Utilizable*: consumed food has a positive nutritional impact on people

FOOD SECURITY & FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

- Food security is not just about satisfying nutritional needs, it also requires an understanding of the relationship between food and culture

the dominant concept of food security .. [is unable] to account for an understanding of food as more than just a nutritional commodity but rather, a set of social relations and cultural practices, including foodways and heritage cuisines that constitute a larger whole (Mares & Peña, 199)

Food Sovereignty:

Food security achieved in a manner that preserves the relationship between a culture or locale and its agriculture or food production/consumption processes

LOCALISM/PROVINCIALISM

[Localism] constitutes “the love and pride which leads the inhabitants of a province to cherish as their own [those] traditions, beliefs and aspirations [with which a province is associated]” (Heldke, 37 (quoting Josiah Royce))

Localism/Provincialism:

privileging one's cultural traditions, beliefs, and aspirations over those of other regions when making production/consumption choices

GLOBALISM/COSMOPOLITANISM

Globalism/Cosmopolitanism:

treating all traditions, cultures, and locales equally when making production/consumption choices

DOES LOCALITY AT LEAST SOMETIMES MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE KINDS OF FOOD CHOICES YOU MAKE?

1. Yes
2. No

WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF LOCAL VS. GLOBAL FOOD?

WHY MIGHT ONE FAVOR 'LOCAL' FOODS OVER NON-LOCAL ONES?

ADVANTAGES OF LOCALISM

- Reduced distance for transport of goods means lower environmental impact
- Supports local economies
- Promotes the continued existence of specific cultural practices or traditions
- Promotes a connection to a particular locale or “sense of place”
- Promotes or maintains a “sustainable community”

DISADVANTAGES OF LOCALISM

- Elitist?
 - Increased cost of food
 - Increased time required for production/consumption
- Difficulty being scaled (i.e. not all populations can be locavores)
- Provincial
- For many areas localism may result in a net decrease in the variety of available foods

ADVANTAGES OF GLOBALISM/COSMOPOLITANISM

- Respect for the diversity of cultures/peoples
- Encourages freedom of choice in how to live

DISADVANTAGES OF GLOBALISM

- Elitist?
- Encourages a kind of cultural homogeneity
- Encourages a kind of alienation from any specific place or culture

BEYOND THE GLOBAL/LOCAL DICHOTOMY?

1. Recognize that going 'local' doesn't mean that one's practices are necessarily "healthier" or more "just"
2. Realize that most of our food choices will have global ramifications
3. Acknowledge that the culture of a region and its agriculture are linked
4. Accept that there may be irreconcilable costs and benefits to both global and local approaches

[The locavore in me thinks that] the Amish child with the McDonald's bag represents a ... challenge, namely that shopping mall culture exerts a terrible attraction, even to those outside it...

[The cosmopolitan is me asks:] what if that Amish kid wanted to grow up to be a gay vegetarian and sing in a rock band? I find myself asking. Or what if he just wanted to be a hippie organic farmer instead of an Amish one? A Wiccan, maybe? What support for those life choices would he find in his community? (Heldke, 34-5)

