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CH 203

Response Week 11

23 April 2017

**Group 1, Question B**

Benjamin R. Barber’s use of the metaphors “Jihad” and “McWorld” accurately give a glimpse into each culture’s differences relative to each-other. No, not all Muslims are extremists and not all Americans are gung-ho about capitalism. Most people in both of these cultures are not concerned with thinking about these concepts at all, but the few that feel strongly in either direction clash. Barber even justifies his use of the strong word “Jihad”, explaining “In its strongest political mani­festation, it means bloody holy war on behalf of partisan identity that is metaphysically defined and fanatically defended” (Barber 417). “McWorld” almost requires no such explanation. As Americans we can see the effect of capitalism every single day of our lives. We see those golden arches hanging above dark and dirty shopping centers, illuminating the night sky for the homeless people below. Barber puts it in a nut-shell when he states “McWorld is a product of popular culture driven by expansionist commerce” (Barber 418)

**Group 2, Question B**

When George W. Bush gave this speech, he had the eyes of a shaken nation on him. He and his speech writers absolutely knew this, and prepared this speech in accordance with what they thought the nation wanted to hear. When he said “This is the world's fight. This is civilization's fight. This is the fight of all who believe in progress and pluralism, tolerance and freedom” (Bush 2), these overly-general words were used to simply demonize the *other*. Later he goes on to say “America is successful because of the hard work and creativity and enterprise of our people” (Bush 3) as if these are the actual reasons that 9/11 occurred. Freedom was and is not the issue that makes these extremists hate us, it is our brazen actions in which we treat these nations as mere children when we invade them and take matters into our own hands that instills this. To this day not much has changed in the way we deal with extremism. As time goes by we move our own procession of terror from Iraq and Afghanistan to Syria and whatever comes next.

**Group 3, Question B**

For the record, I had never heard of this speech given by Watson so I cannot attest to its profound impact. On top of this, I have to say that although it was a nice gesture, none of what she said in this speech had any substance to it. It seems like if she gave it today it would be one of those hashtags that people talk about for a couple days before the next astonishing Donald Trump tweet drops. Of course the main point she wanted to make was that feminists are not man-haters and really just want equality. This is not a new concept, but it is important to see the context in which this speech was made. Watson has had anti-feminist remarks made to her and this is her response. She mentioned that “In 1995, Hilary Clinton made a famous speech in Beijing about women’s rights. Sadly many of the things she wanted to change are still a reality today” (Watson 3). This is a great quote to look back at after this past election. In some ways Hillary Clinton losing that election meant that feminism has to wait at least another 4 years to make significant progress. This quote would probably make most of the voting population of our country, the portion that voted for Hillary Clinton in the face of other less savory options, sigh and shake their heads thinking of what could have been.

**Group 4, Question A**

*The Visitor* highlights the day-to-day of what illegal immigrants face in our country since 9/11. It does this by telling the story of a man lost in life. Professor Walter Vale feels he is floating through life, not actually contributing to anything and feeling no motivation to start. He is thrown into a situation where he is given the opportunity to help two homeless squatters. This leads to Walter making friends with these people and learning about some of their two cultures. Eventually the man, Tarek, is arrested and put in a detention center. The story that follows is one not uncommon to many immigrant families in our country today. The moral message, if I had to choose only one, of this movie is that we only hate the people that we don’t know well enough. Once your know someone’s backstory, what they went through as a child all the way up until the moment you meet them you will not hate that person. You may disagree with them or be put off by them but you won’t hate them because you will recognize just how similar they are to you.

Works Cited

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The Visitor | Watched on YouTube