Challenges and Hopes for the Future

The Big Ideas

SECTION 1: The Challenges of Our World

New technologies can revolutionize the way people live, work, interact, and govern. Today's societies face many political and social challenges, especially the challenge of how to balance the costs and benefits of the technological revolution.

SECTION 2: Global Visions

Moral and ethical principles influence the development of political thought. The global economy and new global threats have stimulated individuals and international organizations to work on global problems.

World History—Modern Times Video The Chapter 17 video, "In the 21st Century," explores various issues that the world is facing today.
The International Space Station, shown here in 2000, combines the scientific and technological resources of 16 nations.
When readers come to conclusions that aren’t written by the author, but are based on facts presented by the author, they are making inferences. It is the job of readers of history to analyze facts and quotations presented to them before reaching conclusions. In a textbook, an author usually doesn’t have the space or time to explain the significance of every phrase. It is the reader’s job to analyze facts and quotations based on general information and experience.

Now that you’ve come to the last chapter in the textbook, you can infer a great deal based on the knowledge you’ve gained. You can also apply information you’ve learned from other classes, such as government, science, or language courses, to make inferences about the state of the world and its future.

One of the features of the global economy is the wide gap between rich and poor nations. Rich nations are mainly in the Northern Hemisphere and include the United States, Canada, countries in western Europe, and Japan. They have well-organized industrial and education systems and use advanced technologies. Poor nations, often called developing countries, are mainly in the Southern Hemisphere and include many nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Developing countries are mainly farming nations with little technology.

Drawing on what you already know about various regions in the world, what can you infer about the meaning of “the wide gap between rich and poor nations”? How did they get to that point and what might their future hold?
Historical Interpretation: Standard HI 3 Students interpret past events and issues within the context in which an event unfolded rather than solely in terms of present-day norms and values.

Have you ever had to explain your actions without being able to explain your circumstances, knowing that your audience’s opinion would change if they knew the full story? Historians have to keep this in mind and not come to conclusions based on an isolated incident. For example, you could take the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand as an isolated terrorist incident. Placed into context with Austro-Hungarian and Serbian relations, European alliances, or leaders in charge, however, historians see the bigger picture of what led to World War I.

When you contextualize events, you utilize the other history skills covered in this textbook. While analyzing a particular event you need to explore cause and effect, examine trends, and recognize bias, among other skills.

Read the following passage from page 750 about the founding of the United Nations.

The UN was founded in 1945 at the end of World War II. American president Franklin Delano Roosevelt was especially eager to create an organization to work for peace. Already at the Yalta Conference of February 1945, with the war still being fought, the “Big Three”—Roosevelt, British prime minister Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union—had agreed to found an international organization.

Roosevelt died two months later, but his successor, President Harry Truman, arranged for the founding meeting to be held in San Francisco in April 1945. There the representatives of the Allied forces worked out the mission and structure of the United Nations.

Apply the Skill

Write a paragraph identifying the factors leading to the formation of the United Nations. Be sure to include the post–World War II context. Then share your paragraph with a partner to see if you placed the event in the same context. Because you each have a different bias, what you identify might vary.
On September 11, 2001, international terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes, two of which were used to destroy the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Thousands of people died in the attack when first one tower, and then the other, collapsed. Many of those who died were firefighters, police officers, and other rescue workers who rushed into the buildings to help people to safety.

In the days following the attack, countless tales of unimaginable bravery emerged. Two office workers carried a disabled woman down 68 floors to safety. Peter Ganci, a 33-year veteran of the New York City Fire Department, survived the collapse of the first tower but died trying to evacuate people from the second tower. Father Mychal Judge, the Fire Department chaplain, removed his helmet to give last rites to a dying firefighter but died himself when he was hit by debris. One firefighter, as he climbed toward the flames, stopped to give a fleeing woman a bottle of water. She escaped, but he did not.

George Howard, a Port Authority officer, raced to help people, even though it was his day off, and died in the effort. In an address to the American nation, President George W. Bush said that he would carry Howard’s badge as a reminder of the horrors of terrorism, for “Freedom and fear are at war. The advance of human freedom, the great achievement of our time and the great hope of every time, now depends on us. . . . We will not falter and we will not fail.”

Why It Matters

The destruction of the World Trade Center was not an attack on the United States alone. People from over 80 countries were killed in what the United Nations condemned as a “crime against humanity.” More and more, people are coming to understand that destructive forces unleashed in one part of the world soon affect the entire world. As British prime minister Tony Blair said, “We are realizing how fragile are our frontiers in the face of the world’s new challenges. Today, conflicts rarely stay within national boundaries.” Terrorism, worldwide hunger, nuclear proliferation, global warming—these issues make us aware of the global nature of contemporary problems. Increasingly, the world’s nations must unite to create lasting solutions.

History and You

What contemporary global problem concerns you the most? Write an essay explaining what the world’s nations should do, together, to solve this problem.
The Challenges of Our World

Section Preview
Today’s societies face many political and social challenges, especially the challenge of how to balance the costs and benefits of the technological revolution.

Main Idea
• Economic development and population growth pose a challenge to the world’s environment. (p. 744)
• The benefits of the technological revolution must be balanced against its costs. (p. 746)
• Developing nations face continuing problems of poverty, population growth, and ethnic conflict. (p. 747)

Content Vocabulary
ecology, deforestation, ozone layer, greenhouse effect, acid rain, sustainable development, biowarfare, bioterrorism

Academic Vocabulary
nuclear, mental

People and Events to Identify
Rachel Carson, Kyoto Protocol, Neil Armstrong, World Trade Organization

Places to Locate
Bhopal, Chernobyl

Reading Objective
1. Explain the challenges facing the contemporary world.
2. Describe the benefits and costs of the technological revolution.

Reading Strategy
Cause and Effect
Complete a table like the one below as you read the chapter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deforestation</td>
<td>Loss of ozone layer</td>
<td>Greenhouse effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acid rain</td>
<td>Weapons</td>
<td>Hunger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preview of Events
1980
1984 Toxic fumes kill 3,800 people in Bhopal, India
1989 Oil spill from tanker in Alaska devastates environment
1990
1997 Indonesian wildfires destroy rain forests and endanger species
1995
2000
2003 Seven astronauts die when Columbia space shuttle explodes

California Standards in This Section
Reading this section will help you master these California History—Social Science Standards.

10.10.1: Understand the challenges in the regions, including their geopolitical, cultural, military, and economic significance and the international relationships in which they are involved.

10.10.2: Describe the recent history of the regions, including political divisions and systems, key leaders, religious issues, natural features, resources, and population patterns.

10.10.3: Discuss the important trends in the regions today and whether they appear to serve the cause of individual freedom and democracy.

10.11: Students analyze the integration of countries into the world economy and the information, technological, and communications revolutions (e.g., television, satellites, computers).
The Environmental Crisis

Main Idea Economic development and population growth pose a challenge to the world’s environment.

Reading Connection Have you seen newly designed cars that run on alternative forms of energy? Read to learn about environmental challenges in today’s world.

Most people today are aware that protecting the environment is a public policy issue—politicians campaign on it, and voters make choices on it. On a regular basis, we in advanced societies hear about the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the chemicals in the food we eat.

Such concerns are addressed by the field of science known as ecology, the study of the relationship between living things and their environment. The field of ecology is relatively new and emerged only after people began to be aware of the serious threats to the environment that modern economies can pose.

Voices from the Past

The person most responsible for the modern movement to protect the environment was an American scientist, Rachel Carson. In 1962, her book Silent Spring was published. In one part of this work, Carson wrote:

“It is not my contention that chemical pesticides must never be used. I do contend that we have put poisons and biologically potent chemicals into the hands of persons largely or wholly ignorant of their potentials for harm. We have subjected enormous numbers of people to contact with these poisons, without their consent and often without their knowledge. . . . I contend, furthermore, that we have allowed these chemicals to be used with little or no advance investigation of their effect on soil, water, wildlife, and man himself. Future generations are unlikely to condone our lack of prudent concern for the integrity of the natural world that supports all life.”

Rachel Carson argued that the use of pesticides—chemicals sprayed on crops to kill insects—was having deadly, unforeseen results. Besides insects, birds, fish, and other wild animals were being killed by the buildup of pesticides in the environment. Also, the pesticide residue on food was harming humans.

Carson’s warnings alarmed many scientists. As they conducted research and published studies, they showed that dangers to the environment have many sources.

One source is the rapid increase in world population. Many fear that Earth’s resources cannot support the ever-expanding population. A specific environmental by-product of population growth is deforestation—the clearing of forests. Forests and jungles have been cut down to provide more farmland and firewood, removing the natural dwelling places for plants and animals. In 1997, fires in Indonesia raged out of control, destroying thousands of acres of rain forest that were home to many species. The fires, which have recurred in recent years, also caused intense smog.

Especially worrisome is the rapid destruction of tropical rain forests near Earth’s equator. Although the tropical rain forests cover only 6 percent of Earth’s surface, they support 50 percent of the world’s species of plants and animals. The tropical rain forests are also crucial to human survival. They remove carbon dioxide from the air and return oxygen to it.

Chemical Wastes and Disasters Another danger to the environment is chemical waste. One concern involves chlorofluorocarbons, which are gases used in aerosol cans, refrigerators, and automobile air conditioners. Many scientists warn that the release of...
Deforestation is one by-product of growing population.

1. Interpreting Maps
Which continent has the greatest area of existing tropical rain forest?

2. Applying Geography Skills
What do you notice about the location of rain forest areas, both existing and destroyed, with regard to latitude?

chlorofluorocarbons is destroying the ozone layer, a thin layer of gas in the upper atmosphere that shields Earth from the Sun’s ultraviolet rays.

Other scientists have proposed the existence of a greenhouse effect, global warming caused by the buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Global warming could create various problems. Sea levels could rise because of melting polar ice, for example, and cause flooding of coastal areas. Yet another problem is acid rain, the rainfall that results when sulfur produced by factories mixes with moisture in the air. Acid rain has been held responsible for killing forests in both North America and Europe.

Major ecological disasters have also occurred during the last 20 years. In 1984, a chemical plant at Bhopal, India, released toxic fumes into the air, killing 3,800 people and injuring another 100,000. A nuclear explosion at Chernobyl in 1986 released radiation that killed hundreds and had long-lasting health and environmental consequences. In 1989, the oil tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground in Alaska. Thousands of birds were killed, fishing grounds were polluted, and the local environment was devastated.

These ecological disasters made people more aware of the need to deal with environmental problems. In 1987, representatives of 43 nations meeting in Montreal agreed to protect Earth’s ozone layer by reducing the use of chlorofluorocarbons. In 1997, a conference on global warming was held in Kyoto, Japan. To reduce emissions, more than 150 nations signed the Kyoto Protocol. The European Union and Japan ratified the treaty in 2002, but in 2001, President George W. Bush withdrew the United States from the agreement, arguing that the treaty was flawed.

Sustainable Development Economic development that does not limit the ability of future generations to meet their basic needs is known as sustainable development. The UN has promoted sustainable development by urging nations to work to conserve all natural resources.

One of the most basic necessities of life is water. In a 2003 report, the UN noted that one-sixth of the world’s population is without water for drinking or agriculture. Women in Africa and Asia must walk nearly 4 miles (6 km) to collect water. Those who cannot get clean water often get sick with cholera, typhoid, and diarrhea. More than 5 million people die every year from the lack of water or drinking untreated water.

Many nations have reacted to environmental threats by enacting recycling and water conservation programs and by curbing the dumping of toxic materials. It is not yet clear if these measures will be enough to achieve sustainable development.

Reading Check
Summarizing
What global concerns have arisen since the 1960s?
The Technological Revolution

Main Idea The benefits of the technological revolution must be balanced against its costs.

Reading Connection Have you heard news reports about laws to limit research methods in science? Read on to learn about the medical and technological advances that raise new questions of public policy.

Since World War II, but especially since the 1970s, a stunning array of changes has created a technological revolution. Like the first and second Industrial Revolutions, this revolution, too, is having a profound effect on people’s daily lives and on entire societies.

Transportation, Communications, and Space Modern transportation and communication systems are transforming the world community. Since the 1970s, jumbo jet airliners have moved millions of people around the world each year. The Internet—the world’s largest computer network—provides quick access to enormous quantities of information. The development of the World Wide Web in the 1990s made the Internet even more accessible to people everywhere. Satellites, cable television, facsimile (fax) machines, and cellular telephones allow people to communicate with each other practically everywhere on Earth.

Space exploration is yet another world-changing development. In 1969, the American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon. Space probes and shuttle flights have increased scientific knowledge and contributed indirectly to practical gains in medicine, engineering, and other fields. A visible sign of continuing scientific research through the space program is the Hubble Space Telescope. Launched in 1990 by NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration), the telescope orbits Earth, takes pictures of objects billions of miles away, and gathers data on the chemical makeup of matter.

The benefits have not come without great human costs. In 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded a minute or so after liftoff, killing all onboard. In 2003, seven astronauts died when the shuttle Columbia abruptly disintegrated over Texas in the last minutes of a 16-day mission. In both cases, Americans responded with a profound sense of grief.

Health Care and Agriculture In the field of health, new medicines allow doctors to treat both physical and mental illnesses, while new technologies, such as computer-aided imaging, let them perform “miracle” operations. Organ transplants and mechanical valves and pumps for the heart have allowed people to live longer, more productive lives.

Technological changes in the field of health have raised new concerns, however, and have led to a new field of study called bioethics, which deals with moral choices in medical research. For example, genetic engineering is a new scientific field that alters the genetic information of cells to produce new variations. Some scientists have questioned whether genetic engineering might accidentally create new strains of deadly bacteria that could not be controlled. The issues of stem-cell research and human cloning have also generated intense debate.

In agriculture, the Green Revolution was heralded as a technological solution to feeding the world’s population. The Green Revolution refers to the development of new strains of rice, corn, and other grains that have greater yields. The drawbacks are that immense quantities of chemical fertilizers are needed to grow the new strains, and many farmers cannot afford them. In addition, the new crops are often vulnerable to insects that must be controlled by pesticides that damage the environment.

Weapons The technological revolution has also led to frightening weapons, such as nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. The end of the Cold War
reduced the risk of major nuclear conflict, but regional nuclear conflicts seem possible. There are also fears that terrorists will obtain and use nuclear materials.

The potential threat from biological and chemical weapons was raised when anthrax-filled letters were used to kill several Americans in 2001. Biowarfare, the use of disease and poison against civilians and soldiers in wartime, is not new. The first known incident occurred in Europe in the 1300s when, during a siege, plague-infested corpses were launched over city walls to infect the populace. Chemical weapons were used extensively in World War I and during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s.

Governments have made agreements to limit the research, production, and use of biological and chemical weapons. The 1925 Geneva Protocol, for example, prohibited the use of such weapons, though not research or production of them. In 1972, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed only to permit work on defensive biological weapons.

These measures have not prevented terrorists from practicing bioterrorism, the use of biological and chemical weapons. In 1995, members of a Japanese religious sect named Aum Shinrikyo released a chemical agent, sarin gas, in a Tokyo subway, killing 12 people and injuring thousands.

Identifying List industries affected by the technological revolution since World War II.

Political and Economic Challenges

Main Idea Developing nations face continuing problems of poverty, population growth, and ethnic conflict.

Reading Connection Have you heard news reports on the “outsourcing” of American jobs? Read further to learn about the challenges of a global economy.

The global economy began to develop after World War II and gathered momentum in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) was established. Trade agreements are made and upheld by its more than 140 members. The WTO has been criticized for placing commercial interests over environmental and health concerns and leaving out small and developing countries. Still, the WTO is the only global international organization dealing with rules of trade among nations.

Another symbol of the global economy is the multinational corporation. There are a growing number of multinationals—banks, computer companies, airlines, and fast-food chains that do business around the world. In this way, multinationals are creating a more interdependent world.

The Gap Between Rich and Poor Nations One of the features of the global economy is the wide gap between rich and poor nations. Rich nations are mainly in the Northern Hemisphere and include the United States, Canada, countries in western Europe, and Japan. They have well-organized industrial and education systems and use advanced technologies. Poor nations, often called developing countries, are mainly in the Southern Hemisphere and include many nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Developing countries are mainly farming nations with little technology.

A serious problem in developing countries is explosive population growth. The world’s population today is 6.2 billion. By 2050, the UN projects that it will reach 9 billion. Much of the growth is occurring in poor countries that can least afford it. Hunger has also become a staggering problem. Every year, over 8 million people die of hunger, many young children. Poor and eroded soil, natural catastrophes, and economic and political factors contribute to hunger.

Food Shortages and Civil Wars In recent years, civil wars have been devastating in creating food shortages. Not only does war disrupt normal farming, but enemies deliberately limit access to food to civilian populations in order to defeat their opponents. This tactic was practiced on a grand scale in the Soviet Union in the early 1930s. When Russian peasants in the Ukraine resisted the order to join a collective farm, the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin responded brutally,
purging the population and confiscating food. Between 1932 and 1933, Stalin’s famine resulted in as many as seven million deaths.

During a civil conflict in the African nation of Sudan, combatants prevented food from reaching people living in enemy territory. By the early 1990s, 1.3 million had died from starvation. In the early 2000s, as unrest in Sudan continued, families in Darfur, a region in the west, were forced to leave their farms and prevented from returning. As a result, some estimate that at least 70,000 men, women, and children starved to death by mid-2004.

**The Outlook for Democracy** After World War II, African and Asian leaders identified democracy as the defining theme of their new political cultures. Within a decade, however, democratic systems in many developing countries had been replaced by military dictatorships or one-party governments. Many leaders underestimated the difficulties of building democratic political institutions.

In recent years, there have been signs of renewed interest in democracy, especially in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Examples are the free elections held in South Korea, Taiwan, and the Philippines. Similar developments have taken place in a number of African countries and throughout Latin America.

Regional, ethnic, and religious differences continue to create conflict. In Europe, Yugoslavia has been torn apart by ethnic divisions. In the Middle East, the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians continues to produce acts of terror. Conflicts among hostile ethnic groups in Africa have led to genocide. It remains to be seen how such conflicts can be resolved.

### Checking for Understanding

1. **Vocabulary** Define: ecology, deforestation, ozone layer, greenhouse effect, acid rain, nuclear, sustainable development, mental, biowarfare, bioterrorism.


3. **Places** Locate: Bhopal, Chernobyl.

4. **Explain** why technological advance and environmental problems are sometimes connected.

### Critical Thinking

5. **Examining Trends** What are the individual and global consequences of overpopulation?

6. **Summarizing Information** Create a chart like the one below listing technological advances and their costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advances</th>
<th>Drawback or Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space Exploration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaponry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Analyzing Visuals

7. **Evaluate** Study the photographs on this page and on page 747. How would such photos spark increased aid efforts from developed nations?

### Writing About History

8. **Expository Writing** By now, many nations recognize that environmental damage can be significant and their leaders hold formal meetings on them. In an essay, describe why some leaders disagree over the best solutions to global environmental problems.
The global economy and new global threats have stimulated individuals and international organizations to work on global problems.

- International organizations have evolved that focus on a variety of international problems. (p. 750)
- Voluntary organizations and average citizens have become more active in working on global problems. (p. 752)

**Main Idea**

**Content Vocabulary**
- peacekeeping force
- disarmament group

**Academic Vocabulary**
- approach
- professional
- constant

**People to Identify**
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

**Places to Locate**
- China

**Reading Objectives**

1. Name the international organization that arose at the end of World War II to help maintain peace.
2. Describe how ordinary citizens have worked to address the world’s problems.

**Reading Strategy**

**Organizing Information**

Create a pyramid like the one below to depict how the United Nations is organized.

**Preview of Events**

- **1945** United Nations founded
- **1946** United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) founded
- **1947**
- **1948** United Nations General Assembly adopts Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- **1949**

**California Standards in This Section**

Reading this section will help you master these California History—Social Science Standards.

10.9.8: Discuss the establishment and work of the United Nations and the purposes and functions of the Warsaw Pact, SEATO, NATO, and the Organization of American States.

10.10.2: Describe the recent history of the regions, including political divisions and systems, key leaders, religious issues, natural features, resources, and population patterns.

10.10.3: Discuss the important trends in the regions today and whether they appear to serve the cause of individual freedom and democracy.
The United Nations

Main Idea International organizations have evolved that focus on a variety of international problems.

Reading Connection Did you hear debates on whether the United States needed UN cooperation for the Iraqi invasion? Read further to learn about the origins of the UN.

By 1945, two world wars had killed millions of people and devastated the material resources of many nations around the globe. The experience of the Holocaust during World War II made many people painfully aware of the need for an international organization to monitor world conflicts that could lead to genocide and war. This awareness was obvious at an early session of the newly founded United Nations.

The UN was founded in 1945 at the end of World War II. American president Franklin Delano Roosevelt was especially eager to create an organization to work for peace. Already at the Yalta Conference of February 1945, with the war still being fought, the “Big Three”—Roosevelt, British prime minister Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union—had agreed to found an international organization.

Roosevelt died two months later, but his successor, President Harry Truman, arranged for the founding meeting to be held in San Francisco in April 1945. There the representatives of the Allied forces worked out the mission and structure of the United Nations.

The United Nations has two chief goals: peace, and human dignity and welfare. These goals were clearly stated in its charter. Members pledged:

"to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime . . . brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

The UN has two main bodies. The first is the General Assembly, made up of representatives from all member nations. It has the power to discuss any important question and to recommend action. The second main body is the Security Council, the most important advisory group to the General Assembly. Five nations have permanent seats on the Security Council: the United States, Russia, Great Britain, France, and China. Ten other members serve for limited terms.

The Security Council decides what actions the United Nations should take to settle international disputes. Because each permanent member can veto a decision, deliberations can often end in a stalemate. Overall administration of the UN is under the secretary-general.

On December 10, 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It took the lead in affirming the basic human rights of all peoples in the following statement:

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. . . . Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. . . . Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person. . . . Everyone has the right to freedom of movement. . . . Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression."

In recent decades, many nations have become more convinced that there are many significant problems—not just war and peace, but economic and environmental problems—that can only be solved by working with other nations. Today, the UN is one of the most visible symbols of the new globalism.

The UN was founded in 1945 at the end of World War II. American president Franklin Delano Roosevelt was especially eager to create an organization to work for peace. Already at the Yalta Conference of February 1945, with the war still being fought, the “Big Three”—Roosevelt, British prime minister Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union—had agreed to found an international organization.
Many specialized agencies carry out the UN’s mission to promote human dignity and welfare. Among these agencies are: the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The International Monetary Fund (IMF), another specialized agency, focuses on economic needs and provides funds for economic development to developing nations.

These agencies have been relatively successful in addressing economic and social problems. Around the world, UN agencies have worked to prevent the spread of AIDS, to eradicate polio, and to supplement basic nutrition. They have also worked to develop new fisheries, new farming practices, or to counter practices that harm the environment.

With the second broad mission of the UN—promoting peace—it is more difficult to measure success. Until recently, the basic weakness of the United Nations was that for much of its existence, it was subject to the whims of the two superpowers. The rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War was often played out at the expense of the United Nations. The United Nations had little success, for example, in reducing the arms race between the two superpowers.

Since the end of the Cold War, the United Nations has played a more active role in keeping alive a vision of international order. Even in the past decade, however, the basic dilemma that faced the UN remains. If an international conflict is serious, the UN is hampered by at least two factors. First, few sovereign nations are willing to allow an outside body to make peace or establish order within its borders. Second, member nations do not often agree on the best solution for an international problem.

A dramatic example of the weakness of the UN in an international dispute came in the Iraq war of 2003–2004. In the early months of 2003, the United States tried to win the support of the United Nations for its decision to invade Iraq to look for weapons of mass destruction. When the UN did not pass a resolution of support, the American government proceeded alone.

On a number of occasions, the UN has been able to provide peacekeeping forces—military forces drawn from neutral member states to settle conflicts and supervise truces in “hot spots” around the globe. Such missions can be successful, but if warring forces are not ready to consider peace, the UN effort may fail.

**Reading Check**

**Analyzing** Why is the UN Security Council so important?
New Global Visions

Main Idea Voluntary organizations and average citizens have become more active in working on global problems.

Reading Connection Have you ever heard of Doctors Without Borders or the International Red Cross? Read to learn about the role of NGOs in world affairs.

In recent decades, an awareness of global problems has led to new social movements. The approach in these social movements is to get ordinary citizens involved.

These movements try to address problems that are shared by many nations. They have focused their efforts on many different areas, including threats to the environment, women’s and men’s liberation, child labor issues, the development of human potential, the appropriate use of technology, and promoting peaceful solutions to conflict.

Sometimes individual citizens are motivated to join voluntary organizations that draw their membership from people in many different countries. The Red Cross and church-related charitable organizations fall into this category.

At other times, individuals decide that acting at the grassroots level, that is, in their own community, is the best way to work on solving a global problem. One of the favorite slogans of grassroots groups is: “Think globally, act locally.”

Hazel Henderson, a British-born economist, has been especially active in founding public interest groups that focus on problems like these. Henderson believes that citizen groups can be an important force for greater global unity and justice.

In Creating Alternative Futures, Henderson presented her argument for the role of ordinary people:

“These aroused citizens are by no means all mindless young radicals. Well-dressed, clean-shaven, middle-class businessmen and their suburban wives comprise the major forces in California fighting against nuclear power. Hundreds of thousands of middle-class mothers are bringing massive pressure to ban commercials and violent programs from children’s television.”

Another movement that has emerged to address world problems is the growth of NGOs, or non-governmental organizations. NGOs include professional, business, and cooperative organizations; foundations; religious, peace, and disarmament groups that work to limit the size of military forces and weapon stocks; organizations to protect the welfare of women and children; environmental groups; and human rights groups.

American educator Elise Boulding has been active in promoting NGOs. Boulding believes that NGOs can educate people to think about problems from a global perspective. “Since NGOs by definition are identified...
with interests that transcend national boundaries,” she says, “we expect all NGOs to define problems in global terms, to take account of human interests and needs as they are found in all parts of the planet.” The number of international NGOs increased from 176 in 1910 to nearly 37,000 in 2000.

Global approaches to global problems, however, have been hindered by political, ethnic, and religious disputes. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict keeps much of the Middle East in constant turmoil. Religious differences between Hindus and Muslims help inflame relations between India and Pakistan. The United States and Canada have argued about the effects of acid rain on Canadian forests.

National and ethnic disputes increased at the end of the twentieth century when the Soviet Union collapsed. Many new nations emerged from the old Soviet empire. Both in Eastern Europe and central and southwestern Asia, some of these nations have become involved in ethnic or boundary conflicts.

One of the worst examples of such conflict occurred in the lands of the former Yugoslavia. The Bosnian war that broke out there clearly indicates the dangers in unchecked nationalist sentiment and religious passion. Even though people around the world share in a global culture and are more interdependent in a global economy, old ethnic and nationalist conflicts continue to disrupt peace and progress.

Many lessons can be learned from the study of world history. One of them is especially clear: a lack of involvement in the affairs of society can easily lead to a sense of powerlessness. For each generation, an understanding of our world heritage and its lessons can offer the opportunity to make wise choices in a complex and sometimes chaotic world. We are all creators of history. The choices we make in our everyday lives will affect the future of world civilization.

A Doctors Without Borders worker examines a patient in Afghanistan.
The authors of the following passages try to predict the state of the world in the near future in terms of conflicts, ecology, and national and cultural interests.

**SOURCE 1: The World in Conflict**

*Harvard University professor Samuel P. Huntington wrote the following article entitled “The Clash of Civilizations” in the journal Foreign Affairs in 1993.*

It is my **hypothesis**¹ that the fundamental source of conflict in this new world will not be primarily ideological or primarily economic. The great divisions among humankind and the dominating source of conflict will be cultural. Nation states will remain the most powerful actors in world affairs, but the principal conflicts of global politics will occur between nations and groups of different civilizations. . . .

. . . differences between civilizations are real and important; civilization-consciousness is increasing; conflict between civilizations will supplant ideological and other forms of conflict as the dominant global form of conflict [and] conflicts between groups in different civilizations will be more frequent, more sustained and more violent than conflicts between groups in the same civilization. . . .

In the longer term other measures would be called for. Western civilization is both Western and modern.

¹**hypothesis:** a stated proposal or principle

Non-Western civilizations have attempted to become modern without becoming Western. To date only Japan has fully succeeded in this quest. . . . This will require the West to maintain the economic and military power necessary to protect its interests in relation to these civilizations. It will also, however, require the West to develop a more profound understanding of the basic religious and philosophical assumptions underlying other civilizations and the ways in which people in those civilizations see their interests. It will require an effort to identify elements of commonality between Western and other civilizations. For the relevant future, there will be no universal civilization, but instead a world of different civilizations, each of which will have to learn to coexist with the others.

**SOURCE 2: Ecological Concern for the Future**

*Author Jeremy Brecher and union activist Tim Costello co-authored the following passage from the book Global Village or Global Pillage in 1994, which details their concerns about global transition.*

Globalization has affected every economic structure from the World Bank to local governments and workplaces. Correcting its devastating impact will take changes in each of these interlocking structures. . . .

As long as democracy remains exclusively national it will remain largely powerless to address the economic problems of ordinary people. It will take **democratization**² at each level from the local to the global to implement an effective alternative economic program. And it will take continuing grassroots mobilization to see that such a program actually works. . . .

The current industrial system is already destroying the earth’s air, water, land, and biosphere. Global warming, desertification, pollution, and resource exhaustion will make the earth uninhabitable long before every Chinese has a private car and every American a private boat or plane.

²**democratization:** the act of becoming democratic
The solution to this dilemma lies in converting the system of production and consumption to an ecologically sound basis. The technology to do this exists or can be developed, from solar energy to public transportation and from reusable products to resource-minimizing production processes. However, a system in which the search for ever-expanding profits has no regulation or limits will continue to use environmentally destructive processes to produce luxuries, pollutants, and waste.

The energies now directed to the race to the bottom need to be redirected to rebuilding the global economy on a humanely and environmentally sound basis.

SOURCE 3: The End of Globalism


Despite that initial certainty, a growing vagueness now surrounds the original promise of Globalization; we seem to have lost track of what was repeatedly declared thirty years ago, even ten years ago, to be inevitable:

That the power of the nation-state was on its way out, to be replaced by that of global markets. That in the future, economics, not politics or arms, would determine the course of human events. That freed markets would quickly establish natural international balances, impervious to the old boom-and-bust cycles. That prosperous markets would turn dictatorships into democracies. That all of this would discourage irresponsible nationalism, racism, and political violence. That global economics would produce stability through the creation of ever larger corporations impervious to bankruptcy. That these transnational corporations would provide a new kind of international leadership, free of local political prejudices. That the rise of global marketplace leadership and the decline of national politics, with its tendency to deform healthy economic processes, would force the emergence of debt-free governments. By then wedding our governments to a permanent state of deficit-free public accounting, our societies would thus be stabilized.

[In the mid 1990s] there were three particularly obvious signs that Globalization would not deliver on its promises. First, the leadership of a movement devoted to “real competition” was made up largely of private-sector bureaucrats—managing large joint-stock companies. Most of the changes they sought were aimed at reducing competition.

Second, the idea of transnationals as new virtual nation-states missed the obvious. Natural resources are fixed in place, inside nation-states. And consumers live on real land in real places. These are called countries. It would be only a matter of time before elected leaders noticed that their governments were far stronger than the large corporations.

Finally, the new approach to debt—public versus private, First World versus Third World—revealed a fatal confusion. Those who preached Globalization couldn’t tell the difference between ethics and morality. Ethics is the measurement of the public good. Globalization had shoved ethics to the side from the very beginning and insisted upon a curious sort of moral righteousness that included maximum trade, unrestrained self-interest, and governments alone respecting their debts.

4. joint-stock companies: capital provided by a number of people

DBQ Document-Based Questions

Historical Analysis

Source 1: According to Huntington, what will be the source of future conflict in the world? What were the sources of conflict previously?

Source 2: What solutions do Brecher and Costello propose to fix the global economy?

Source 3: In Saul’s essay, what does he claim globalization promised to do and failed?

Comparing and Contrasting Sources

1. How do Huntington, Brecher and Costello, and Saul view nationalism and the role of nation-states in a global economy?

2. How do you see globalization in your own life?

5. global markets: international area for commodities or services
CHAPTER 17 Challenges and Hopes for the Future

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the world has become a global society. Nations are politically and economically dependent on each other, and the world’s problems are of a global nature, as shown in the chart below.

**Cultural Diffusion**
- Jumbo jetliners transport passengers around the world.
- Corporations have offices in more than one country.
- Advances in communication, such as the Internet, connect people around the globe.

**Technological Innovation**
- The science of ecology is born.
- American astronauts land on the moon.
- Super strains of corn, rice, and other grains produce greater crop yields.
- Health care advances prolong lives.
- Developments in transportation and communication transform the world community.

**Cooperation**
- The Earth Summit meets in Rio de Janeiro.
- Nations enact recycling programs and curb the dumping of toxic materials.
- The United Nations forms to promote world peace.
- Nongovernmental organizations advocate social and environmental change.

**Conflict**
- Massive growth in world population causes overcrowding and hunger in many countries.
- Regional, ethnic, and religious differences continue to produce violence around the world.
- International terrorists remain a threat to peace and security.

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**Reviewing Content Vocabulary**
*On a sheet of paper, use each of these terms in a sentence.*

1. ecology  
2. deforestation  
3. ozone layer  
4. greenhouse effect  
5. acid rain  
6. sustainable development  
7. biowarfare  
8. bioterrorism  
9. peacekeeping force  
10. disarmament group

**Reviewing Academic Vocabulary**
*On a sheet of paper, use each of these terms in a sentence that reflects the term’s meaning in the chapter.*

11. nuclear  
12. mental  
13. approach  
14. professional  
15. constant

**Reviewing the Main Ideas**

**Section 1**

16. What environmental message was the theme of _Silent Spring_?  
17. Explain the greenhouse effect and the problems it could create.

**Section 2**

18. When and where did the world’s nations meet to discuss environmental issues?  
19. What problems do developing nations face?  
20. What contributes to the hunger problem in developing nations?

**Critical Thinking**

25. **Evaluating** Analyze the interdependency of developing and industrialized nations.  
26. **Cause and Effect** Explain the increased potential for regional nuclear wars since the Soviet Union disintegrated.
27. **Reading Skill**  
**Inferring** Grassroots organizations have created more opportunities for an individual citizen to influence policy. After you read this chapter, consider what global issues affect you in some way. Make an inference about what you could do to affect policy on these issues.

### Writing About History

28. **Historical Analysis**  
**Contextualizing Events** Select a current event covered in this chapter and write a one-page essay identifying all the factors needed to understand this event in context. Be sure to consider national and global causes and effects. [CA 10.3]

29. **Big Idea**  
Write an essay comparing the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl with the chemical plant accident in Bhopal and the grounding of the *Exxon Valdez* in Alaska. Which disaster was the most devastating to the environment, in your opinion? Why do you have this opinion, and how would you prevent a future disaster?

### Analyzing Sources

In the following excerpt from her book *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson cautioned about the dangers of harmful chemicals:

> “It is not my contention that chemical pesticides must never be used. I do contend that we have put poisons and biologically potent chemicals into the hands of persons largely or wholly ignorant of their potentials for harm. . . . Future generations are unlikely to condone our lack of prudent concern for the integrity of the natural world that supports all life.”

30. Summarize the argument that Carson is presenting in this quotation.

31. Who will question the lack of concern shown for the natural world, in Carson’s opinion?

32. Why was *Silent Spring* a groundbreaking book? How has it influenced the ways in which people view the relationship between humans and the natural world? [CA 10.RL.3.12]

### Standards Practice

**Directions:** Choose the best answer to the following question.

36. Which of the following statements is true about the UN?  

A. There are seven permanent members of the Security Council.  

B. Its chief goals are peace and the protection of human rights.  

C. It is easy to get UN members to agree on a course of action.  

D. The UN was founded after World War I.

Jonathan Iwegbu counted himself extraordinarily lucky. “Happy survival!” meant so much more to him than just a current fashion of greeting old friends in the first hazy days of peace. It went deep to his heart. He had come out of the war with five inestimable blessings—his head, his wife Maria’s head and the heads of three out of their four children. As a bonus he also had his old bicycle—a miracle too but naturally not to be compared to the safety of five human heads.

The bicycle had a little history of its own. One day at the height of the war it was commandeered “for urgent military action.” Hard as its loss would have been to him he would still have let it go without a thought had he not had some doubts about the genuineness of the officer. It wasn’t his disreputable rags, nor the toes peeping out of one blue and one brown canvas shoes, nor yet the two stars of his rank done obviously in a hurry in Biro, that troubled Jonathan; many good and heroic soldiers looked the same or worse. It was rather a certain lack of grip and firmness in his manner. So Jonathan, suspecting he might be
amenable to influence, rummaged in his raffia bag and produced the two pounds with which he had been going to buy firewood which his wife, Maria, retailed to camp officials for extra stock-fish and corn meal, and got his bicycle back. That night he buried it in the little clearing in the bush where the dead of the camp, including his own youngest son, were buried. When he dug it up again a year later after the surrender all it needed was a little palm-oil greasing. “Nothing puzzles God,” he said in wonder.

He put it to immediate use as a taxi and accumulated a small pile of Biafran money ferrying camp officials and their families across the four-mile stretch to the nearest tarred road. His standard charge per trip was six pounds and those who had the money were only glad to be rid of some of it in this way. At the end of a fortnight he had made a small fortune of one hundred and fifteen pounds.

Then he made the journey to Enugu and found another miracle waiting for him. It was unbelievable. He rubbed his eyes and looked again and it was still standing there before him. But, needless to say, even that monumental blessing must be accounted also totally inferior to the five heads in the family. This newest miracle was his little house in Ogui Overside. Indeed nothing puzzles God!

Only two houses away a huge concrete edifice some wealthy contractor had put up just before the war was a mountain of rubble. And here was Jonathan’s little zinc house of no regrets built with mud blocks quite intact! Of course the doors and windows were missing and five sheets off the roof. But what was that? And anyhow he had returned to Enugu early enough to pick up bits of old zinc and wood and soggy sheets of cardboard lying around the neighborhood before thousands more came out of their forest holes looking for the same things. He got a destitute carpenter with one old hammer, a blunt plane and a few bent and rusty nails in his tool bag to turn this assortment of wood, paper and metal into door and window shutters for five Nigerian shillings or fifty Biafran pounds. He paid the pounds, and moved in with his overjoyed family carrying five heads on their shoulders.

His children picked mangoes near the military cemetery and sold them to soldiers’ wives for a few pennies—real pennies this time—and his wife started making breakfast akara balls for neighbours in a hurry to start life again. With his family earnings he took his bicycle to the villages around and bought fresh palm-wine which he mixed generously in his rooms with the water which had recently started running again in the public tap down the road, and opened up a bar for soldiers and other lucky people with good money.

At first he went daily, then every other day and finally once a week, to the offices of the Coal
Corporation where he used to be a miner, to find out what was what. The only thing he did find out in the end was that that little house of his was even a greater blessing than he had thought. Some of his fellow ex-miners who had nowhere to return at the end of the day’s waiting just slept outside the doors of the offices and cooked what meal they could scrounge together in Bournvita tins. As the weeks lengthened and still nobody could say what was what Jonathan discontinued his weekly visits altogether and faced his palm-wine bar.

But nothing puzzles God. Came the day of the windfall when after five days of endless scuffles in queues and counter-queues in the sun outside the Treasury he had twenty pounds counted into his palms as ex-gratia award for the rebel money he had turned in. It was like Christmas for him and for many others like him when the payments began. They called it (since few could manage its proper official name) egg-rasher.

As soon the palm notes were placed in his palm Jonathan simply closed it tight over them and buried fist and money inside his trouser pocket. He had to be extra careful because he had seen a man a couple of days earlier collapse into near-madness in an instant before that oceanic crowd because no sooner had he got his twenty pounds than some heartless ruffian picked it off him. Though it was not right that a man in such an extremity of agony should be blamed yet many in the queues that day were able to remark quietly on the victim’s carelessness, especially after he pulled out the innards of his pocket and revealed a hole in it big enough to pass a thief’s head. But of course he had insisted that the money had been in the other pocket, pulling it out too to show its comparative wholeness. So one had to be careful.

Jonathan soon transferred the money to his left hand and pocket so as to leave his right free for shaking hands should the need arise, though by fixing his gaze at such an elevation as to miss all approaching human faces he made sure that the need did not arise, until he got home.

Interpreting World Literature

1. What does Jonathan’s encounter with the false officer reveal about the conditions of the war?
2. Biafra lost the civil war. What clues in the text indicate this outcome?
3. Why was having a bicycle a “miracle”?
4. CRITICAL THINKING Do you think it is effective for Achebe to discuss the war through an individual account rather than as a direct discussion of the devastation created? Why or why not?

Applications Activity

Choose a contemporary problem and describe it through the effect it has on an individual or family.
Against All Hope: The Prison Memoirs of Armando Valladares (Nonfiction)

Valladares, Armando (1937–) served 22 years in a Cuban prison because he resisted a decree of Fidel Castro. He was released in 1982 after an international campaign of protest. Valladares’s memoir focuses on the suffering Castro’s regime has imposed on Cubans, and especially on the prison conditions he knows from personal experience.

The Frozen Waterfall (Fiction)

Hicyilmaz, Gaye (1947–) was born in England and raised in Turkey, but moved to Switzerland when she was young. In this novel, she tells the story of a 12-year-old girl who makes a similar journey. In Switzerland, she struggles to adapt to a new language and culture. Her friendships with an illegal Turkish immigrant and a wealthy Swiss classmate help her to cope with the taunts of her classmates. The title refers to her first holiday in the Swiss mountains where she sees a frozen waterfall.

When Heaven and Earth Changed Places: A Vietnamese Woman’s Journey from War to Peace (Autobiography)

As a young girl, author Le Ly Hayslip survived during the Vietnam War by working at many things—as a courier and lookout for the Vietcong, as part of the guerrilla army of the North Vietnamese Communists, as a bar girl, and hospital aide. This book tells the story of her experiences, including her capture by the South Vietnamese army. Years later she returned to Vietnam to search for the family she left behind. The title comes from a saying that, in war, heaven and earth change places not once but many times.

Life and Times of Michael K (Fiction)

This novel of J. M. Coetzee (1940–) was published in 1983. It tells the story of a simple-minded man who struggles against great odds to live with dignity in a war-torn world. Set in South Africa when apartheid is still a reality, Michael manages to survive poverty, violence, and cruelty by retreating into his own thoughts and the natural world.