



Investigating Global Issues: The Role of Internationalism

Chapter

14

Imagine that your community is threatened by a natural danger like spring flooding, a prairie fire, or an infestation of grasshoppers. You would expect that everyone in the community would join together in averting the worst effects of the coming danger. Imagine, however, that all the citizens decide to look after themselves rather than help each other. Imagine that everyone even works against their neighbours in order to make themselves safer. Imagine that some families are successful in blocking the water from their property or in plowing up the soil around their property to protect against fire and grasshoppers. Imagine that other families do not have the resources to protect themselves and are therefore losing everything they own—or worse, losing family members.

Does the situation described above serve as an analogy for global reality? To what extent should nations work together to face global concerns?

2005 was defined by hope wrestling against the duplicity, double speak and failed promises of governments.

Governments and armed groups attacked civilians and perpetuated grave human rights abuses. Powerful nations showed a sinister willingness to manipulate international institutions or apply double standards, and the “war on terror” swept on, gathering more victims of torture and unlawful detention in its wake.

But these acts were countered by successes in the struggle against impunity, the development of a new UN Human Rights Council, and growing public resistance to assaults on human rights. There is a real moment of opportunity. Activists, governments and institutions must grab it.¹

Through an extensive body of international law and treaties and by working with governments and other organizations on subjects ranging from promoting asylum systems to refugee advocacy, UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] promotes the legal protection of refugees and durable solutions.²

¹ Amnesty International, “Report: State of the World’s Human Rights,” 2006. http://www.wunrn.com/news/2006/06_19_06/062506_state_of.htm.

² UNHCR: The UN Refugee Agency, “Protecting the World’s Vulnerable People,” 2001–2008. <http://www.unhcr.org/protect.html>.

- What consequences of internationalism are identified in the comments above?
- With a partner, identify three global issues that affect Canadians. Discuss the consequences for Canadians of being actively engaged in addressing these issues.

Chapter Issue

To what extent does the pursuit of internationalism help address global issues?

In addressing the Main Issue for Part 3 (Chapters 11–15): *To what extent should internationalism be pursued?* you have seen that nations and states involved themselves in global issues for a variety of reasons. In this chapter you will explore how international issues are created and also solved by internationalism. The following inquiry questions will be used to guide your exploration:

- What are the impacts on global issues of pursuing internationalism?
- How can the pursuit of internationalism help resolve global issues?

By examining the Chapter Issue you will develop a deeper understanding of the impact of internationalism. The Skill Path for this chapter will help you use geographic information to address the Chapter Issue.

SKILL PATH

Relating Human Action to Geography

When people think about geography, many simply think about maps. Geography is much more than this. It is best thought of as a way to understand human and natural interactions. This idea of linking human action, location, and change is the focus of this Skill Path.

Suppose your Member of Parliament came to your school asking students to suggest the top five countries with which Canada should develop close political ties. To provide an answer, you might go through the following steps.

Step 1 Brainstorm Possible Geographic Information

The first step is to create a list of questions that can be used to guide your inquiry. Examples of geographic questions include:

- Who are Canada's major trade partners for both imports and exports? Why?
- With whom are we partners in defence? Why?
- What are the countries of origin of immigrants and what are the destinations of emigrants? Why?
- Who are our closest neighbours?
- What are some perceived benefits of increased political ties with these countries?

Step 2 Gather Geographic Information

To answer your questions from Step 1, you need to gather information from a variety of sources.

Useful sources might include statistics, maps, graphs, tables, charts, spreadsheets, timelines, and written summaries. Some geographic sources can provide specific information, for example:

- Maps show patterns and relationships over areas.

- Statistical data in tables and graphs sometimes show trends, sequences, and relationships.
- Texts and documents provide interpretations and explanations.

How might you record information you obtain from photographs or other visual sources? Where else can you find valid and reliable sources?

Step 3 Organize Information

Once information is collected, you need to organize it in a way that helps you analyze and interpret what you have learned. This may involve putting raw data into an easily understood form that allows you to see patterns and connections. For example:

- Important quotations could be put in tables.
- Graphs and diagrams could be created.
- Visuals could be sorted by theme.
- Colours, scales, and symbols could be used on maps.

Step 4 Analyzing Geographic Information

Review the information and analyze it by

- looking for similarities
- identifying patterns
- drawing inferences
- looking for trends and relationships

Be aware that your analysis may lead to new questions that need to be answered so that you can formulate a sound answer.

Step 5 Formulate an Answer

Through the geographic inquiry process you will be able to make generalizations on the topic or issue, which can help in making decisions, solving problems, or making judgments. Look back at your topic or issue and write a clear and defensible answer or position.

Practise It!

Let's go back to the question posed by your MP: With which five countries should Canada develop close political ties? Figure 14-1 provides an example of the kind of information you might use to develop an answer to this geographic inquiry. What other kinds of information do you think might be useful?

Apply It!

In this chapter you will investigate: **To what extent does the pursuit of internationalism help address global issues?** Follow the steps in this Skill Path when investigating this issue. If necessary, narrow your inquiry to a specific global issue.

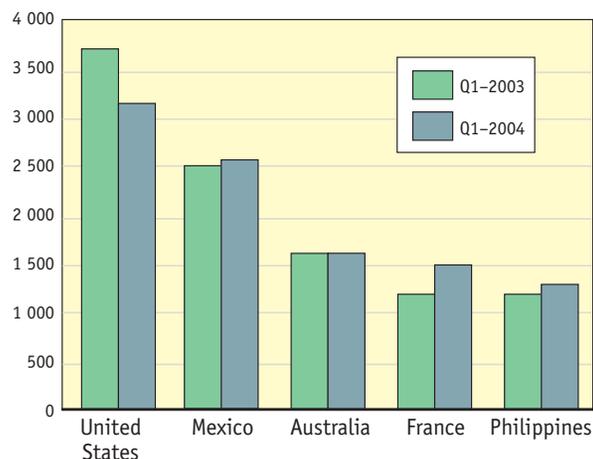


Figure 14-1 ▲

This graph shows the top five countries of origin of foreign workers in Canada for the first three months of 2003 and of 2004.³

Internationalism and the Creation of Global Issues

Question for Inquiry

- What are the impacts on global issues of pursuing internationalism?

Before you examine how internationalism affects global issues, you should review understandings of *internationalism*. You have seen that one type of internationalism, *hegemonic internationalism*, involves a dominant power seeking to exert power over another group or nation-state. *Revolutionary internationalism* involves an attempt to make drastic change, though not necessarily through violence. Seeking to establish greater interaction and co-operation between societies is a feature of *liberal internationalism*. In the previous chapters, internationalism of any type was explained as a process that involves political and social relationships among nations. You also explored the idea that these relationships were, in some cases, self-serving, while in others they were

³ <http://www.cic.gc.ca/English/resources/statistics/monitor/issue06/03-workers.asp>.

mutually beneficial. Can these relationships affect global issues? If so, what types of global issues can they affect?

Liberal internationalism has the optimistic belief that the world will be a better place as interaction increases between people and societies. International organizations such as the Arctic Council, the Red Cross, and the World Council of Indigenous Peoples seek to address global issues. However, good intentions can sometimes go awry. If the following saying were applied to efforts to assist developing countries, what would it mean?

Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish, and you have fed him for a lifetime.

Some would argue that shortsighted solutions can cause people to become dependent on aid and can take away their motivation to solve the problems they face. Also, giving food as a form of aid can often undermine the local economy. If food is free, how can the local farmers expect to receive a fair return for their produce? For example, following the 2004 tsunami that devastated several Indian Ocean nations, aid organizations asked for donations of money, not food and clothing. International agencies claimed the local economies could provide most of the food that was needed. Maintaining a strong economy is an important part of the recovery from crises like tsunamis and earthquakes. Supporting the local economy is equally important when trying to build a self-sustaining society.

Another example of internationalism causing global issues is the United Nations backing of the United States' presence in Bikini Atoll after the Second World War. Located in the South Pacific, Bikini is one of the 29 atolls and five islands that make up the Marshall



Figure 14-2

One year after the Indian Ocean tsunami, a seafood vendor at Peunayong Market in Banda Aceh does brisk business. Aceh was one of the areas hardest hit by the tsunami.

Islands. At the time, it was an isolated atoll with a tightly knit society.

Shortly after the Second World War, Bikini was chosen as a nuclear test ground for new destructive weapons the United States was developing. In February 1946, the military governor of the Marshall Islands asked the Bikinians if they would leave their island so that the US could begin testing the atomic bomb for “the good of mankind and to end all world wars.” The response from the leader of the Bikinian people was “We will go believing that everything is in the hands of God.” The 167 Bikinians left their homes to journey 175 kilometres east to the uninhabited Rongerik Atoll. As this atoll was smaller, with inadequate water and food, Bikinians began to starve. In less than two months, they tried to have US officials move them back to Bikini. By July, however, two underwater atomic tests had taken place and the island was contaminated by nuclear radiation.

During this time, the United Nations designated the area as a strategic trust area administered by the United States. This meant that the United States was responsible for promoting the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the area. However, little was done to accomplish this. In 1948, the Bikinians were moved to Kwajalein Atoll, where they were housed in tents. Six months later they set sail once again for Kili Island, their third relocation in two years. During this time, the United States planned to test more atomic bombs, much more powerful than those dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. One test contaminated many of the atolls of the Marshall Islands so much they were off-limits to visitors due to fear of radiation poisoning. The people living on these islands had no idea what had happened, but soon were experiencing nausea and diarrhea, and were losing their hair. Still, they were given no explanation.

In return for turning over the full use of Bikini, the islanders received cash, a trust, and annual payments that amounted to about \$5 per person per year. Bikinians struggled to eke out a living on an island unsuited to their traditional food gathering practices, and soon relied on food rations from the United States. The United States began tests to determine if Bikini was safe. Reports eventually showed that the island was much more radioactive than had been thought, and that food sources and water were severely contaminated. The islanders could not safely return.

In the 1980s, the Bikinians began a series of lawsuits seeking over \$500 million in compensation. What began as an attempt “to end all world wars” ended up creating an issue on a global level that has implications for many more people than the initial group of 167 Bikini islanders.⁴

⁴ Jack Niedenthal, “Paradise Lost—‘For the Good of Mankind,’” *The Guardian*, 6 August 2002. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4476121,00.html>.



Figure 14-3 ▲

Natives of Bikini Atoll in the Pacific, scene of the planned Army-Navy atom bomb test scheduled for May, 1946, carry their belongings down to the beach as they prepare to evacuate the atoll. The natives were moved to Rongerik Atoll, 175 kilometres away.

PAUSE AND REFLECT

Should the international community accept responsibility for the Bikini Atoll situation? Should the Bikinian Islanders be compensated? Should any nation ever be disadvantaged in the interests of the international community?

Web Link

Follow the link on the *Perspectives on Nationalism* website to visit the Global Issues website. This site allows you to explore a wide range of issues that are affected by internationalism. It also gives many references linked to other websites to allow you to dig deeper into your inquiry.

Fast Facts

- Between 1960 and 2003, 107 African leaders were overthrown. Two-thirds were murdered, jailed, or sent into exile.
- By 1979, 59 African leaders had been assassinated or thrown out of office, mainly by coups.
- Only three African leaders retired peacefully, and not one was voted out of office.
- No ruling African leader ever lost an election before 1982.

Internationalism and the Legacy of Colonialism

In recent years, the G8 (a group of the eight leading Western industrialized countries) have come together to try to address the problem of heavily indebted nations. In 2005, the G8 agreed to wipe out \$40 billion worth of debt owed by the world's 18 poorest countries, or Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs). Although this decision does not address all political issues, it gives HIPCs the opportunity to focus on improving government services such as education, health care, and poverty reduction, rather than on repaying crippling debt.

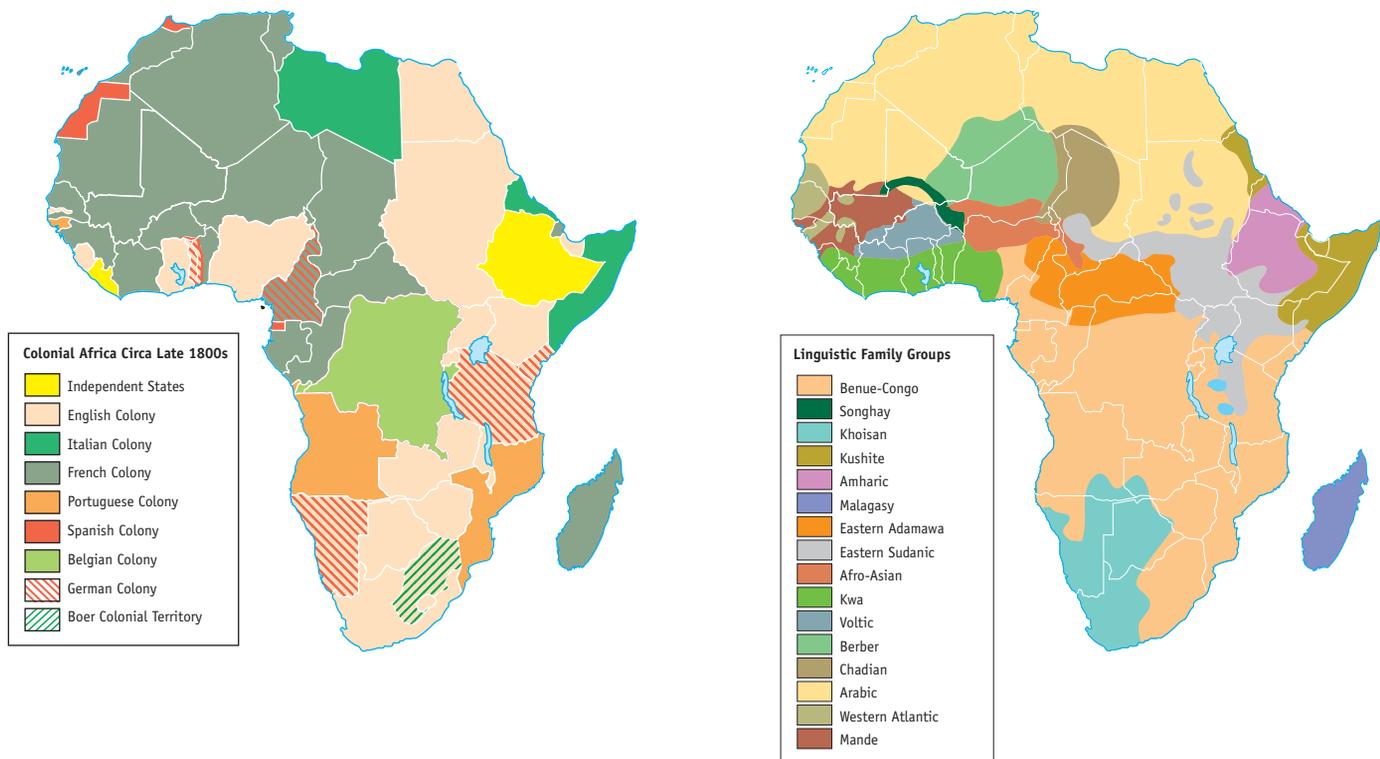


Figure 14-4 ▲

Based on the political borders and linguistic groupings from these maps, what can you deduce about the attitudes of European powers toward the ethnicities and cultures of their colonial peoples? Is it fair to judge European attitudes of the colonial era using contemporary standards? What might be the consequences of grouping peoples with different languages together in the same country?

However, there are examples of international political action having a negative impact on a global scale. Colonialism is one such example.

We must remember that the European agreements that had carved up Africa into states paid little attention to cultural and ethnic boundaries and ethnic groups had little opportunity or need to form political alliances or accommodations under repressive colonial rule ... Think of countries such as Canada, which has been trying for hundreds of years with mixed success to accommodate only two linguistic groups—English and French—and you get an idea of the problems of African states with far greater cultural and linguistic divisions.⁵

Often, the colonial administrators favoured one ethnic group over others, allowing the members of the favoured group to gain important positions at the expense of members of other groups. The British referred to this technique as “divide and conquer”, and as a result societies were often thrown into disarray. The legacy of these practices has resulted in conflict on a scale that is difficult to comprehend.



PAUSE AND REFLECT

Consider the Chapter Issue at this point: To what extent does the pursuit of internationalism help address global issues? While colonialism was one form of internationalism pursued by some nations, in what ways did it help address global issues at the time? How might the understanding of this form of internationalism help address contemporary global issues?



Post-Colonial Africa

In these quotations, the speakers reflect on the continuing impact of colonialism on Africa.

Singer and promoter Bob Geldof is a strong advocate for addressing global issues. In the quotation below, he raises a powerful point about the impact of conflict on the identity of African people: *Consider the extent to which the Second World War of just 6 years duration has pervaded the consciousness of our developed world for 2 generations and imagine how 4 centuries of enslavement might have seized the entire social and cultural ethos of an undeveloped continent.⁶* In the following quotation, colonialism is listed as one of

many factors in creating a crisis in Africa:

It is undeniable that there has been poor governance, corruption and mismanagement in Africa. However, the briefing reveals the context—the legacy of colonialism, the support of the G8 for repressive regimes in the Cold War, the creation of the debt trap, the massive failure of Structural Adjustment Programmes imposed by the IMF and World Bank and the deeply unfair rules on international trade. The role of the G8 in creating the conditions for Africa’s crisis cannot be denied.⁷

- 1 What is the link between colonialism and “poor governance”?
- 2 How might nations begin to make up for the colonial legacy of mistreatment?
- 3 The second quotation gives five major factors contributing to the problems of African development. In a group of five, list the five factors and choose one each to briefly research. Discuss your findings so that everyone is clear about the message of this paragraph. Clearly state the message of the paragraph in your own words.
- 4 Why do you think the problems in Africa receive such little attention in the West?

⁵ Richard H. Robbins, *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism* (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2002), p. 302.

⁶ Bob Geldof, “Why Africa?” Bob Geldof Speaks at St. Paul’s Cathedral, 21 April 2004. <http://www.globalissues.org/Geopolitics/Africa/Intro.asp?p=1>.

⁷ “Press Briefing: Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) and World Development Movement (WDM),” 25 June 2002. <http://www.wdm.org.uk/news/archive/2002/G8kananaskis.htm>.

Tanzania and Economic Colonialism

Something to Think About: Why is it that when many colonies—such as those in Africa—have gained political independence, their economies have suffered?

An Example: Tanganyika, on Africa's east coast, was a German colony from the 1880s to 1919. It came under British control from 1919 to 1961. Julius Nyerere oversaw its transition to independence in 1961, and became the country's first prime minister. In 1964 Tanganyika and the former British colony of Zanzibar joined to form Tanzania. Unlike many African countries, Tanzania lacked many exportable minerals and a strong agricultural system. To address these problems, Nyerere set up co-operative farm villages and nationalized factories, plantations, banks, and private companies. The BBC News described the result:

A decade later, despite financial and technical aid from the World Bank and sympathetic countries, this programme had completely failed due to inefficiency, corruption, resistance from peasants and the rise in the price of imported petroleum.

Tanzania's economic woes were compounded in 1971 and 1981 by a costly military intervention to overthrow President Idi Amin of Uganda.

After Mr Nyerere's resignation in 1985, his successor, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, attempted to raise productivity and attract foreign investment and loans by dismantling government control of the economy ... The economy has grown, though at the price of painful fiscal reforms.⁸

Though one of the poorest countries in the world, today Tanzania has an economy that is one of the best performers in sub-Saharan Africa.

A Political Leader's Opinion: Tanzania's first prime minister, Julius Nyerere, gives his reasons for the country's failed economy following independence.

I was in Washington last year. At the World Bank the first question they asked me was "how did you fail?" I responded that we took over a country with 85 per cent of its adult population illiterate. The British ruled us for 43 years. When they left, there were 2 trained engineers and 12 doctors. This is the country we inherited.

When I stepped down [in 1985] there was 91-per-cent literacy and



Figure 14-5 ▲

Former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere

⁸ BBC News, "Country Profile: Tanzania," 15 January 2008. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1072330.stm.

nearly every child was in school. We trained thousands of engineers and doctors and teachers.

In 1988 Tanzania's per-capita income was \$280. Now, in 1998, it is \$140. So I asked the World Bank people what went wrong. Because for the last ten years Tanzania has been signing on the dotted line and doing everything the IMF and the World Bank wanted. Enrolment in school has plummeted to 63 per cent and conditions in health and other social services have deteriorated. I asked them again: "what went wrong?" These people just sat there looking at me. Then they asked what could they do? I told them have some humility. Humility—they are so arrogant! ... It seems that independence of the former colonies has suited the interests of the industrial world for bigger profits at less cost. Independence made it cheaper for them to exploit us. We became neo-colonies ... The majority of countries in Africa and the rest of the South are hamstrung by debt, by the IMF. We have too much debt now. It is a heavy burden, a trap. It is debilitating. We must have a new chance. If we doubled our production and debt-servicing capabilities we would still have no money for anything extra like education or development. It is immoral. It is an affront. The conditions and policies of the World Bank and the IMF are to enable countries to pay debt not to develop. That is all! Let us argue the moral case. Let us create a new liberation movement to free us from immoral debt and neo-colonialism.⁹

- 1 What are some of the characteristics of Tanzania's economy that caused Nyerere to fail in the eyes of the World Bank?
- 2 According to Nyerere, what successes did Tanzania experience? Why didn't these successes have a positive economic impact?
- 3 What "conditions and policies" of the World Bank and the IMF does Nyerere blame for the lack of development of African economies? What does he mean when he uses the phrase "neo-colonialism"? How does the BBC's account of Tanzania's economic woes differ from Nyerere's?
- 4 Why didn't the British colonial administration educate the Tanzanian population? Do you think the British intended to keep Tanzania poor? What would be the benefits and drawbacks of this?

⁹ Julius Nyerere, quoted in Ikaweba Bunting, "The Heart of Africa," *New Internationalist* 309 (January 1999). <http://newint.org/features/1999/01/01/anticolonialism/>

Internationalism and the Balance of Power: The War on Terror

One situation that highlights an underlying imbalance of power in the world is the American-led “war on terror”. Following the 11 September terrorist attacks, the United States developed a military coalition (initially through the UN) to invade Afghanistan, and later (without UN approval), a “coalition of the willing” to invade Iraq. The US believed that both Afghanistan and Iraq were centres of terrorist activity. One interesting, disturbing, and rather telling consequence of these wars is uncovered in the account below. As you read, consider the following questions:

- What are possible reasons for the differences in reporting conflicts after 11 September 2001?
- Do these differences reflect differences in political and economic power in the world?
- Do these differences suggest possible differences in the interpretations of internationalism by different nations?
- What does this account reveal about the equality of nations in the world community?



PAUSE AND REFLECT

How would you define terrorism? Why might definitions of terrorism change from one country to another? To what extent can international action be effective against terrorism? Should people living in democracies be willing to sacrifice human rights in order to provide security?

Wadim Shreiner, a commentator on global issues, reflects on media coverage of African wars:

September 11 has turned the watch back to the pre-1990's, virtually eliminating all events and issues that are not related to either the United States or its coalition partners—especially when reporting on conflicts ... conflicts and wars played the most important role in all analysed television stations in Britain, Germany and the United States. But subtracting from this coverage Iraq and Afghanistan, only 0.2 per cent ... focused on conflicts in Africa. Wars without the involvement of the Western nations do not seem newsworthy enough to appear on international TV news agendas, and the little coverage given only focuses on the brutality of the conflict and not on possible solutions.¹⁰

Human rights were among the first victims of the “war on terror.” To do their part in the war, many states have taken drastic measures, at times limiting the rights of their own citizens. In addition, these nations have tried to limit opposition to their actions. Critics charge that, in some places, the definition of *terrorism* is so broad that anybody the government does not like or who exercises their right to freedom of expression can be labelled a criminal.

¹⁰ Wadim Schreiner, ‘Forgotten Wars: Coverage of Wars and Conflicts in Africa in International TV News Programmes,’ *Media Tenor* (August 2003). <http://www.globalissues.org/Geopolitics/Africa/Intro.asp>.



Security and Human Rights

Consider this question as you read the following quotations: Can international aggression be

justified as a means of ensuring security?

US President George W. Bush was at the forefront of organizing action against terrorism.

*Since the attacks of September the 11th, we have been on the offense. I believe the best way to do our duty in securing the homeland is to stay on the offense. And we're not alone. That's what our fellow citizens have got to understand. We're not in this fight against extremists and murders [sic] alone ... The enemy is active, and so are those of us who love freedom. It's in the interests of the United States to encourage other nations not to relent and not to give in, but to keep the pressure on those who try to have their way by murdering the innocent. And that's exactly what we'll continue to do.*¹¹

Anti-terrorism activities have been linked to increasing attacks on human rights, according to an Amnesty International report:

*Violence by armed groups and increasing violations by governments have combined to produce the most sustained attack on human rights and international humanitarian law in 50 years. This is leading to a world of growing mistrust, fear and division.*¹²

Irene Khan, the Secretary-General of Amnesty International, suggests that global terrorism may be used by some governments to further their own agendas not directly related to terrorism.

*Governments are losing their moral compass, sacrificing the global values of human rights in a blind pursuit of security. This failure of leadership is a dangerous concession to armed groups ... The "war on terror" and the war in Iraq has encouraged a new wave of human rights abuse and diverted attention from old ones ... while many governments are openly pursuing repressive agendas. ... While governments have been obsessed with the threat of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, they have allowed the real weapons of mass destruction—injustice and impunity, poverty, discrimination and racism, the uncontrolled trade in small arms, violence against women and abuse of children—to go unaddressed.*¹³



Figure 14-6 ▲

George W. Bush

- 1 Why might some governments prefer to fight in Iraq rather than to fight poverty, racism, and other injustices?
- 2 Are there other global issues that are identified as posing a threat equal to global terrorism? Which ones have been created by apparent internationalism? Which ones can be resolved by internationalism?
- 3 Terrorism is perceived as a threat to the West because the West does not suffer from many of the problems facing less developed states. Do you think terrorism would be a problem if there were greater equality in the world? If some nations were more willing to tackle the issues of poverty and injustice, would a "war on terror" be necessary?

11 George W. Bush, "President Bush Discusses Progress in Afghanistan, Global War on Terror," 15 February 2007. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/02/20070215-1.html>.

12 Amnesty International, "Annual Report 2004: War on Global Values—Human Rights under Attack by Armed Groups and Governments," 26 May 2004. http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news_details_p.asp?NewsID=15381.

13 Irene Khan, quoted in Anup Shah, "Human Rights for All," 29 May 2004. <http://www.globalissues.org/HumanRights/HumanRightsForAll.asp>



PAUSE AND REFLECT

What is the rationale behind these measures of the IMF and the World Bank? Do these organizations intend to create poverty? Can this type of internationalism have a positive impact?

Internationalism and the Balance of Power: Structural Adjustments

One common solution to kick-start the failing economies of developing countries recommended by such international lending organizations as the IMF and the World Bank is to encourage private—and usually foreign—investment in order to allow market mechanisms to work most efficiently. To increase foreign investment, these developing nations are required to open their economies, remove protective tariffs, and compete with other states. Privatization of services, and cutbacks in health care, education, and other services are all part of the structural adjustments imposed on states looking to these international organizations for assistance. Often, this results in a “race to the bottom”, where already poor nation-states try to become more competitive by cutting government services to citizens and reducing wages. This results in higher profit margins for industries, and therefore encourages foreign investment. As you have learned on pages 306–307, the involvement of the IMF and the World Bank in Tanzania led to a reduced standard of living in that country by 1998. Free-trade zones in countries such as Vietnam, Nicaragua, and Indonesia—where workers are paid salaries so low they cannot even afford to buy the products they make—are examples of this race to the bottom.

Some have argued that these structural adjustments have positive impacts in the already wealthy parts of the world. Economic adjustments or changes may have created poverty in some areas, but they continue to create wealth in already wealthy areas. Wealthy but resource-poor states—such as Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore—all acquire resources from poor nations, so these race-to-the-bottom measures benefit these countries. European states benefit too, as they consume about 14 times the amount of resources they have within their borders.



Figure 14-7

Workers sew sport clothing at Tan Chau garment company in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Fast Facts

Some myths and realities about Africa:¹⁴

Myth	Reality
African aid is increasing.	Aid to sub-Saharan Africa fell by 48% during the 1990s.
Africa is not part of the global economy.	Trade makes up a larger proportion of the income of African nation-states than it does of G8 states.
New reforms will encourage foreign investment.	Investment in African countries has fallen since they opened up their economies.
Poverty in Africa is the result of corrupt and bad government.	According to the UN Conference on Trade and Development, it was the economic policies of the IMF and World Bank that caused African incomes to fall by at least 10% between 1980 and 2000. The income of the poorest 20% fell by nearly 40%.

What are the impacts of these adjustments? Some would argue that poverty is a major impact, and is in turn at the root of many global issues such as conflict and health concerns. In fact, UNICEF's 2000 report says that as many as 30 000 children die each day due to the effects of poverty such as disease and malnutrition.¹⁵ World hunger is a direct result of poverty created by low-income, less-developed countries exporting cheap goods to more developed states. In addition, wealthy nations continue to subsidize industries such as farming in their own countries to prevent economic collapse. This makes it difficult for unsubsidized farmers in developing countries to compete. Free trade, the goal of the World Bank and the IMF, seems to be a hoax for some. Nevertheless, feeling the pressure of debt, many less developed countries encourage farmers to produce agricultural products for export. An example of this is seen in Latin America, where beans—the crop that traditionally made up 30 per cent of the protein in the diet of Latin Americans—are now frequently scarce. The land that once grew beans is now owned by foreign-owned transnationals and now grows vegetables for export, leaving local farmers hungry and poor.

Those developing countries where adjustments have been implemented and that are in the process of industrializing require more energy and resources, which can in turn create more conflict.

¹⁴ World Development Movement, "Press Briefing: Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) and World Development Movement (WDM)," 25 June 2002. <http://www.wdm.org.uk/news/archive/2002/G8kananaskis.htm>.

¹⁵ Unicef, "The Progress of Nations," 1999, and "The State of the World's Children," 2000. <http://www.unicef.org/pon99> and <http://www.unicef.org/sowc00>.



PAUSE AND REFLECT

If the nations involved in the international marketplace are not equal in opportunity, wealth, and power, should there be an agency that adjudicates international economic dealings and international development? Who would be best placed to undertake this task? Which countries would resist this kind of activity? What reasons would they give for their opposition?

Ideas and Opinions

“ These conquered people are kept in a state of relative impoverishment. Permitting them any substantial share of the wealth would negate the historic reason for conquest—namely plunder. The ongoing role of Third World countries is to be the supplier of cheap and plentiful raw materials and agricultural products to the developed world. Nature’s wealth was, and is, being controlled to fulfill the needs of the world’s affluent people ... As a major beneficiary, we have much to gain by perpetuating the myths of overpopulations, cultural and racial inferiority, and so forth. The real causes must be kept from ourselves, as how else can this systematic damaging of others be squared with what we are taught about democracy, rights, freedom, and justice? ”

—J.W. Smith, *The World’s Wasted Wealth: The Political Economy of Waste* (Kalispell, Montana: New World’s Press, 1989), pp. 44, 45.

What does Smith suggest are the real causes of the problems faced by developing countries? Do you agree or disagree? Explain. If Smith is correct, what is the solution?

Explore the Issues

- 1 Anup Shah, editor of the online journal *Global Issues*, has said the following:
*The media is manipulated in all manners, for example through professional public relations (PR), and covert and overt government propaganda which disseminates propaganda as news. What are often deemed as credible news sources can often knowingly or unknowingly be pushing political agendas and propaganda.*¹⁶
Find examples of the coverage of a global issue involving internationalism in the mainstream media. Compare this coverage to coverage in the alternative media, such as *New Internationalist* (to visit this magazine’s website, follow the link on the *Perspectives on Nationalism* website) (www.newint.org). Compare and contrast the coverage of the issue, then respond to the following questions:
 - In what way is the media limited in the extent to which it can raise awareness of global issues?
 - In whose interest might it be to manipulate the public regarding awareness of global issues?
 - Is this manipulation intentional or unintentional?
- 2 Determine what organizations are categorized as *terrorist groups*. Research the actions of one group and the rationale for its actions. Develop a plan to describe either
 - how internationalism could address the concerns of the groupor
 - how internationalism could effectively deal with the group’s actionsPresent the results of your research to the class.
- 3 With a partner, determine the criteria for when aggressive action is acceptable for ensuring security. Examine the actions taken during the “war on terror” to determine what actions you think are acceptable and unacceptable.
- 4 Some people think countries that are rich should forgive the debts of nations that are poor. Brainstorm the impact of this on both the rich and poor nations. If you could make a recommendation on debt forgiveness, what would it be? Explain your position to a classmate and modify your response so that you both agree on the recommendation. Present your position to the class.

¹⁶ Anup Shah, “Media Manipulation,” 17 April 2006.
<http://www.globalissues.org/HumanRights/Media/Manipulation.asp>

Internationalism and the Resolution of Global Issues

Question for Inquiry

- How can the pursuit of internationalism help resolve global issues?

Despite the challenges sometimes posed by internationalism, and the suggestion that some nations use the guise of internationalism to pursue their own interests, it is important to consider its benefits.

Consider the story of the man throwing beached starfish into the sea. As he did this, a wise man came by and asked him what he was doing. The man responded that he was throwing the starfish back into the sea; the tide was going out, and these starfish would die in the hot sun. The wise man told him that there were many miles of starfish along the coast, and that he could not make a difference for so many before the sun came up. The wise man asked: “So, why even bother to try?” The man picked up another starfish and said, as he threw it into the water: “It makes a difference for that one.”

Governments have to answer the question, “What can we do to make a difference?” But they should also ask, “What can be done to minimize negative unintended outcomes?” Planning, reliance on experience, learning from past mistakes, a good look at historical context, and a creative approach to predicting outcomes are all ways that governments can develop plans that minimize negative outcomes.

Internationalism and Environmental Protection: CFCs and the Ozone Layer

One example of nations working effectively together to accomplish an environmental end has to do with chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). These chemicals had been used for years to refrigerate food and air-condition houses and cars. Freon, a trade name for this chemical, could be found in air conditioners, refrigerators, automobile air conditioners, and so on. In addition, other forms of this chemical were found in solvents, rigid foam insulation, and polystyrene (Styrofoam). Today, the use of CFCs has been significantly reduced around the world. How did this happen?

Around 1985, it was conclusively determined that holes were developing in the ozone layer above the polar regions. This layer of ozone particles creates a shield around the earth and reduces harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation reaching the surface of the earth. UV radiation causes sunburn, which can lead to skin cancer. It can also harm plant life and wildlife.

Scientists discovered that CFCs were causing these holes in the ozone layer. Waste products—like broken refrigerators, aerosol cans, and decomposing polystyrene—were emitting these gases into the atmosphere, where they combine with the ozone layer to chemically change ozone (O₃) to Oxygen (O₂). The resulting loss of ozone allows more UV radiation to reach the surface.

This is a clear example of an unintended result of human interaction with the environment. What could be done to address the situation? Scientists raised the alarm, but convincing arguments were required to make governments take action.

On International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, 16 September 2006, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated:

The Montréal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is effective and working. Since the entry into force of this multilateral environmental agreement, there has been tremendous progress in global efforts to repair the ozone layer. As a consequence, there are now early signs that we are on the road to recovery of this precious life-support system.

In the latest of a series of scientific assessments conducted under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), more than 300 scientists from 34 countries of the developed and developing world have found clear evidence of a decrease in the abundance of ozone-depleting substances in the lower atmosphere, as well as indications that their destructive impact in the stratosphere has also started to decline.¹⁷

In this case, governments worked together to effect a significant decline in CFC production and use. Your refrigerator and car air conditioner no longer use CFCs; McDonald's has not used polystyrene hamburger containers since before you were born.

For more information on ozone depletion and its effects on our health and the environment, follow the link on the *Perspectives on Nationalism* website.

Web Link

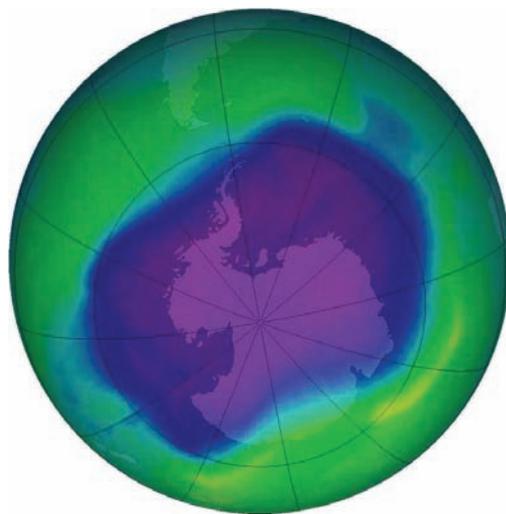


Figure 14-8 ▲

From 21-30 September 2006 the average area of the ozone hole was the largest ever observed, at 10.6 million square miles. In this image, from 24 September, the Antarctic ozone hole was equal to the record single-day largest area of 11.4 million square miles, reached on 9 September 2000. Satellite instruments monitor the ozone layer, and their data is used to create images that show the amount of ozone. Purple and blue show where the ozone layer is thinnest, and green and yellow where it is thicker.

¹⁷ Kofi Annan, in "Montréal Protocol on Ozone-Depleting Substances Effective, but Work Still Unfinished, says Secretary-General in Message for International Day," 7 September 2006. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sgsm10620.doc.htm>.

Internationalism and Environmental Protection: Environmental Impact Assessment

When one considers the vast array of international projects, business ventures, multinational corporations, and intergovernmental treaties, how is it possible to anticipate and prevent negative impacts of proposed projects on the environment? Environmental impact assessment has become big business. Through such assessments, governments—both of countries where the projects will occur and of those that contribute funds and expertise to extract a nation's resources—take responsibility in considering the impacts of their actions and decisions.

Ideally, teams of scientists, engineers, and planners work through public and private industry to provide reliable information before production is approved. Often, these teams are international in scope, and help multinational companies and government partners effectively develop industry that causes the smallest possible ecological footprint on the environment.

Typically, an environmental impact study will include such considerations as

- public, stakeholder/interest group consultation
- Indigenous consultation and facilitation services
- co-ordination of projects involving a wide variety of international, federal, provincial, and municipal government agencies or authorities
- air, water, soil, plant, and wildlife impact analyses
- socio-economic impact assessment and resettlement studies/plans
- options to eliminate, minimize, or reduce the significance of impacts
- environmental management plans¹⁸

All these measures are designed to help industry achieve its goals without harming the local environment.

To what extent should governments and industry spend the time and money necessary to protect the environment? When the health and safety needs of people are measured against the needs of an industry to remain profitable, who decides what to do, and on what basis?



PAUSE AND REFLECT

The CFC story has a successful ending. Can you think of other current examples of governments working together to solve environmental problems? Which nations have the largest impacts on the environment? Who pays the largest price for the damages done to the environment? Who do you think should pay to solve these problems? What might be the impact on us as members of a wealthy nation if our governments made greater effort to clean up the environment? What price might you have to pay and would you be willing to pay the price required for this effort? To what extent did the pursuit of international cooperation help address the issue?



PAUSE AND REFLECT

To what extent should governments make decisions in the short- and long-term interests of their citizens? Or to what extent should these government decisions be focused on international well-being instead of on the well-being of their own citizens? How and when might these two concerns be in conflict?

¹⁸ Adapted from SNC-Lavalin, "Impact Studies." http://www.snc-lavalin.com/en/2_0/2_8_4.aspx.

Explore the Issues

- 1 Brainstorm environmental issues that are important in the world today, for example: *To what extent has the UN driftnet moratorium had an impact on fishing practices in international waters?* In a group, investigate one of the issues to
 - determine the actions taken by the Canadian government in conjunction with other international organizations to address the global issue
 - determine the actions of an INGO that addresses the global issue
 - suggest possible alternative courses of action that the international community could take to address the issue

Conduct a geographic inquiry on this issue using the steps from the Skill Path. Your inquiry should examine the progress—or lack of progress—that internationalism has had on a global issue. Present your findings to the class in an audio or visual format, or both. **SKILLS**

- 2 Visit the Envirolink website through the link on the *Perspectives on Nationalism* website. Search the site for issues related to the environment or world habitat. Select one issue and, with a partner, devise a plan of action that Canada might take to address the issue. Once you have established a plan, look at the list of environmental impact study parameters and make predictions about what parameters Canada's actions might affect.
- 3 Consider the story of the man throwing beached starfish into the sea. How does the story reflect what Canada can accomplish to help the environment? Write a poem, create a piece of art, or develop an electronic presentation to describe your response.

Reflect and Analyze

In this chapter you have further explored the concept of *internationalism*. In addressing the Chapter Issue, you have seen that internationalism can both create and resolve global issues. You have been encouraged to use geographic skills to see patterns and relationships related to human and natural interactions. As you discuss the Chapter Issue with your class, think about your position on the Main Issue for Part 3: *To what extent should internationalism be pursued?*

Respond to Ideas

- 1 Conduct a geographic inquiry by selecting and researching one African state to determine its
 - political situation (historical and present)
 - ethnic makeup
 - economic indicators (such as per capita GNP, imports, exports, trading partners)
 - per capita debt and the percentage of the GNP assigned to debt repayment

- percentage of land used to grow crops for export
 - quality-of-life indicators (such as life expectancy, literacy, patients per doctor)
- Compare quality-of-life indicators over a 40- or 50-year period.

Research the same data for Canada, Australia, or New Zealand.

Use a chart to compare the two nation-states and explain the differences. Develop a hypothesis to explain the reasons for the differences. Discuss these with classmates and revise your hypothesis if necessary. **SKILLS**

Respond to Issues

- 2** Two positions on the impacts of economic internationalism are given below.

In favour of economic internationalism:

*Free trade has been given credit for a number of positive political phenomena as well. The most obvious is international cooperation. Protectionism is uncooperative and at times can be quite hostile. Trade, particularly free trade, requires negotiation and compromise and creates a level of economic interconnectedness that often leads to more peaceful political relationship.*¹⁹

Opposed to economic internationalism:

Critics of free trade argue that the system only benefits the wealthy, international corporations, and western, industrialized nations. The policies of the IMF and the WTO ... often just mean the creation of new markets for foreign goods to flood, the creation of cheap labor and production without environmental standards, increased domestic unemployment and enormous debt. Critics believe that this model for development ... only increases poverty, exacerbates public health issues, further damages the environment ... Furthermore, these negative consequences tend to have a ripple effect

*often serving to increase crime, global instability as well as create an environment ripe for the recruitment of terrorists.*²⁰

In both positions above, important information is either left out or left to interpretation. Reread the preceding paragraphs and list the assumptions made, the possible biases, important information left out of each argument, or words that are used as *buzz words* to solicit the uncritical support of the reader.

Which position do you hold? In an appropriate format, present a variety of geographic sources that support your position. **SKILLS**

Recognize Relationships between Concepts, Issues, and Citizenship

- 3** Research the actions of one INGO or IGO. Construct a graphic organizer to show the intended and unintended outcomes of their actions.
- 4** In this chapter, the Skill Path had you think like a geographer and consider how human actions are part of the study of geography.
- Does a broader understanding of geography help you to think about the Chapter Issue in a new way? Explain.
 - Did you find useful patterns, trends, and relationships in the geographic information that you gathered or were given? Explain.
 - How has this chapter helped you revise the criteria you plan to use to develop a reasoned response to the Main Issue for Part 3: ***To what extent should internationalism be pursued?***
 - How can you use geographic information to develop a position on the Chapter Issue and the Main Issue for Part 3? **SKILLS**

¹⁹ From: http://www.globaled.uconn.edu/Fall_2005/IE-print.htm.

²⁰ From: http://www.globaled.uconn.edu/Fall_2005/IE-print.htm.