

TOUR OF THE BOOK

CHAPTER PREVIEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Each chapter begins with a brief preview of what the chapter is about, a set of six key highlight arguments, and a list of the contents.

PREVIEW

This chapter provides the historical context within which to understand the rise of the global system. It begins with a review of the mainly Western roots of the modern world, then looks at the spread of European influences via exploration, colonization, industrialization, and imperialism. The chapter then looks at the impact on globalization and global ideas of two world wars, the end of Europe's empires, and the Cold War. It goes on to review new key trends that lie at the heart of the shaping of today's global system, ending with a discussion about the meaning and effects of globalization.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The roots of the global system can be traced back over several centuries, but its construction has accelerated over the last 150 years.
- Europe led the way through expanding its global interests and connections, such that much of what today defines global is also Western (although this is changing).
- Two world wars and the end of empire dramatically changed the structure of the global system and the balance of power.
- The Cold War saw tensions between two superpowers (the US and the Soviet Union) as well as the emergence of the Third World.
- We are today living through an era shaped by critical new trends. In economics, politics, culture, technology, security, health, and environmental change.
- In terms of understanding the global system, globalization is the dominant theme, although it is not as new as it seems, and opinion is divided on its implications.

CONTENTS

- The roots of the modern world
- Europe goes global
- World war and the end of empire
- The Cold War era
- Nine global trends
- Globalization



COMPARING NORTH AND SOUTH

Each chapter contains a box that takes a focused topic and compares experiences and attitudes in countries of the North and the South.

COMPARING NORTH AND SOUTH 2

THE CHALLENGES OF POPULATION CHANGE

The broad numbers tell us that world population has been growing rapidly over the last century, and that it will continue growing for several more decades before it starts to tail off. However, these numbers miss many of the nuances in rates of growth, fertility, and replacement, a closer examination revealing some important differences in trends in the North and the South – see examples in Figure 2.2.

The concern in much of the North is less with population growth than with population decrease. With fewer people having children, and more people delaying parenthood, fertility rates are falling. Meanwhile, people in these countries are living longer, their median ages climbing to as high as 40 or more. With populations aging and either declining or remaining static, fewer new workers are being injected into the economy, and younger workers must bear a greater burden of the costs of health care and social security for retirees.

GLOBAL AND LOCAL

Each chapter also contains a box that compares global and local approaches to a focused problem or topic, showing the links and contrasts between the two levels.

GLOBAL AND LOCAL 2

THE RISE OF THE GLOBAL CITY

The effects of urbanization can be seen not just in changing population numbers, but also in the changing roles of cities. The largest among them have long been connected to their neighboring regions and to one another, and even – in the case of imperial capitals – to the wider world, but a new phenomenon of note is the rise of the **global city** (see Sassen, 2005). These are urban centres that are not just big, but that have attractions and advantages that have helped them assert new influence over global financial, trade, and communications networks. They do not need to be national capitals; instead, they have exploited economic or geographical opportunities to place themselves at the heart of the global system. They have burgeoning economies, are close to regions of economic growth, are politically stable, attract foreign investment, and their global connections have become at least as important to their residents as their connections to their home states. Leading examples of global cities include Dubai, Hong Kong, London, Moscow, New York, Shanghai, and Tokyo (see Kotkin, 2014).

Most have seen their character changed by the arrival of visitors from all over the world; some doing business, some looking for work, and some just observing as tourists. Many such cities have become homogenized along the way, losing some of their history and personality, even to the extent that they sometimes look the same as one another. Few have gone as far as Dubai, the capital of the emirate of the same name, which is part of the United Arab Emirates. Although long an important port, it was relatively provincial until it began to grow in the 1980s on the back of international trade and oil revenues. It is today one of the biggest and most expensive cities in the Middle East, a major transport and business hub, and famous for its ambitious architecture and luxury hotels.

However, consider this critical assessment of Dubai by Brook (2013):

CONTEMPORARY DEBATES

Six of the chapters include a feature in which the pros and cons of a particular issue are listed, illustrating the mixed opinions that often surround matters of global studies.

CONTEMPORARY DEBATES 1

THE PROS AND CONS OF GLOBALIZATION

Pros	Cons
Globalization has increased the number of people who are able to afford a better standard of living.	Globalization has led to a loss of jobs in developed countries, particularly in manufacturing.
Developed countries have benefited from globalization through increased trade and investment.	Developing countries have not benefited as much from globalization, particularly in terms of infrastructure and services.
Globalization has led to a more integrated world economy, which has helped to reduce poverty and improve living standards.	Globalization has led to a loss of cultural identity and traditional values in many developing countries.
Developed countries have benefited from globalization through increased trade and investment.	Developing countries have not benefited as much from globalization, particularly in terms of infrastructure and services.

TABLES AND FIGURES

The text is dotted with tables and figures that present key numbers or express some of the more complex ideas in visual form. Most are based on the latest data available from the websites of key national and international organizations.

Table 2.1: Maritime zones under international law

Type	Location	State rights
Territorial waters	Up to 12 nautical miles (22km) from coast.	State has sovereignty and jurisdiction.
Exclusive Economic Zone	Up to 200 nautical miles (370km) from coast, regardless of depth.	State controls economic resources, including fisheries, mining, and oil or gas exploration.
Continental shelf	Up to 200 nautical miles (370km) from coast, if water is relatively shallow.	Once claimed, states have sovereignty rights over resources on the shelf.

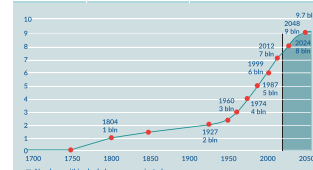
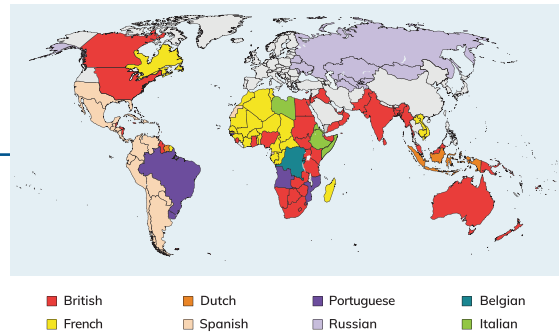


Figure 2.1: Global population growth
Source: Based on United Nations Population Division (2020).

MAPS

Maps of the world, or of particular states and regions, have been placed strategically throughout the book to offer a global view of topics within each chapter, comparing countries on a variety of topics. The Robinson projection has been chosen because of its relatively clear and balanced representation.



Map 1.1: European empires 1800–1950

Note: This is not a snapshot in time, but instead shows the parts of the world where European empires took hold at different times.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Each chapter ends with a set of six open-ended and occasionally provocative questions designed to help students think critically about some of the issues raised in the chapter, and to suggest topics for further research.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Should we be worried about the global rate of population growth?
2. Is the demographic transition model a useful way of thinking about population trends in the South?
3. What are the likely political, economic, and social effects of urbanization?
4. What can we do to reduce food waste?
5. What would it take to move us away from our global dependence on fossil fuels?
6. To what extent should natural resources such as forests and fisheries be seen and managed as global rather than national resources, and how could this changed emphasis be achieved?

KEY CONCEPTS

Each chapter ends with a list of the key terms introduced in the chapter, all of which are highlighted in boldface and accompanied by marginal definitions. They are all reproduced in the **Glossary** to the book.

KEY CONCEPTS

- ▶ Common pool resources
- ▶ Demographic transition
- ▶ Demography
- ▶ Food security
- ▶ Fossil fuels
- ▶ Global city
- ▶ Green revolution
- ▶ Malnutrition
- ▶ Megacity
- ▶ Natural resources
- ▶ Renewable energy
- ▶ Tragedy of the commons
- ▶ Zero population growth

USEFUL WEBSITES

Most chapters end with a short selection of websites, most of them for institutions that are discussed within the chapter.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN at <http://www.fao.org>
International Energy Agency at <https://www.iea.org>
UN Convention on the Law of the Sea at <http://www.un.org/depts/los>
United Nations Population Fund at <https://www.unfpa.org>

FURTHER READING

Each chapter ends with a short and annotated list of books chosen to provide detailed and current information and to act as resources for research assignments. The emphasis is on survey texts that provide a good and recent introduction to the topic.

FURTHER READING

Holt-Giménez, Eric (2018) *Can We Feed the World Without Destroying It?* (Polity Press). One of a series of books speculating on the global future, this one asking how food production and supply will evolve over the next few decades.

Glaeser, Edward (2012) *Triumph of the City: How Urban Spaces Make Us Human* (Pan). A compelling and readable analysis of the past and the possible future of cities (which might have to be revisited in the wake of Covid-19).

Harper, Sarah (2018) *Demography: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press). Another title in the *Very Short Introduction* series from Oxford University Press, this one summarizing key concepts in past, present, and future population.

Kuzemko, Caroline, Andreas Goldthau, and Michael F. Keating (2015) *The Global Energy Challenge: Environment, Development and Security* (Palgrave). A general survey of the global energy picture, including details on the environmental implications.

Tietenberg, Tom, and Lynne Lewis (2020) *Natural Resource Economics: The Essentials* (Routledge). A textbook survey of the economics of natural resources, including chapters on energy, fisheries, forests, land, and water.