Globalization: Cancerous Spread or Benevolent Aid?

Geography 5
February 27 2004

What is Globalization?

“the process by which events, activities, and decisions in one part of the world have significant consequences for communities in distant parts of the globe.”

(Haggett, p.586)

GLOBALIZATION ≠ INTERNATIONALIZATION

Time-Space Compression

M. McLuhan (1960)
“GLOBAL VILLAGE”

- speed of life has increased
- altered social, cultural, political and economic scale
- GLOBAL Relationships

Haggett, p. 589

Characteristics

Not a new phenomena – Colonization, mercantilism (16th - 18th Century)

Modern Causes:
1) Transportation technology
2) Global media sourcing
3) Communication technology/ Internet
4) Multi National Corporations

The Debate

Cons
- Uneven distribution of results – underdevelopment and concentration of $$
- Concentration of global/national capital and power (MNCs)
- Risk of exploitation

Pros
• Promotes economic development
• Increased employment in developing countries
• Distribution of technology and ideas
Types of Globalization

Dispersal/Extensive  
(Japur, India)

- Culture (Media)
- Environmental Problems
- Economic modes/ Ideas

Concentration  
(Seattle, USA)

- Economic
- Political

World Systems Theory

Wallerstein (1974)

- Theory of development and under-development
- Distribution of global POWER – economic class
- World divided into 3 spheres:
  - Core
  - Semi-periphery
  - Periphery
- Core exploits the peripheries and prevents development
- Expressed through MNC control

Economic Regions of the World

- Core
- Semi-periphery
- Periphery

Commodity Chains

Def: linkages between sites of production and consumption

- Manufacturing increasingly global

- Hidden geographies:
  Global production creates distinct social, environmental and political characteristics

World Cities

Def: Urban areas which play a dominant role in global economics and politics

- NOT POPULATION SIZE
  - Financial centers of the globe
    - control the multinational corporations
    - usually get most capital from extraction in other areas
  - Economic might = global political influence
    (e.g. G8)

World Cities

Haggett p. 603