

Prospects for the Future

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If you aim at the stars, you will not lose your direction.

PROVERB

In this concluding chapter, we review the major themes developed that have been presented in the preceding chapters. We also assess how the complex interactions of the global community may bring about significant changes in the Other World, and what consequences those changes may have for all the world's people.

THE OTHER WORLD IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

To obtain a clear view of the many forces that are in constant interaction in the twenty-first century, it is necessary to divide them, somewhat arbitrarily, into categories that can be examined and discussed. We have chosen several categories, and identified them as follows:

1. Emerging nations in the aftermath of colonialism;
2. The widespread effects of malnutrition and disease;
3. Conflict and the menace of worldwide terrorism; and
4. Social and economic forces and dilemmas.

The Legacy of Colonialism

The legacy of colonialism continues to frustrate the development efforts of Other World countries. This legacy is demonstrated in the lack of national identity, inad-

equate infrastructure, instability of democratic processes, and continuing economic manipulation and dominance by world powers.

Lack of National Identity When Britain, France, Germany, and other European powers granted independence to their former colonies, state boundaries were established, but no sense of national identity existed. The political institutions left behind were based on European models created for the convenience of the colonial rulers. The existing political and economic structures were geared to the exportation of goods needed by the mother country, not to internal and sustainable economic development. Ethnic and tribal conflicts remained within new political boundaries and worked against cooperative strategies for entering the modern world.

Inadequate Infrastructure Today, several decades after independence, most Other World countries still have inadequate infrastructures; low literacy rates; inadequate housing, education, and health facilities; and divisions along caste, tribal, ethnic, religious, and linguistic lines. Many have economies that were once ascending but are now declining. The infrastructure for development simply does not exist sufficiently. Corruption continues and funds terrorist activities that focus on cleansing the developing world of the trapping of the modern industrial state and of the Western values that clash with traditional and fundamental beliefs and customs.

Instability of Democratic Processes Other World countries responded to colonialism with nationalistic movements united to win independence from foreign exploiters. Sometimes these efforts came early and were successful without prolonged conflict, such as in much of Latin America. For others, the end of World War II marked the close of colonial occupation; foreign flags were lowered from colonial capitals and independence was declared. Yet others currently fight wars of national liberation that persist today. This strife is based on long-held differences in religious belief, social custom, and grudges that have spanned decades. The conflict has worked against nationalization efforts in the main.

Nationalism is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it can foster national unity by linking the people and culture to the state. On the other hand, it can promote differences between groups and lead to conflict over power and control. Afghanistan is a case in point, as is the former state of Yugoslavia. In both places, differences led to prolonged conflict, war, death, and destruction. Nationalism is a social and psychological force, a development of unity and loyalty to the nation and state that cannot be simply proclaimed or stopped by a leader. Nationalism as it is understood in the West has yet to take firm root in many Other World countries. Instead, we see chronic political instability in much of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. The democratic processes of Western states may be unworkable in Other World countries, where the people remain fragmented, poorly educated, and more concerned about the daily requirements of living than the good of the state. In many cases, democracy and modernism are consciously rejected in favor of traditional and customary approaches. It appears at this juncture that many ex-colonies were ill prepared to continue where their colonial

"masters" left off. When the British left India, a bureaucracy had been established that included many Indians. Most other countries, however, were not so lucky. Some had few educated and experienced nationals to assume leadership roles and to help to build a nation.

Military Dominance In parts of the Other World, the military is viewed as the only institution capable of maintaining public order and serving as a vehicle either for or against change. Although this belief conflicts with Western democratic tradition, the military is sometimes the only force with the technical training, organizational ability, and unity to govern. Furthermore, Other World peoples often view the military as both heroic and modern, whereas civilian society reflects the discredited values of a colonial heritage. For example, the military was used as a force for change by Nasser in Egypt and by the government of Turkey, and military leaders are often elected or appointed to serve as president or to serve in leadership positions in new governments. This pattern of military leadership transformed into governing is common in Africa and in Latin America.

Loyalty in the Face of Change The Other World is in a state of transition, development, and change at a pace that is unprecedented. Loyalty to existing states has yet to develop. Competing nationalistic movements feed on one another, threatening to disrupt society. We see a pattern emerging that has been repeated in many Other World countries. Colonial status leads to nationalistic movements to repel the colonizers. Independence is followed by a period of increasing internal instability that results in civil war. Eventually, a government emerges to restore at least partial order, by force if necessary. Often the cycle is repeated.

In recent decades, most civil wars have involved assistance from outside states and the involved countries have served as proxies in the global contest between the former Soviet Union and the United States. Resulting conditions were often detrimental to individual citizens if not to the survival of their governments. Anarchy was common. With the end of the Soviet Union as one nation and with the economic and political stability in that part of the world, funding to new nations has dwindled to whatever the West chooses to provide in order to supplement United Nations (UN) and World Bank support. Many policy choices are linked to economic self-interest. The West needs raw materials, particularly oil, for continued production, industrialization, and modernization. Nations without economic links to the West may flounder.

Economic Manipulation and Dominance The new states are striving for national development and acceptance in the international political and economic community. International governmental organizations such as the Organization of African Unity, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Arab League, and the Economic Community of West African States were created to facilitate regional cooperation and mutual development. A major goal of these and other international organizations is to maximize the economic power of Other World countries as one means of lessening the economic effects of neocolonial practices and fragmentation.

Although the future political organization of the Other World is unclear, the status quo is under attack. Present boundaries and political alignments are inadequate to meet the problems on the horizon in the coming century. Perhaps a re-arrangement of priorities will lead to political organizations in the twenty-first century that would be totally unrecognizable to those observing this part of the world today. Only time will tell.

Malnutrition and Disease

Perhaps the most formidable obstacle facing the Other World is providing food for its growing population. Although wars and disease claim many deaths, population continues to increase exponentially in many areas. Any dramatic increase has many corollaries—the need for food, shelter, employment, and educational and health services. There are some hopeful signs that the rate of population growth in some Other World countries is being checked or lowered. In the poorest countries, however, such optimism fails. Even with a lower birthrate, the population of Other World countries will continue to climb because there are so many young women of childbearing age.

Government Choices There are difficult policy choices most Other World governments have to make. Clearly government can allow population growth to continue unabated and face the resulting social, economic, and political turmoil. Or it can impose population-planning programs that strike at the heart of private family decisions and traditional values—values that place a high premium of life and on bringing future workers into the family. If governments are unable to lower birthrates through voluntary programs by its citizens, more stringent interventions may enter into the health delivery system, including forced abortions and infanticide. The Chinese policy of one-child families has been accompanied by such interventions.

Food Production Many scholars believe that population explosion is a symptom of underdevelopment. As educational levels and economic development increase, population growth declines. Nevertheless, Other World food production must increase to meet the requirements of the people and to generate needed revenue for building a nation's infrastructure. This is a difficult task, especially for indebted countries, which often export food for hard currencies, leaving their own producers hungry. As one Brazilian said to the author, "Bakers' children go hungry in this country." The dominance of cash crops such as tobacco, sugar, tea, coffee, and other commodities desired in the world can skew the availability of even basic foods. In Cuba, for example, some complain that when there is bread, there are no eggs, and when there are eggs, there is no bread.

Refugees A corollary of the population problem in the Other World is the dramatic increase in the number of refugees and displaced persons over the past decade or so. It is true that some refugees are the result of war or other conflict, but many, such

as those in Somalia, Ethiopia, or the Sudan, have sought food and refuge from drought or famine, either natural or man-made. Some, as in Bangladesh, have become refugees in their own country, and hope is a scarce commodity.

Finding Suitable Farming Methods The food production problem in many Other World countries is not one of scarcity of land but rather unfavorable climate and the lack of water, resources, and technology to make the land productive. Primitive farming methods, particularly slash and burn, deplete the land's minerals and nutrients. Cutting wood for fuel, clearing forests for pastures, and overgrazing by domesticated animals rob the land of the groundcover needed to retain the rain, if it falls. Desertification increases. Such practices can be changed, but changes occur slowly, if at all. Moreover, it is traditional and simply more profitable in some countries, such as Colombia or Myanmar (Burma), to grow marijuana, coca, opium, or hashish rather than food crops.

Agricultural Planning One feature of the underdevelopment in the Other World is the absence of effective agricultural planning at any level. What agricultural planning does occur is done by government ministries that have little knowledge of the realities faced by peasants in the rural areas. The problem is to put expertise to practical use in the field. As one observer notes, "The ability of peasant farmers to learn how to use new technology is not in question. But the institutional apparatus for teaching them is in short supply throughout the developing world."¹ Although countries are developing institutional means to bolster food production, they are also sending students to study modern agricultural techniques in the more developed countries.

New Directions What are the choices for these countries regarding food production? International assistance programs sponsored by the UN, the World Bank, and the U.S. Agency for International Development have proved successful in some instances. In central Java, Indonesia, malnutrition was high until the 1970s, when a new breed of goat was introduced that produces four times the amount of milk as the traditional breed. Fish farming was increased and the cultivation of fresh vegetables encouraged. In parts of Tanzania, new high-yield strains of rice are being sown, and in Sri Lanka the increased cultivation of soybeans and the development of new soy products have resulted in an increase in the daily consumption of calories and proteins.²

The Green Revolution One of the most interesting developments of the 1980s was the green revolution—the explosion of food production capacity—in some Other World countries. Using chemical fertilizers and genetic engineering technology, countries such as India have been able to increase food production dramatically, to the extent that net production is theoretically capable of eventually supporting all of the food needs of that country's more than 900 million people. Unfortunately, this development left a sizable proportion of the population still undernourished. Why? It turns out that production is a necessary but insufficient

condition for nutritional wellness. The new relative abundance of many foods is not enough; it is also necessary to integrate people into the money economy so that they can purchase goods. People at the subsistence level do not have surplus cash to participate in the marketplace. There is another problem: Even if there are food and consumers with cash to buy, there must also be an elaborate *infrastructure* that successfully sees goods from the point of production through storage and distribution to the point of sale. This requires warehouses; refrigeration; transportation, including roads, rails, or canals; and market outlets. Lacking these elements, there is often significant loss of otherwise consumable products, with consequent malnutrition and starvation. Although agricultural and other technologies have tremendous potential, other social, political, and economic factors also play a major role—a fact often overlooked by international aid agencies, whether public or private. Thus, in some places, there is a return to plowing the land with oxen and to subsistence agriculture. The costs of fertilizer and tractors are too great. Just getting by to feed the family and have enough left over to buy building materials or cloth becomes the norm.

Trade-offs In addition to outside intervention by aid programs, Other World governments themselves need to intervene with policies for managing agricultural land. There are trade-offs to be made. Cash crops bring in needed dollars and foreign currency needed to build the infrastructure. Food crops may not be suitable to large production, and small production may feed the family but leave the economy weak. If landowners who grow export crops are unwilling to convert to domestic food crops, governments will have to find ways to encourage this change. For example, village agricultural centers could be established where farmers might obtain supplies and expertise and share equipment to maximize production. Above all, farmers have to be convinced that changing their agricultural practices will raise their standard of living, as well as that of their neighbors.

Effects of Food Aid There is considerable controversy about food aid. Food aid is a Band-Aid measure that satisfies the consciences of the donors and the immediate physical needs of the recipients, but decisively does *not* provide permanent solutions. On the contrary, it can simply postpone the victims' agony unless there is a commitment to developing sustainable solutions that will accommodate the recipients long after the donors have moved on. Rightly or wrongly, this criticism was made of such efforts as Geldof's Live Aid rock festival in London in 1985. It was also a major consideration in the U.S.-led effort to aid Somalia in 1992, where local farmers could not sell food to people who could get it free from international aid agencies just down the street.

Conflict

The twentieth century has taught many lessons. Among the most important is that conflict is a fact of life. Violence and war do not resolve conflict, and militarism is its most frequent corollary. The world must be collectively attentive to

the fact that domestic and international conflict may intensify despite the initial euphoria of the post-cold war era. Only the theaters of conflict have changed, along with the drastic decrease in the possibility of a confrontation between the West and the remnants of the former Soviet Union—at least for now.

Many conflicts that ushered in the twentieth century are just now being addressed, and others, long suppressed, are being unleashed. Two world wars only postponed the resolution of some major international conflicts, as did the post-World War II “balance of terror” between East and West. The dam broke in 1989–1990, severely burdening barely tested or trusted mechanisms of conflict management that were unready to assume the role that had been performed by war and nuclear stalemate. Today the world is waging a war against terrorist activity. The developed world is vulnerable to both biological and conventional weapons. The events of September 11, 2001 have brought the issues of safety and security home to citizens who once viewed regional wars as happening “someplace else.” The United States and the West moved into an aggressive foreign and defense policy to root out terrorist regimes and actors.

Resolving Conflict Just as before the cold war, the world is now confronted with two options in approaching these conflicts: (1) cooperation within the framework of international institutions, or (2) unilateral coercive (military) action within and between countries. Until September 11, 2001, the major powers seemed to be gravitating toward the UN and other international bodies as centralized structures within which to confront and resolve old political conflicts. Recent experience with regional wars and terrorism reveals that agreement on conflict resolution direction is difficult. The United States and other industrialized nations of the Other World see terrorism and instability as threatening to their own political and economic lives. However, peoples in the developing areas face desperate choices, and they may now be more prone to take matters into their own hands in both domestic and international or regional conflicts. Historically, their problems were checked by the East-West stalemate, but are now being redefined in ways that appear decidedly disadvantageous from their perspective. Bolstered by inexperience, lack of interest by the major powers, and growing frustration, they will no longer be restrained. Moreover, nonstate actors, who are difficult to hold accountable, are becoming more active.

Collapse of the Old World Order Whereas the world was approaching the crossroads when this book first appeared in 1987, it is now in the intersection—and there are no traffic lights to regulate the gush of grievances thundering toward collision. For anyone, anywhere, to adopt a fatalistic attitude would be suicidal. Simply stated, the old political and economic world orders have collapsed, accompanied by such major transformations that one authority has referred to them as “sea changes.”³ This description includes but is not limited to an interesting paradox. As the United States and the states of the former Soviet Union literally destroy weapons, arms proliferation among Other World countries is increasing and now includes nuclear, biological, and chemical capabilities. Indeed, as many as 40 countries may have nuclear weapons.

Social and Economic Issues

Changing conditions at the end of the twentieth century have started to affect social issues everywhere. What were formerly Western, value-based issues such as race, gender, religion, and population control are now becoming prominent in the Other World as well. These ideas may be Western-based, but they create tensions in the systems found in the Other World. There, many of these ideas are seen as Western-inspired threats to home, family, society, and religion. In the West, this opposition to rapid change is often linked to the loosely defined concept of family values. In the Other World, however, traditional elders often view these concepts as Western attempts to impose colonialism, divide peoples, and destroy religion through the importation of humanistic values. For instance, in many places the Western interest in Other World population control has been described as genocide. With resistance to Western-inspired social planning linked to colonialism in areas stretching from Latin America through Egypt to India, making measurable change in the social practices of many developing states in the foreseeable future will be extremely difficult.

In economic terms, the loans given by the World Bank and the offer of technological assistance have tied the hands of world leaders. To bring needed funds into a country to support roads, water systems, schools, hospitals and the like, nations have become debtors. As debtor nations, the dominant goal is bringing in dollars and currency to repay loans and interest on debts. Furthermore, economic aid often comes with directives on what projects need to be undertaken, what results are expected, and what methods need to be employed. These economic issues intrude into political and cultural life. The fabric of the society as a whole will need to be addressed.

DECISIONS 2002

There is a vast and growing agenda of issues that the global community must urgently address. Some concerns, such as those discussed above, are more applicable to the Other World, whereas others, such as restructuring the world order, affect everyone. Many problems require the cooperative efforts of all states if conditions are to improve and a more widely acceptable order is to be defined and maintained. This is the case with environmental issues and the economic relations within Other World states, as well as between them and the more industrialized world, which are addressed in the section on a new world order.

Environmental Issues

Environmental issues have recently received considerable attention in Western media. For example, we are cognizant of the acid rain that is destroying forests and lakes in the United States, Canada, and central Europe. We are aware of the hazards resulting from improper disposal of nuclear wastes and the pollution of

the marine environment from supertanker oil spills and unprocessed sewage. We are also concerned about the exhaustion of finite resources such as oil. The Other World has environmental problems that are equally devastating: overcrowded cities, lack of sanitation facilities, diseases spread by contaminated water supplies, and desertification resulting from poor land management and the cutting of trees for fuel and pasture. The environmental consequences are too damaging for such practices to continue. The world can be destroyed by the gradual disintegration of the Earth's ecosystem as well as by nuclear war. We can no longer ignore Barry Commoner's laws of ecology. His first law states, "Everything Is Connected to Everything Else"; his second, "Everything Must Go Somewhere."⁴ The key question is whether we can continue to survive beyond the twenty-first century if present pollution and resource consumption continue.

Toxic Chemicals A vast amount of herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and pesticides is used for agricultural purposes throughout the world. These poisons control weeds, encourage crop growth, and kill off unwanted insects. Unfortunately, they can also enter the food chain. The toxins are manufactured in industrialized states and exported to Other World countries. Although there are some positive consequences, their unregulated use represents a health hazard to agricultural workers and to all consumers who eat food products from the Other World. Some sprays are carcinogenic; some, including DDT, result in the premature death of small animals; and others, such as Agent Orange, which was used by the United States to defoliate the jungles in Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s, are linked to birth defects in children and miscarriages in women. The effects of the more recent Gulf War are becoming more apparent among the population in Kuwait and soldiers sent to bring stability to the area.

Radioactive Materials The careless handling of even small amounts of radioactive material can have serious consequences. In late 1983, two employees at a hospital in Juarez, Mexico took a core from a cancer therapy machine in the hospital's warehouse to sell for scrap. Unknown to them, a small hole in the core allowed the 6,000 pellets of radioactive cobalt-60 to spill into their pickup truck as well as into the scrap yard. The pellets became mixed with other junk, which was eventually used by a foundry to make cast iron legs for tables in fast-food restaurants and some 6,000 tons of concrete reinforcing bars. Ultimately, and by accident, the radioactive products were discovered and destroyed, but not before they had been sold throughout Mexico and the United States. Prolonged exposure to such products can cause sterility and death.

In 1986, the near meltdown of the Soviet nuclear reactor in Chernobyl demonstrated to the whole world the dangers of technology that has been pressed beyond its limits in the rush to find alternative energy sources. Reactors in America and elsewhere have also had close calls, especially at Three-Mile Island, Pennsylvania. In 1990, the German government closed several Soviet-designed re-

actors in eastern Germany for safety reasons, but similar ones elsewhere continue to operate in those countries where they are the *only* electrical energy supply.

Pollution Air, land, and water pollution are visible in all of the industrialized countries, and efforts made to counteract the environmental effects have met with varying degrees of success. Paradoxically, in many Other World cities, air pollution is often regarded as an indication of economic strength. Factories that belch plumes of smoke into the air represent employment opportunities, economic self-sufficiency, and less dependence on Western economies. Much of the water pollution in the Other World can be traced to poor or nonexistent sewage disposal and to the chemicals in fertilizers that collect in lakes and underground water supplies.

Rainforests The tropical forests in countries near the Equator are essential to the health of the world's ecosystem. The rainforests, in conjunction with green plants growing on land and on the oceans' surface, act as a natural cleansing system by removing from the atmosphere carbon dioxide produced by the combustion of fossil fuels. Over the last 50 years, many rainforests have been cut down or severely reduced in size. Over half the world's remaining tropical rainforests are now in the Amazon region of Brazil. Some are also found in central Africa, but the forests in West Africa, southern Africa, the Caribbean, North America, and some parts of India are largely gone. In the Amazon alone, over 50 million acres of rainforests, an area about the size of the state of Nebraska, are lost *annually* to logging, the clearing of jungles for farm and grazing land, slash-and-burn agricultural practices, and population resettlement policies that promise impoverished urban refugees newly cleared farmland in the jungles if they will relocate.

As the rainforests are cut back, there is a resulting increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which scientists fear will result in a gradual warming of the Earth's climate. This greenhouse effect could cause some melting of the polar ice caps, a reduction of regional rainfall, and a change in growing seasons. The rainforests contain a vast variety of trees and undergrowth. When the hardwood trees are cut down for export or simply burned, the undergrowth dies and the rain washes away the topsoil. The resulting erosion makes it unlikely that new growth can survive in place of the old.

The reduction of the rainforests is understandably a concern to environmentalists, particularly those in the industrialized world, where few rainforests still exist. In the Other World, however, the rainforests are considered an untapped source of wealth. As Brazil's foreign debt increases, harvesting hardwoods in the Amazon could be a means of repaying loans through wood exports. Currently, most hardwoods are burned for lack of a market or access to markets. There is a political aspect to this practice as well, as one observer noted, "In many tropical countries where the few have a lot and the many hardly anything, the rainforest is a political asset. The wealthy and powerful abhor land reform—so why not shunt the land-hungry poor into that great green forest, especially if expenses will be underwritten by some international nonprofit lending institution?"⁵ This reference



Loss of Rainforest: This area in the Amazon rainforest has been logged off in preparation for rice planting.

SOURCE: Domingo/Lenderts

to international nonprofit institutions includes the World Bank, which has provided funds to the Indonesian government to relocate residents of overcrowded Java and Madura to sparsely populated islands. Some rainforests have to be cleared for the new settlements, and a new economy dependent on the further reduction of the wooded areas is created. Much of the hardwood cut in Indonesia is exported to Japan and ultimately sent to the United States as furniture.

Environmental Trends

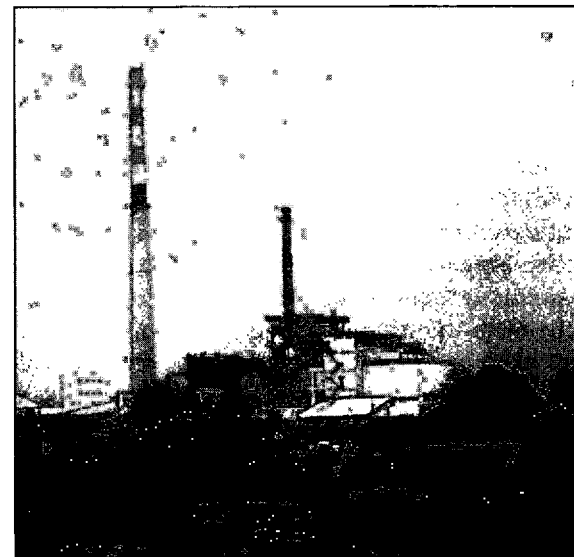
There is growing international concern about the global environment. In June 1972, the first UN Conference on the Global Environment was held in Stockholm, Sweden. Some 1,200 delegates from 113 countries and 400 international agencies participated, although delegates from the Soviet bloc boycotted the meeting. At the end of the 11-day program, the delegates adopted a 109-point action plan and a "Declaration on the Human Environment." Both were subsequently officially recognized when the UN General Assembly established the UN Environmental Program to act as a prime force and clearinghouse to coordinate multinational efforts to resolve environmental problems.

Since then, other conferences on the international environment have been held, and countries have set up their own agencies for environmental protection. Some countries, however, have been concerned that environmental controls might inhibit their economic development, and international protective measures

continue to be favored. If international efforts are to be successful, the industrialized countries must help finance them. In 1972, \$100 million was pledged, although actual contributions to the UN Environmental Program were significantly less, mainly because of inflation and other domestic economic problems in the industrialized states.

Despite its reduced budget, the UN Environmental Program is monitoring changing environmental conditions and recommending feasible plans to help countries enact sound environmental policies. Meanwhile, internal environmental movements in Other World countries are gaining strength. Costa Rica has more land under protected status than any other country in Latin America, and "debt swapping" schemes exist in which protection of forest is promised in return for relief from international debt. In Kenya, two nongovernmental organizations planted more trees in a two-year period than the government had in the previous five. In Indonesia, environmental organizations have put pressure on the government to reduce water pollution, regulate mining operations, and reevaluate the wisdom of overcutting hardwood forests.⁶ In short, there are critical environmental decisions to be made the world over at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

The most recent effort to address questions about the global environment was held in New York in 1997. The UN Conference on Environment and Development, dubbed the Earth Summit II, brought together world leaders to evaluate progress toward the goals of the Rio summit in 1992. Those goals represented trade-offs among environmental protection, the Other World's need to develop, and the industrialized countries' need to maintain growth and jobs. It was also hoped that the Convention on Biological Diversity would forestall species extinction—the disappearance of more of the planet's animal and plant species.



The Price of Development: A coal-fired power plant near Beijing, China.

SOURCE: Joe Weatherby

Only the United States refused to sign because of serious questions about the treaty's provision for sovereign rights over genetic resources.

TOWARD A NEW WORLD ORDER

The world at the beginning of the twenty-first century is a dramatically different place than it was when the first edition of this book was published in 1987. The intervening years have witnessed events that few could have predicted. The events of September 11, 2001, with the destruction of the World Trade Center and part of the Pentagon ended United States innocence of conflict and hatred in the developing world toward Western values and intrusions into other cultures, economies, and governments. The War on Terrorism brought former enemies such as the Soviet Union and the United States together to fight what was considered threats to the civilized world. Prior to this, the collapse of communism produced a surge toward democracy and free-market economic systems in Eastern Europe, Asia, and elsewhere. Faced with increasing demands for national autonomy and a steady erosion of their power, conservative segments in parts of the Soviet empire attempted to launch a coup to return communist values. In the main, their actions discredited their parties, strengthened their reform-minded opponents, and hastened the demise of the states they had hoped to preserve. Today, the remnants of the Soviet bloc are being subjected to numerous disruptive changes as the long dormant forces of religion, nationalism, and ethnicity reemerge and interact with the economic and political change. The world cannot now view terrorism, war, and conflict with a sense of detachment. In an interdependent world, events affecting one part of the world offer both opportunity and danger for people throughout the world.

In many places in Asia, the leaders apparently are unwilling to match their economic reforms with political reforms. In China in June 1989, demands by students and workers for greater democracy were eventually met with a determined and ruthless suppression by elements of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Tiananmen Square. That action was followed by similar acts of suppression and by a continuing campaign against "bourgeois democracy." Internally, China remains a rigidly authoritarian state determined to take from the outside world only those things that contribute to its economic development and to resist the importation of the political beliefs and practices that have accompanied such development elsewhere. China's pragmatic leaders realized that the resumption of its traditional role of leadership in Asia and the strengthening of its claim to such a position in the larger world community requires the restoration of the political and economic ties that were damaged, at least temporarily, by its actions in 1989. Thus, it continues to engage in many international activities ranging from the hosting of the 1990 Asian Games and numerous international meetings to diplomatic efforts, such as mending its tattered relations with neighboring states like Russia and Vietnam.

Throughout the 1990s, such efforts appeared to bear fruit as internal order prevailed, foreign investment strengthened, and China's gross domestic product

resumed its double-digit rate of growth. Perhaps typical is a statement made by Israel's first ambassador to China, Zev Sofott, a few months after the two states established diplomatic relations in 1992: "China is a big trade partner and its import value topped more than \$60 billion dollars last year. We would like to have a small part of that value." Israel was by no means alone in wanting "some of that value." After trying to alter China's human rights performance by threatening to end its most-favored-nation (MFN) trading status, the United States reversed this position and agreed that the two issues would no longer be linked. By the middle of the decade, China again seemed assured of a major role in world affairs, both economically and politically.

In the West, the European states continued their movement toward economic and political integration by ratifying the Maastricht Treaty (1992), creating the European Union (EU), expanding it in 1998, and removing all trade barriers between members. In addition, the EU now has a united Germany as its major economic force. The apparent success of the former European Community (EC) has encouraged many of the former Soviet satellite states to seek a greater role in the economic integration of Europe. Also searching for a role in the common "European home" are the economically and politically troubled states of the former Soviet Union itself. Beyond Europe, the United States fashioned a free-trade agreement with Canada and Mexico (NAFTA) in 1993 and pushed the admission of the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland into The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (1998). Elsewhere, similar regional trading blocs are taking form in the Other World—for example, the 1992 formation of a free-trade zone by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) states and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

These changes have contributed to a new if fitful spirit of cooperation between East and West to a degree unimaginable a few years ago. Former Soviet President Gorbachev spoke of "new political thinking" in seeking accommodation with the West and access to its economy and technology. Former President Bush and his son George W. Bush spoke of a "new world order" to replace confrontation with cooperation as former antagonists jointly use their power and influence to settle international problems. At the same time, these leaders did not shirk from entering into military engagements in Kuwait and in Afghanistan.

As this decade began, it seemed that after over 40 years of immobilization by cold war politics, the concept of collective security might at last fulfill its order-building role assigned by the UN founders. However, there are forces afoot jeopardizing this progress that could plunge the world into a new era of conflict, both "hot" and "cold."

Alternatives to the Old World Order

Certainly, the momentous changes noted above will affect the Other World. Indeed, given such massive changes in the "First" and "Second" Worlds, the term *Third World* is perhaps even less valid now than it was a few years ago. Many of the people living in the less developed regions have long regarded it as an arrogant label devised by the developed states to relegate the people and problems of

the less developed countries to inferior status. Today, segments of the East and West seem to be merging into a single developed world, which may interact collectively with the less developed Other World. Although the precise nature and impact of these interactions are still unclear, recent events in Afghanistan, Africa, Eastern Europe, Cambodia, the Pacific Rim, the Persian Gulf, and Palestine may provide some instructive and perhaps disquieting hints.

In each of these regional conflicts, past tendencies of both East and West to seek a political advantage were replaced by a high degree of cooperation in the search for solutions. In each instance their efforts were supported by several Other World states. If this is to be taken as evidence of the emergence of a new world order, what will be its probable nature? One possibility is that in this new era of multipolarity, the great powers will move toward a role that great powers traditionally played in world affairs. It was described nearly a half-century ago by former British diplomat Sir Harold Nicholson:

It was assumed that the Great Powers were greater than the Small Powers, since they possessed a more extended range of interests, wider responsibilities, and, above all, more money and more guns. Throughout this period the Small Powers were assessed according to their effect upon the relations between the Great Powers: there was seldom any idea that their interests, their opinions, still less their votes, could affect a policy agreed upon . . .⁸

Simply put, such a world order assumes that although all sovereign states are legally equal, those that possess greater power have a greater responsibility to maintain the international political and economic system than do lesser powers. To carry out these responsibilities, the great powers jointly construct and enforce the international system, at times acting as "police," either unilaterally or in concert with other great powers. The effect is to reinforce a status quo that embraces self-interest.

Great-power efforts to bring pressure on the belligerents in Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Middle East, and the Balkans may represent movement toward this model. Should such a model prevail, a few great powers, like the United States, Japan, Russia, China, and the EU, might assume the responsibility for maintaining order throughout the Other World. Such a "condominium of power" has been condemned in the past. Most notably perhaps, China has often warned against great-power hegemony in which major powers impose their solutions to world problems. China seems to be increasingly willing, however, to accept such leadership when it is included among those great powers. Certainly, there is a degree of haughtiness in an order that arrogates to a few states such global responsibilities. Still, as the twentieth century began, such an arrangement would not have been regarded by most states as unreasonable or unusual. It is not altogether impossible that the same attitudes may prevail as the new century begins.

A somewhat less arbitrary scenario would see East and West cooperating within the UN framework to promote international cooperation through the rule of law. As noted above, conditions may now allow the UN Security Council to function in the manner envisioned by its founders. The UN response to the 1990

invasion of Kuwait by Iraq seemed to indicate that such a world order was at least beginning to emerge. At the instigation of the United States, the Security Council quickly condemned the invasion and provided for sanctions against the offending state. With the United States again providing the leadership, several states sent military forces to the region to deal with what former Secretary of State James Baker called the first international crisis of the post-cold war era. A few months later, the Security Council approved the use of military force by member states to restore Kuwait's independence. Significantly, the forces sent to the Persian Gulf remained under the command of their own governments. Although no Soviet units were included in the military force confronting Iraq, the Soviets joined in the demand for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of its sovereignty. They also suggested that the Soviet military might participate in a military action if it were conducted under direct UN command. The EC, China, and Japan joined in the condemnation of the Iraqi action and in varying degrees supported the UN sanctions. With few exceptions, Other World states joined the developed states in supporting the UN sanctions against Iraq. On the surface, at least, collective security seemed to be working.

In Afghanistan, several nations sent military advisors, armies, and weapons, including the United States, Britain, and Russia. There was a united front on acting against terrorism. Whether these efforts will result in the rule of law is another matter. At this writing, the procedures to be used in military tribunals, as well as what other military actions are warranted, are under discussion.

Despite such general support, there is some question about whether the collective security model or the rule-of-law model better describes the effort to confront Iraq. Although most actions were sanctioned by votes in the UN Security Council, the United States clearly took the initiative and provided the bulk of the force and influence that sustained them. It also seemed to view itself as the prime arbiter of its actions. Similarly, other states militarily involved in the region jealously guarded their sovereign right to command their armed forces, thereby complicating collective efforts through the UN. A case can be made that the Other World states that most actively supported the effort felt directly threatened by Iraq's actions; were heavily dependent on the United States, like Egypt; or had their own anti-Saddam Hussein agenda, like Syria. Of the great powers, only the Soviet Union wanted its forces, had they been provided, to be part of UN-directed military efforts.

Perhaps a better illustration of the weakness of the rule-of-law model came later in the Balkans (the former Yugoslavia). In Bosnia, the various military forces sent as "peacekeepers" *did* serve under the direct control of the UN. Under indecisive and divided UN leadership, no state or combination of states (e.g., the EU or NATO) shouldered the responsibility of implementing the UN resolutions, as the United States had done in the Persian Gulf crisis. The result was paralysis, leading to the U.S.-spearheaded NATO intervention in late 1995. That was followed in 1999 by a NATO air assault on Serbia in retaliation for ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

In short, one may question whether the Persian Gulf or the crises in the Balkans better illustrates the rule of law in international affairs. If, as seems likely,

the Balkans is the better example, there seems to be serious reason to doubt whether that model will prevail unless a major power or a group of such powers vigorously leads such enforcement. In such a situation, the difference between the two models we have discussed becomes rather slight and the outlook for an effective UN is remote.

There is, of course, another possibility. In an age when the United States and the former Soviet Union no longer compete with each other for influence in the Other World, major powers may simply ignore that region unless there is a direct threat to their interests. However, the United States no longer possesses the economic preeminence on which its worldwide influence once depended. Although Japan and the EU are active economically, neither seems avidly interested in greater political or military involvement in Other World problems unless they promise to stress their own systems.

China sees itself as a part of the Other World and seems likely to continue its effort to play a leading role. However, it also appreciates its role as a major player on the larger world stage. If its actions in the conflicts discussed above are any indication of its future intentions, it seems likely that China will tend to cooperate with other great powers, at least in the short term. If so, Other World states may indeed receive considerably less attention from the developed states. One positive result would be that Other World states would no longer serve as arenas for proxy conflicts between East and West. In the absence of East-West competition, however, the already small transfer of wealth from the developed world to the Other World may diminish even further.

States are all too often motivated by national interest alone; however, it is hoped that this attitude will not always prevail. It is possible that the developed states may use some of their post-cold war "peace dividend" for an increased effort to solve the many problems that confront the Other World. Unfortunately, there is little evidence now to suggest that this course will occur, as there is little or no political constituency in the developed states to promote it.

Indeed, tendencies in the developed world seem to be toward greater concern with its own interests and less involvement in the problems of the Other World. To overcome a massive government deficit, the U.S. Congress made large cuts in foreign aid to Other World states in 1995 and continued parsimonious actions in subsequent years. As internal problems divert the attention of the former Soviet states from foreign involvement outside Europe, the EU seems intent on a more protectionist course. To the West, the culturally similar states of Eastern Europe are seen as safer and more familiar terrain for investment. In the relatively less developed states of Eastern Europe there are populations whose education, experience, and training are such that investments may be more quickly recouped as those states are slowly integrated economically, culturally, and politically with Western Europe.

Should a new world order emerge in which the UN and the rule of law achieve greater acceptance worldwide, habits of cooperation might develop that could eventually lead to greater joint efforts by the developed states to address the problems of the Other World. However, it is difficult to envision such changes

occurring any time soon. It is too soon to tell whether military activities, such as the bombing in Afghanistan, and economic embargo activities, such as the U.S. disturbance of trading with Iraq, will be the primary pattern of bringing the world to order.

NEW INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

If the world community is to manage a large and growing number of conflicts, new economic and political relationships must be fashioned. Existing institutions, such as the UN, that can be used to resolve international disputes must be strengthened; new credible and sustainable structures and processes must be created, particularly at the national and regional levels, and all countries must develop the habit of resolving international and domestic conflicts within those frameworks. Unless this task can be accomplished sooner rather than later, the twenty-first century could be a most unpleasant experience for us all.

New Economic Relationships

As noted, the Other World's disadvantageous economic relationship with the industrialized states has contributed to a massive international debt, now approaching \$2.5 trillion.⁹ The disadvantage to emerging states is especially evident in the international trade market: The industrialized states and their multinational corporations control some 80 percent of the global economy. Other World states lack the capital, industrial capacity, technology, and infrastructure to compete with the industrialized countries, which have been honing their economic might for over a century. Because of the need for hard currencies, Other World countries are forced to use their cheap labor to produce goods for export rather than tailor their economies for domestic consumption. This condition means that most Other World countries are almost totally dependent on trade revenues in an international market over which they have little control. To compound the problem, the industrialized states, to protect their economic interests, can increase tariff barriers and impose quotas limiting the amount of goods imported. The question that the industrialized world has to address is this: What economic concessions is it willing to make to help Other World states achieve their economic independence? This question took on new urgency as the once-prosperous "Asian Tigers" experienced their economic slide.

In the 1960s, many Other World countries urged the UN to take a positive step toward the economic rejuvenation of their segment of the world. In the 1970s, the movement for a New International Economic Order (NIEO) took root. Its agenda called for (1) more aid for the Other World from the wealthy states, (2) dispersal of funds through multilateral agencies such as the World Bank instead of country-by-country aid, (3) an increased voice for Other World representatives in the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) (4), a restructuring or cancellation of debts owed to the industrialized states, (5) some domestic control

over multinational corporations, and (6) special trade privileges for Other World countries with the industrialized states.¹⁰ The NIEO advocates argued that Western states must accept responsibility for the economic inequalities in the Other World because they were responsible for the exploitation that came with colonization. Moreover, they argued, the Western countries continue to reap profits because of their control over international pricing mechanisms and neocolonial practices. The Soviet bloc countries supported NIEO demands, but maintained that they should apply only to the Western economies because the Soviet Union and its allies were not part of the colonial experience.

In the 1980s, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT, 1947) supplanted both the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the NIEO as the principal mechanism of all international economic activity, including MFN status. Hopes for the NIEO diminished proportionately. Although it is still uncertain whether the Other World will benefit from this change, the GATT did have policymaking authority that the NIEO never had. The GATT was succeeded by the new World Trade Organization (WTO) in January 1995. Although it has a more extensive range of agreements, including intellectual property and global investment rights (Multilateral Agreement on Investment [MAI]), it has no power to enforce.

A new approach was taken by the South Commission, whose report, *The Challenge to the South*, was issued in 1990. It emphasizes the need for cooperation among Other World states and asserts that "responsibility for the development of the South lies in the South, and in the hands of the peoples of the South."¹¹ Clearly, both cooperation and understanding will be needed from the northern, industrialized countries, although the report represents a major departure from the earlier notion that development of the Other World was the responsibility, indeed the duty, of the North. It does not, however, provide for any institutional framework at a time when the suitability of the "liberal international economic order" (LIEO) to Other World needs is being seriously challenged.

Major changes in the LIEO are on the immediate horizon as this edition goes to press. The global economic crisis beginning in 1998 demonstrated beyond any doubt the reality of the global economy and the interconnectedness of individual economies whether anyone likes it or not. It really is true that if Thailand's economy falters, the impact will be felt in the rest of the so-called Asian Tigers as well as Europe, Russia, and the United States. The LIEO itself is being put to the test, and some, like Kaplan, wonder whether the former Soviet Republics and many Other World countries will ever succeed at capitalism.¹² Where it was expected in the last edition that some, even many Other World countries would form cartels and gain a measure of control over themselves, the opposite now seems more likely. Rich countries and people are buying up Third World assets at bargain prices and some economies are regressing to previous conditions or worse. To suggest that First World economies are impervious to these developments is ridiculous if only because of the massive outstanding debt held by governments and private banks in the United States and Europe. The restructuring of the global economy may not be what the backers of the NIEO wanted, but possibilities in-

clude restructuring international debt and outright forgiveness, especially after natural disasters such as the hurricane in Central America (1998).

New Political Relationships

It is indisputable that the cold war is over, and its two former poles, or blocs, are no longer capable of maintaining or returning to the old order. At this writing, the United States is clearly the world's dominant military power and police force. In every other way, however, the world is now more multipolar than at any time in the last half-century, and there is no permanent political or institutional structure to support it. It is precisely the absence of the cold war structure that presents the greatest challenge. What will take its place? A revitalized, reorganized, and strengthened UN? New or revitalized and strengthened regional or international political and economic organizations? Or simply a free-for-all? In 1990, Stanley Hoffmann proposed

not a world government for which states and peoples are unprepared (and that the managers of the business civilization would not like), but a new experiment in polycentric steering, in which the three major economic powers—plus the (former) Soviet Union . . . and perhaps China—would form a central steering group, and in which regional powers would play comparable roles in their areas.¹³

In this or any other prospective world political structure, there are numerous relevant issues. Among them are power, force, economics, and people—large numbers of people taking to the streets to engage in direct political action.

Power As anyone who has studied politics and international relations knows, power is a difficult concept to grasp and define. It is very clear that power is taking on a whole new dimension, at least internationally, in the post-cold war era. Alvin Toffler, the futurist, has suggested that above all, power is based on knowledge—even military and economic power are now predicated on knowledge and technology. This is a far cry from the prewar and cold war eras, when international power was defined in terms of nuclear weapon size in megatons, strength of society and economy, and capability and mobility of armies. The United States and the Soviet Union excelled in those power capabilities, as defined in traditional terms, and actually were at *military* parity by the time the Berlin Wall collapsed; both had the ability to "overkill" each other's populations many times over. Perhaps it was a sign of things to come that all that military power had helped neither superpower in Vietnam or Afghanistan, and none was unleashed by either side as the former Soviet Union and communism collapsed. How power is distributed and balanced will be a major issue in constituting any future structure.

The opposite of power, powerlessness, is an old concept with a new face in the post-cold war era. Combined with force, it requires an expansion of the definition of terror. Powerless people and states during the cold war really had no choice but

to accept the structure of the global order as defined by the superpowers, a structure that was perceived as disadvantageous from the perspective of power and wealth. That was one of the issues addressed by proponents of the NIEO.

One of the defining characteristics of the post-cold war era, as discussed earlier, is the absence of the bipolar structure and the reemergence of old suppressed hostilities. Thanks to the absence of that structure, the explosion of technology and its availability, states and nonstates—people—are able to use terror to seriously threaten others. This has been amply demonstrated by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) since 1969 and, more recently, by the bombing of the twin towers in New York as well as the United States embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya in 1998. None of this was state terrorism.

What needs to be absolutely clear, whether perpetrators are right or wrong, is that states and individual people are now willing and able to threaten and inflict enormous destruction to achieve their goals. Where it was once possible to hold states like North Vietnam and Iran responsible for actions of their citizens, it is no longer. Furthermore, such threats virtually paralyze major powers, which were and are geared for major wars against each other. As has been pointed out, this forces major powers to retreat to their borders behind new "walls" of violence, anarchy, and disease that are every bit as divisive as the old Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain.

Force Perhaps the greatest lesson of the twentieth century is that force and the threat of force, military or otherwise, domestic or international, resolves nothing. It can postpone problems, as it has for much of this century, but it cannot eliminate or resolve them. If it is accepted that force is of surprisingly little use as a long-term tool of domestic and foreign policy, it is quite remarkable that there are no structures, institutions, processes, and traditions to take the place of force on any but a short-term basis. Although it may seem that force works in the short term, one of the lessons of history in general, and this century in particular, is that force does not work in the long term and creates wounds that take many years, if not forever, to heal.

Economics It has always been difficult to disentangle politics and economics at either the domestic or international level. However, it has never been more difficult than it is now, as the nature of state power is redefined and the global economic community takes on a life and inertia of its own. The economic friction and potential battle between the United States, Japan, and China is only one example of the future conflicts that will dominate as the world enters the twenty-first century. In all such cases, the question is this: Who and what will call the shots? Traditional sovereign states? Boards of directors of multinational corporations, isolated from public scrutiny and control? Centralized international, regional, or global organizations?

People A word on people power is important in light of events in the Philippines, China, Eastern Europe, South Africa, and elsewhere. It cannot and should not be underestimated, as actual events in the past several years demonstrate. Nobody

can ever forget the bravery of the young man who stopped a column of tanks from proceeding toward Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Nor can they forget the people of Leipzig who confronted the once formidable East German Army, thereby risking the "Chinese solution" (massacre). And many remember the Sowetans (South Africa), West Bank Palestinians, Rumanians, and others. Given the mixed achievements in these examples, however, the risks are high and the prospects for success are by no means certain and should not be overestimated.

In a related vein, people throughout the world continue to demand public services such as education and medical care. They may be expected to react when such services are threatened by political or economic disarray or by government budget cuts. For example, some voters in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics freely elected communists to public office, no doubt in response to major and continuing disruptions in their lives resulting from the shock of free-market reforms. Such actions also provide evidence that the social democratic variation of Marxism is still very much alive, even though Stalinism, or monolithic, dictatorial communism is largely a thing of the past.

SUMMARY

The world has changed drastically during the half-century since World War II, a war that saw the first use of atomic weapons. The UN was born out of that destruction, with the goal of preventing another such catastrophe. Although much has occurred since 1945 and more will take place in the new century, the global community now has the capacity to self-destruct or peacefully coexist. The September 11 tragedy brought us all into a vulnerable space.

The UN Charter was signed by 50 states in 1945. Today, there are approximately 189 members.¹⁴ The expanded membership reflects an international environment that has grown more politically complex and which now has an even greater potential for violent conflict than a half-century ago. At the same time, breakthroughs in communications, transportation, and other technologies have shrunk the world immeasurably, making personal contact easier, more frequent, and almost instantaneous.

Some relationships do not change with time. The inequalities in standards of living persist and are even expanding in many areas of the Other World. Students of the world's condition can note many cruel paradoxes. Medical advances have prolonged the lives of millions, yet tens of thousands die each year from starvation and diseases that accompany malnutrition. There is more widespread awareness now of the fragile nature of the Earth's environment than ever before, although there are now more ways of damaging that environment than ever before. Industrial and technological developments have freed many workers from the drudgery of assembly-line production, yet many more will face a lifetime of illiteracy, poverty, and marginal employment, at best.

The status of the world's states will change over the next half-century. Some will gain more international prestige; others will see their standing diminish; and some, like Czechoslovakia, have disappeared. One hundred years ago, England ruled the seas and governed an empire that extended to every corner of the earth. Today, only the faded remnants of that power remain. The United States will continue to be an international power in the years ahead, even though that power may be redefined. It is unlikely that the Other World will be a cohesive force in the near future, although some states such as China, India, and Brazil are pursuing more prominent leadership roles.

A gloomy scenario for the world in the next century cannot be easily dismissed, on the basis of human actions of the past, although the world and its peoples have demonstrated a remarkable capacity to survive the adversity of natural and human-made disasters.¹⁵ However, a fatalistic outlook that might have been appropriate before is no longer. This is the dawning of a new, exciting, but dangerous age. Increased cross-cultural understanding has helped us grasp our future—a future that does not belong to the Other World or to the First or Second World. The future belongs to all of us; it belongs to the world. The only question is whether we are collectively up to the tasks before us. Shall we survive, perish, or prevail?

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

1. Must the United States remain the police officer for the world?

The United States since World War II has acted as a police officer, entering into conflicts in other regions of the world. The nation's rationale originally came from its interests in stopping the spread of communism into other nations and from its desire to protect American companies trading in other areas of the world. Increasingly, the United States has entered into conflicts, primarily in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, where oil and minerals are important. It has continued to engage in political and military activities in the Americas, citing the proximity of these areas to the United States and to the economic ties that exist. Must this pattern continue? Should we wait for the UN peace-keeping forces instead? Will bombing and intervention in another nation's internal affairs bring peace and prosperity?

2. Can we keep other nations from building weapons of mass destruction?

A few nations have nuclear weapons of mass destruction: The United States, France, Britain, Russia, India, Pakistan, and China. Others, including Iran, are suspected of developing them. Is it possible to stop the spread and use of these weapons once they exist? Many think it is not possible to contain the spread because the very existence of such dangerous weapons can be used deliberately or accidentally, destroying populations and environments. Once a number of na-

tions hold these weapons over the head of others for "security," other nations want them too. South Africa is the only state to have built them, tested them, and destroyed them. This is the lonely example of reversing the proliferation of such weapons. Is it possible this strategy can succeed? Or is it flawed in some way?

3. Are we killing our planet with industrialization and modernization?

Industrialized nations and those moving into industrialization are bringing electrification, railroads, roadways, factories, pesticides, herbicides, and other modern systems to their communities. These artifacts of modern life are artificially designed and do not occur naturally in the world. What is not part of nature interferes with nature in some way. The most developed nations produce the greatest pollution to air, waters, and soils. Beijing and Singapore have begun to see the pollution and traffic congestion that rivals what can be found in London, New York, or Frankfurt. Trade agreements between countries can step around environmental laws and penalties. Can we find a way to globally protect the planet? Should further industrialization in developing countries be stopped or slowed? Is it desirable even if one is able to do so?

4. Can we care for the children of the world?

Problems of war, drought, disease, and pestilence threaten many in the underdeveloped nations of the world. In some nations, one out of five children is an orphan. Survivors languish with malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, and a host of other ailments and disabilities. Children are the most vulnerable in any social, economic, or political upheaval, because they are dependent upon others for care. Are we able to fulfill our promises to care for children? If we abandon this responsibility, how do we judge our society?

5. Can the world be made safe from terrorism or are we doomed?

With the September 11, 2001, terrorist destruction of the World Trade Center towers in New York City, safety is an issue everywhere in the world. All entry ports into nations are taking extra precautions to scan packages and to question and detain suspicious persons. Some claim that questioning and detaining of persons is equivalent to harassment. Others believe it is necessary. Still others think it is a silly gesture. Nevertheless, we are all taking extra care and hoping for extra safety. Will it work?

Review Questions

1. Must the United States remain the police officer for the world?
2. Can we keep other nations from building weapons of mass destruction?
3. Are we killing our planet?