Notes: Globalization

**Globalization**

Globalization encompasses, Politics, Financial markets, National security, Culture, Technological advances, Environmentalism. All of these factors combine to create a web of interactions between countries and peoples around the world. As the largest free market economy the US exports not only its goods but also its culture

Critics charge that the world is becoming Americanized as people around the world adopt American foods, clothing and entertainment (part of the reason the Islamic Fundamentalists have declared a jihad against the US is that they consider it a corruptive influence, particularly on women)

**Globalization: Money makes the world go around**

The system of globalization is driven by economics

However recent communication developments like the Internet allow people to communicate with one another instantly across the globe. The world’s cultures are becoming homogenized at the expense of distinct national or regional cultures. Ecological issues like climate change are global concerns

Social issues have also driven intervention in domestic matters, which powerful nations have justified on the basis of moral and humanitarian grounds. The relationship of states, financial markets, corporations and individuals is being re-ordered. Countries are becoming ever more interdependent and national sovereignty is being deliberately given up or eroded as nations surrender aspects of sovereignty so that they do not end up isolated from the global community

The Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan first used the phrase “global village” to describe the new interdependent technologically connected world in 1962. It is now clear that indeed our world has become a far different place in this new century than the one we just left

Questions/Main ideas:

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Globalization the pros and cons**

Supporters of globalization advocate it for the following points

The ease involved in the transfer of goods and services

The increased opportunities for the exchange of information (provided by things like the internet)

The advantages of trade (for some)

Foreign investment

Membership in international organizations

Potential to increase standard of living (note the term potential)

The opponents of globalization point out

That globalization increases the gap between the rich and poor, both within and between nations

This creates both a national and international class system based on economic status: a large class of poor, a smaller or non-existent middle class and a very small very wealthy upper class

Critics of globalization also point out that horrible human rights violations take place in factories in the developing world

These factories are owned by corporations in the developed world

The goods these factories produce are sold in the developed world

The profit from these factories goes to corporations located in the developed world

The resources and labour that creates these goods comes from the developing world and some suggest that this is not to the benefit of those host populations

Also critics point to the negative environmental impact of globalization, the destruction of the world’s rainforests is an example of the environmental impact of globalization

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Globalization Continued**

Many people claim that globalization has acted to generally increase global standards of living and point to improvements in living standards in India and China

However international anti-globalization movements have become increasingly vocal in their opposition to globalization claiming that the protectionist policies of the developed world impedes the developing world’s ability to improve living standards

Currently many developing countries are unable to obtain pharmaceutical patents (e.g. The lack of treatment for HIV infected Africans) and the use of the developing world as a dumping ground for toxic materials in exchange for forgiven currency

The poorest citizens of these countries are the ones that intimately pay the price in the eradication of their once clean water and fertile land

**Globalization the affect of trade barriers on the developing world**

Pro-globalization say that developing countries are unable to compete effectively with industrial states because of protectionist measures.

One recent estimate by the World Bank suggested that abolishing trade barriers could increase global income by almost $3 trillion and remove 320 million people from the ranks of poverty by 2015

Advocates of globalization point out that the total global numbers of absolute poor has dropped and proponents of globalization say that this global reduction in poor is the result of greater globalization (it is probably due to the elevation of living standards in India and China)

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Globalization and some associated issues**

Environmental issues, rights to intellectual property, and child labour are problems perceived with globalization.

Environmental organizations protest trade practices that violate environmental protection standards. EG. The protest against trade in shrimp with Asian countries who use nets that trap other (endangered) wildlife as well as shrimp.

Industrial nations are the worst producers of greenhouse gases,

We will not give up our cars and refrigerators

The developing world would like to have these amenities, and there is significant concern that the global environment is completely unable to deal with that level of human industrialization

China is the source of many millions of pirated computer software, CDs, and DVDs. Which raises intellectual property questions

Western countries denounce child labour but continue to buy products produced through their efforts.

**The World Trade Organization and the World Bank**

Global trade is monitored by the World Trade Organization,

The world trade organization's membership numbers 144 countries.

There is a significant protest movement regarding the World Trade Organization and what is perceived by some as being an organization that serves only the wealthiest members of the global society leaving human rights and environmental concerns by the wayside in search of profits that benefit the few.

China was admitted in 2001 with Taiwan following in 2002.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The World Trade Organization and the World Bank**

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank operate in the global financial arena.

IMF manages the international monetary system and World Bank provides development assistance. In the form of loans (with interest of course) to countries in need of assistance. These loans have become a problem the debts have grown so large that many developing nations are unable to repay them in 2000 the developing world owed more than $ 2.5 trillion, much of it to the World Bank. Debtor nations have been forced to divert funds from health care, education and infrastructure to pay interest charges to the World Bank

**Globalization continued**

Another issue of globalization is the goal of an open world society, that would allow freedom of movement. While countries are willing to allow entry to a quota of educated and skilled workers , most do not want the truly destitute. There is a fear among some critics of globalization that national cultures will be lost. Brits and other Europeans argued for hours whether to call fruit spread “marmalade” or “jam” while making out its EU policy for common standards. Cultural diffusion = Spread of particular culture over a large area beyond its initial boundaries. Issues of religion, cultural beliefs, and traditions are much more difficult to integrate. Globalization is often equated with Americanization. USA’s GDP is larger than China’s and Japan’s combined, only the GDP of EU can match it. (As of 2003). GM, Wal-Mart, Exxon-Mobil, and Ford’s revenue are or were greater than that of many countries. When companies wield economic power they influence not only the economy of their host countries, but also local political, cultural, and environmental issues.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Asian economies**

Dissolution of the USSR had much less impact on Asia than Europe. Issues facing Asia had more to do with economic globalization than political or military events.

From 1960-1990’s Asian economies demonstrated remarkable growth.

Economists dubbed their success “the Asian economic miracle” and leading countries were referred to as “Asian Tigers”

They began exporting primary projects like fish, minerals, sugar, and coffee to the rest of the world, and then involved themselves in manufacturing goods such as textiles and clothing.

As wages increased in Europe and North America, western manufacturers sought increasingly to reduce costs by moving production facilities abroad.

Cheap labour made Asia a prime location for such facilities.

As these wages increased and skilled labour grew, industries moved to less economically developed areas and were replaced by factories making steel, automobiles, parts, or small appliances.

The country might then move into technological development of products as radios , televisions, and eventually computers. As this required a skilled labour force, only a small number of countries have experienced this revolution. Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan were the leaders.

Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines trying to catch up.

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Japan**

Japan led the Asian countries in the growth Asian economies experienced on the last four years of the 20th Century . This was assisted by American investment post WWII. During the Korean War (1950-53) Japan was the supply base for American troops and by the mid ‘50’s had sustained significant economic growth. The Export economy that Japan developed after WWII was revived. As Japan’s economy continued to grow government and industry worked together to coordinated the production and distribution of goods. The Japanese introduced tariffs against imports to shelter their own industrial growth and consumer prices were kept high to encourage profit and a strong export market. Japan’s workforce was highly educated, had a strong work ethic, and was devoted to rebuilding Japan

**The Growth of post War Japan Continued**

When Sony acquired the rights to the transistor in 1956 Japan began to develop an electronics industry

This propelled Japan into the forefront of the Asian economies and into a globally competitive economic position. Japanese-made transistor radios, televisions and eventually more high tech equipment completed with North American brands in North American stores. Honda already a leading producer of motorbikes began to make cars along with Datsun (renamed Nissan) and Toyota, they challenged the “big three” American car manufacturers with their line of fuel efficient vehicles. When the oil crisis of 1973 occurred, North American interest in fuel economy gave Japan the edge it needed to make serious inroads into the North American automobile market. The oil crisis of ‘73 caused a temporary setback in the Japanese economy. Japan remained dependent on imported oil. By 1980 Japan was excelling on the world stage economically. By 1980 the US was on the wrong side of a trade balance with Japan

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Japan and The Plaza Accord**

In a bid to redress the balance of trade between the US and Japan Japanese and American official met at the Plaza Hotel in New York in 1985

The result of the meeting was an agreement called the Plaza Accord This agreement forced down the value of the US dollar and increased the value of the Yen. This made US goods less expensive o the international market while Japanese goods would become more expensive. Over the next 10 years (while the Accord was in effect) Japan began to experience a severe economic crisis. The stock market lost 60% of its value real estate values fell and two of Japan’s largest financial institutions were forced to close after declaring billions in unredeemable debt. Japan continues to experience financial and social restructuring

**The Economic Crisis**

By the mid ‘90’s the economic problems in Japan had spread to other Asian nations,

Because of the interdependence of global economies, the crisis in Japan caused investor unrest as many people had invested in Asian countries.

Critics (people like Paul Krugman) had suggested that the Asian success was fragile (much like success in the Soviet system had been) Asia was producing more goods than the world market needed

Early in ‘97 the World Bank expressed concern over the economic health of Thailand. On July 2nd the government of Thailand decided to let the baht (money in Thailand) to float against the US dollar.

Thailand could not afford to spend foreign reserves to maintain a high baht. Asian currencies had been tied to the US dollar during the ‘90s. The strength of the US $ made Thailand’s exports less attractive in European and Asian markets. However when the baht was allowed to float freely, banks that had borrowed from foreign investors and then lent in bahts to real-estate developers could not repay their loans

**The Soviet Response**

In 1977 the USSR led the US 3 to 2 in mega tonnage ( the explosive yield of bombs measured in tonnes of TNT) however, it lacked missile accuracy.

Between 1971 and `84 defence spending in the USSR grew by 5% per year.

Estimates suggest that this was the equivalent of between 13 and 17% of their GNP (compared to 5.5% of the US GNP)

In the late 1970`s Soviet accuracy improved an d technology they imported from Japan allowed Soviet Submarines to move more quietly

In the 1980`s the quality of Soviet aircraft, submarines, warships and missiles all improved significantly

However by 1985 the money committed to the defence sector of the economy had created serious problems in the domestic economy and unrest and discontent among the Soviet citizens

Between 1979 and 1985 the arms race escalated, as the US and USSR argued about the Soviets in Afghanistan and NATO`s nuclear policy, among other issues

In 1981 Reagan proposed the Zero option according to which the Americans would not deploy missiles in Europe if the USSR would dismantle their SS-20`s there. The USSR refused fearing the remaining bombs of the French and British

In November of `81 Reagan puts forth the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START)

This involved the destruction of missiles on both sides, however left the US in a position of superiority regarding cruise missiles and bombers

The Soviets were not interested

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Economic Crisis continued**

Between January and September of ‘97 , equity markets in Thailand fell by 50%

This in combination with the collapsed currency, made problems in the banking system like inadequate cash reserves and lax lending procedures become evident

This was the start of the “Asian Flu” which spread to Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, South Korea, and Hong Kong. Only Taiwan seemed largely unaffected

Some of the blame for the severity of the crisis in the Asian economies lies in the corrupt nature of some of the governments in question and the development and prevalence of some fairly self serving economic policies

Indonesia’s “Crony Capitalism” particularly under Suharto is a good example of this.

Some of the blame lies in an inadequate level of industrialisation, but this also posses problems. There is a strong feeling that economic development should be tempered with environmental stewardship and this is proving to be a treacherous balance

The labour standards and human rights issues of the various governments of Asian nations has also raised some questions among the left wing of the Western World

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Islamic World**

The World of Islam as a majority group covers a significant amount of the Earth’s surface, it includes The Middle East, Large regions of Africa and big chunks of South East Asia. By the 20th century the Islamic world was dominated by colonial powers, which retained their control over these regions until after the second world war. A reaction against Western influence has been growing ever since and by the ’90’s increasing demands for a return to a traditional fundamentalist Islamic way of life has caused significant international conflict. The increasing effects of globalisation has exasperated these problems

**Roots of the Conflict**

The Islamic civilisation truly began to prosper during what we call the Dark Ages, over the next three centuries they expanded their territory to stretch form North Africa and Spain to north west India and South East Asia. Some Arabs abandoned nomadic life in favour of agriculture. By the end of the tenth Century, large numbers of Muslims existed and a Muslim world characterized by a common religious and social culture was well established. Politically the Arab world was not united. A number of rulers claimed the title of Caliph most notably those of Baghdad, Cairo and Cordoba. These cities grew powerful through trade with India, the Mediterranean, Western Africa and Europe

In the late 11th century the Seljuk Turks threatened the Byzantine Empire and Byzantine appealed to the Pope (a bitter pill for Byzantine to swallow) which began 200 years of crusades against the Islamic world in the Middle East and North Africa

A giant land and power grab under the guise of freeing the land for Christianity. The result of the crusades was a bitter legacy of religious ha

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Rise of the Ottoman Empire**

By the end of the fourteenth century the Ottoman empire emerged from a Muslim dynasty named Uthman which was anglicized to Ottoman.

Over the next 100 years the Ottomans were able to gain control of most of the land in the Eastern Mediterranean. In 1453 they captured Constantinople, ending the Byzantine Empire. The city was renamed Istanbul and became the new capital of the Ottoman Empire. Ottoman armies went on to gain control of the Balkan region in Europe until they were stopped in 1683 at Vienna

**The End of the Ottoman Empire**

Over the 17th and 18th Centuries the Ottoman Empire suffered several defeats and by the 19th century it was known as the “sick man of Europe” by the 1850’s the Ottoman Empire was composed of many different ethnic and religious groups and divided internally by political strife

The dominant religion was Islam and Turks were the ruling class. Only Muslims could serve in the army or exert influence in the administration of government

The Ottoman Empire operated under religious law (sharia) exclusively or in parallel with secular law

There was limited access to education and so there was a high illiteracy rate, and difficulties in staffing administrative posts. Islamic communities had fallen behind in the industrial revolution

The dismemberment of the Empire began in the 1870’s when Russia pressured it to give Serbia and Romania independence And after a congress of European powers in Berlin in 1878 Russia received Batuma and Kars, and Montenegro gained independence, Austria gained Bosnia and Britain received Cyprus, France expanded from Algeria into Tunisia and the Ottoman’s were allowed to keep Bulgaria. WWI dealt the death blow to the Ottoman Empire and at the end of the war the Empire was dissolved

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Turkey and the rise of an independent Middle East**

In 1923 a new Turkish republic was formed out of the old Ottoman Empire. It contained Istanbul and the Anatolian peninsula

Other Arab states that had been under the control of the Ottoman Empire became League of Nations mandates under either Britain or France.

In 1922 Egypt became independent

In 1932 Iraq became independent

After WWII Britain and France were no longer interested in their Middle Eastern holdings

Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen among others, gained independence when their mandates ended during or after WWII

The boundaries of these new nations had a lot more to do with European colonization than with ethnic or historic boundaries,

That was going to cause problems down the road.

**The Middle East and the Cold War Islam in the Bi-Polar World**

The US and the USSR emerged from WWII as rivals for global domination and the Cold War did not leave the Middle East untouched.

While clearly defined spheres of influence evolved in Europe and Asia, the Middle East proved to be more of a challenge

During WWII the USSR occupied Iran to protect Allied access to Iranian oil

When they refused to leave after the war it resulted in one of the first of the cold war conflicts

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Egypt and the Cold War: Nasser and the Suez Canal Crisis**

In 1952 the Egyptian government was taken over by a military coup.

One of the officers involved emerged to lead the country Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser

Nasser was determined to get rid of foreign interests and make Egypt a leader in the Arab world

Nasser led a social revolution based on Nationalism, which was rooted in Arab socialism as its method of change

Nasser was determined to created a socialist state founded on Islamic Nationalism

Nasser’s rise provided the USSR the opportunity to created links with a new socialist Egypt

In 1954 (with the encouragement of the US) Pakistan and Turkey signed a mutual defence alliance, in the hopes of nipping any communist expansion in the bud the following year Iraq was persuaded to join, and the alliance became known as the “Baghdad Pact” Iran and Great Britain were also members

The US promised military and economic cooperation without formal membership

The US had hoped that Egypt would join too, however Egypt chose to side with the Soviets

In 1959 Iraq withdrew and the organization changed its name to the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO)

As a part of its rapprochement with the Soviets Egypt agreed in Sept ‘55 to trade cotton to Eastern Europe in exchange for guns form Czechoslovakia.

The Suez Crisis followed in 1956

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Modern Middle East**

Following the Suez Crisis and Britain’s withdrawal from Egypt Western influence in the Middle East was reduced

In 1961 Kuwait gained independence and by 1971 the United Arab Emirates were formed out of seven small states in the Persian Gulf region

Only in Oman was there still a minimal British presence

In the Mid ‘60’s oil became a major factor in Middle Eastern politics

The top oil producers of the Middle East (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Libya, and Algeria) had combined oil revenues of $2 billion per year.

This revenue was the mainstay of the Arab Bloc economy

By the 1970’s countries of the Middle East experienced annual growth rates ranging from 5 to 10 % Most of this money was spent on weapons and the expansion of government

The most neglected sector was agriculture

By the end of the ‘70’s most Arab countries had to import food to feed their rapidly growth populations

The gap between rich and poor had grown significantly wider

Autocratic governments remained in power

In 1945 , Egypt Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen formed the Arab League to promote closer political, economic and social ties among Arab nations. It now has 22 members, but they don’t always get along very well

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Islamic Revival**

The Society of Muslim Brothers was founded by Hasan al-Banna in Egypt in 1928 Hasan was a teacher who wanted to counter the influence of Western culture which he believed tainted Muslim society

The movement called for a return to Islam prescribed by a traditional reading of the Qur'an

It called for government by the sharia, the sacred law of Islam

While the organization was primarily concerned with Egypt it promoted this view throughout the Muslim world, recruiting members from the middle tier of society- men educated in Arabic an who worked as craftsmen, professionals, or small businessmen

These people accepted a literal translation of Islamic scripture and adhered to a very traditional lifestyle

**The Society of Muslim Brothers**

Over the next few decades the Muslim Brothers expanded their membership and adapted their goals to accommodate the many variations of Islam that existed in the region

The common denominator was the belief that the Qur'an provided moral, legal, and spiritual guidance, and that Islamic society was sullied by Western values and materialism

To created this Islamic society, individuals were advised to withdraw from mainstream society and allow the sharia to guide their lives

In addition it was felt that jihad and subsequent martyrdom might be necessary to spread their views

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Middle East today**

Islamic revivalists have come into conflict with secular governments over their insistence on a return to Islamic principles and the consequent removal of secular ideas in the administration of the country.The Ba’athist movement, which became prominent in Iraq and Syria y the 1970’s is an example of a secular nationalism Arabic movement

There are four trends in the modern Arab world that have dominated both their internal and external political relationships. Islamic socialism, formulated originally with Nasser in Egypt. Nationalistic socialism, the Ba’ath party in Iraq. The quest for a Palestinian homeland. The struggle between the secular and fundamentalist view of the Islamic world

**Indonesia**

Indonesia is a country that is experiencing many of the global forces operating in the world today

It is a developing nation contending with its colonial history and trying to develop political, economic, and social institutions as the basis of nationhood

Its economy was hit with the other Asian countries in the late ’90’s. Its population contains many minorities, and Islamic revivalism and terrorism are factors. Indonesia has a population of over 220 million people. It is the 4th most populous country in the world and the largest Islamic nation

During WWII the Japanese occupied the islands

At the end of the war Achemed Sukarno led Indonesian nationalists in an independence movement against the Dutch who were trying to reclaim it as the colony it had been before the Japanese invasion. By ‘49 the Dutch were persuaded by the UN to give up the region and the United States of Indonesia was born. In 1950 it became a member of the UN and converted its government to a republic with very strong central control

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Questions/Main ideas:

**Indonesia under Sukarno**

In 1955 President Sukarno invited Asian and African nations to attend a conference in Bandung Java

Out of this meeting came the policy of non-alignment, where developing countries would try to play the East against the West in an attempt to maintain their own independence. In the early ‘60’s Sukarno focused on political not economic issues and by ‘66 exports were low the economy was in bad shape and people were starving. Sukarno tried to fix this by moving Indonesia closer to China. When Indonesia moved closer to China when a members of small former British colonies formed became a part of the Malaysian Federation (Malaysia). This move on the part of Sukarno combined with the presence of about 3 million Communists in Indonesia and Indonesia’s acceptance of Soviet aid made the Western powers (e.g. the US) very uncomfortable. Vietnam was happening and the US was in the middle of a serious hate on for Communism

**The Fall of Sukarno and the Rise of Suharto in Indonesia**

Washington provided aid to train 4000 officers in the Indonesian army. Shortly after that on September 30th 1965, the army (led by some very well trained and equipped officers) attempted a coup on the Sukarno government and blamed the action on the Communists. Political polarization was severe between Communists, Muslims and a pro-development group all vying for control of the countries direction. The first coup was unsuccessful, however over the next year about 300 000 to 400 000 Communists and ethnic Chinese were murdered in one of the most horrible mass killings in the latter half of the 20th Century. The PKI (The Indonesian Communist Party) was destroyed and Communist teachings outlawed. By 1967 General Suharto had used his power within the army to establish control of the country and in 1967 he became president

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**Suharto, Golkar and oppression**

One of Suharto’s first moves was to introduce the concept of Golkar

The term means functional groups

Initially it seemed to be a method for the people to have a voice in government, however it soon became apparent that it was just a parliamentary vehicle to give the military a predominant position in the government

Suharto used this as a jumping off point for his autocratic rule and he used the military to viciously crush any opposition to his rule.

In ‘75 when Portugal gave up East Timor as a colony Indonesia annexed it

Over 200 000 East Timorese were killed during this war, Indonesia also invaded Sumatra, Aceh and Irina,

During his 32 year rule Suharto ran a corrupt government and set up his economy to specifically benefit his family

He also instituted economic reforms and had some economic success, however it primarily benefited the wealthy portion of society leaving Indonesia a country of extreme economic division

Questions/Main ideas:

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Questions/Main ideas:

**The Fall of Suharto**

In July of ‘96 the worst rioting since 1974 occurred in Jakarta (Indonesia’s capital) over the Suharto regime's refusal to include an opposition leader in government. The military was forced to put down the riot. In ‘97 Indonesia’s economy was hit with the economic crisis that rocked the rest of Asia

The IMF offered Suharto a loan to pay off the country’s debt if Suharto ended food and fuel subsidies to his people, float his currency and develop a free market. Suharto refused. He began a campaign to manipulate support for his government. In January of ‘98 he sent military forces from Sumatra to Jakarta, where they began a campaign to eliminate Suharto’s rivals. On May 12 while Suharto was visiting Egypt student demonstrations broke out and four university students were killed. The police claimed they had used rubber bullets, however eyewitnesses said they saw police snipers. The bodies were buried before autopsies were performed. During the following days anti-government demonstrations grew in size

On May 14 a government organized pogrom was mounted against Chinese shopkeepers, shopping malls, and housing projects. Men in Trucks drove through the streets of Jakarta splashing gas on Chinese businesses and homes and setting them on fire. These attacks resulted in approximately 1188 deaths and the destruction of thousands of shops and cars. Foreigners fled in fear and Suharto returned form Egypt blamed the unrest on racial hatred and economic jealousy on the part of the population and ordered a military crackdown on protestors. The 6 million ethnic Chinese who make up 3.5 % of Indonesia’s population administered 3/4ths of the country’s industry. After the pogrom thousands fled, taking $85 billion in capital resources with them. This withdrawal and the move to a floating currency resulted in massive devaluation of Indonesia's currency (the rupiah)

Suharto was replaced by vice-president Habibi and who was replaced by General Wiranto and then by Sukarno’s daughter Megawati Sukarno-putri

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**Indonesia Continued**

Indonesia is still struggling to recover

It has been forced to deal with Islamic secessionist provinces, particularly East Timor (who really did not want to be part of Indonesia) but also Aceh, Papua Riau, and East Kalimantan

When East Timor was granted its independence, there was some fear that Indonesia would unravel as a country, however that has not happened

In January 2000 the Indonesian government imposed Islamic law on Aceh,

While the majority of Acehnese are Muslim and supportive of sharia, they are not supportive of the way it treats lawbreakers, and young women in Aceh are not all willing to accept the concept of covering their heads, despite recognizing the Qur'an as the ultimate authority

Their view is that the government does not have the right to force people to adhere to a specific interpretation of the Qur'an

The question of Indonesia’s role in the rising global problem with terrorism is also problematic

Indonesia is a large country with a poor infrastructure and a government that seems unable to deal with extremist factions inside their boarders

Questions/Main ideas:

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