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## CHAPTERS IN BRIEF

# Global Interdependence, 1960–Present

## Summary

**CHAPTER OVERVIEW** *New technologies have brought people around the world closer to one another and improved their lives. The world's economies have also grown closer to one another. Nations around the world have worked together to try to bring peace and end terrorism. Because of technology, the world's cultures have more influence on one another now.*

## ❶ The Impact of Science and Technology

**KEY IDEA** *Advances in technology after 1945 led to increased global interaction and improved quality of life.*

From the 1950s to the 1970s, the United States and Soviet Union took their Cold War rivalry to space. This space race also led to more global cooperation. In 1975, U.S. and Soviet spacecraft docked, or joined together, in space. Later, American and Soviet space missions included scientists from other countries. In the late 1990s, the United States, Russia, and 14 other nations worked together to build the International Space Station (ISS).

Some space missions did not include human crew members. Unmanned flights sent back pictures and information about other planets. In 1990, the United States and European countries sent the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit around the earth. This satellite continues to send back stunning images of objects in space.

Another advance in technology has been the computer. Computers have shrunk in size and grown in power since they were first invented. Consumer goods such as microwave ovens, telephones, and cars often include computer chips to keep them running. Millions of people around the world use personal computers at work or at home. Many of these people are connected through the Internet, a worldwide network of computers. The Internet allows people to access information or communicate with one another.

New technology has changed medicine as well. Surgery using lasers allows doctors to fix problems in the eye or the brain. New methods for making images of the body help doctors locate problems. Research into genes has helped unlock the secrets of some diseases.

In the 1960s, agricultural scientists started the green revolution, an attempt to increase food production worldwide. This involved the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and high-yield, disease-resistant strains of

crops. The green revolution did increase crop yields. However, it had its negative side, too. Fertilizers and pesticides can pollute the environment.

Advances in genetics research seem to be helping to fulfill some of the goals of the green revolution. Resistance to pests and tolerance to poor soil are bred into plant strains, reducing the need for pesticides and fertilizers. This holds great promise for increasing food production in a world with an expanding population.

## ❷ Global Economic Development

**KEY IDEA** *The economies of nations are so tightly linked that the actions of one nation affects others.*

Technology has also changed the world's economies. In the 1950s, scientists found a new way to make plastics, which came to be widely used. In recent years, industries have begun using robots to make products. These changes have required workers to have more and different skills than before. The industrialized nations changed the focus of their economies. They came to have more jobs in service and information industries. Manufacturing jobs were more often found in the emerging nations where labor costs less.

A global economy linking the economies of different nations developed in the 1980s. In recent years, this process of globalization has speeded up. Telephone and computer links connect banks and other financial companies around the world. Multi-national corporations have offices and factories in many countries. Their decisions affect workers all over the world.

An important aspect of globalization is free trade—no barriers to block goods from one country from entering another country. Many steps have been taken to put free trade in practice. In 1951, some nations in Europe joined together to create free trade among their people. That group, now called the European Union (EU), has grown to

become a powerful trading block. To compete, the United States, Canada, and Mexico agreed to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994. Organizations in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the South Pacific have also created regional trade policies.

In recent years, there has been considerable disagreement on the impact of economic globalization. Supporters suggest that open, competitive markets and the free flow of goods, services, technology, and investments benefit all nations. Opponents charge that globalization has been a disaster for the poorest countries. Many, they suggest, are worse off today than they were in the past.

The development of the global economy has had a major impact on the use of energy and other resources. Manufacturing and trade both use huge amounts of energy. Oil has been a major source of this energy. Whenever the flow of oil has been threatened, the world's economies have suffered severe shocks.

Growth has also caused problems for the environment. Burning coal and oil has polluted the air. It has caused acid rain and brought about a general rising of temperatures on Earth. Release of some chemicals into the air has weakened the earth's ozone layer. This layer of air blocks out dangerous rays from the sun.

Many scientists understand the need to continue to let economies grow. They urge, though, that this growth take place without using up the world's resources too quickly. This movement centers on an idea called "sustainable growth."

### 3 Global Security Issues

**KEY IDEA** *Since 1945, nations have used collective security efforts to solve problems.*

After World War II, the Cold War created new tensions among the world's nations. This uneasy situation threatened world security. So, nations began to work together to find peaceful solutions.

The United Nations (UN) was formed at the end of World War II to promote world peace. The UN provides a place for countries—or groups within countries—to speak their views. When groups at war request it, the UN can send troops as a peacekeeping force. These soldiers—who come from member nations—help stop violence from breaking out. As of 2002, the UN had 40,000 soldiers and police in 13 peacekeeping forces around the world.

Another approach to greater peace and security

has been the attempt to limit weapons of mass destruction. These include nuclear missiles, chemical weapons, and biological weapons. In 1968, many nations signed a treaty agreeing not to develop nuclear weapons. In the 1990s, the United States and Russia have made agreements to destroy many of their nuclear weapons. In another treaty, many nations promised not to develop chemical or biological weapons. Threats to safety remain, however. Some nations have tried to develop and use these weapons. As a result, weapons of mass destruction continue to be a global security problem.

Another source of world conflict has been the struggle between different ethnic and religious groups. Violence has killed thousands. One effort to solve this problem has been the movement for human rights. In 1948, the UN approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This statement lists specific rights that all people should have. Later, the Helsinki Accords, signed by many nations in 1975, included such rights as the freedom to exchange information. Many groups throughout the world keep a close eye on how well nations do in providing these rights for their people.

Recently, the enjoyment of a decent standard of health has become recognized as a basic human right. However, for many people across the world, poor health is still the norm. Perhaps the greatest global challenge to the attainment of good health is AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome. AIDS is a worldwide problem. However, Sub-Saharan Africa has suffered most from the epidemic. The disease has had devastating impact on the populations and economies of many countries in this region.

In recent years, millions of people have moved from one country to another. Some seek better jobs. Others hope to escape harsh treatment at home. Immigrants can bring many benefits to their new home. While people have a right to leave, every country does not have to accept them. Sometimes these people have to live in crowded refugee camps. They suffer hunger and disease and can cause political problems for the country where they are held.

### 4 Terrorism

**KEY IDEA** *Terrorism threatens the safety of people around the world.*

Terrorism is the use of violence against people or property to force changes in societies or governments. People resort to terrorism to gain

independence, to rid their country of foreigners, or to change their society. Recently, another motive for terrorism has emerged. Some people, driven by radical religious and cultural ideals, have tried to destroy what they consider the forces of evil.

The most common weapons used by terrorists are bombs and bullets. Terrorist attacks involving these weapons usually target crowded places. Some terrorist groups have used biological and chemical weapons. Others have employed cyberterrorism—attacks on information systems such as computer networks. Governments take various actions to combat terrorism. These include conducting military operations against terrorist training camps, cutting off terrorists' sources of funds, and tightening security measures at vulnerable targets.

Few areas of the world have escaped incidents of terrorism. In the Middle East, Palestinians and Israelis have argued for decades about land ownership. This argument has resulted in many terrorist acts. In Northern Ireland, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) has done terrorist acts for many years. The IRA wants the British to give up control over Northern Ireland. Terrorist groups have also been active in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The United States also has been the target of international terrorism. On the morning of September 11, 2001, 19 Arab terrorists hijacked four airliners, crashing them into the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The United States responded by launching a military attack on Afghanistan, where the hijackers were trained. In addition, the United States Congress passed the USA Patriot Act, which gave the government several powers to help chase and capture of terrorists. The Congress also created the Department of Homeland Security to organize the fight against terrorism in the United States.

## 🌐 Cultures Blend in a Global Age

**KEY IDEA** *Technology has increased contact among the world's people, changing their cultures.*

Changes in technology have made it possible for people to share their cultures with one another. Television is one of the main forces in this trend. Movies and radio also have had an impact in bringing the world's people together.

As a result of these mass media, the world's popular culture now includes elements from many different cultures. Popular culture includes music,

sports, clothing styles, food, and hobbies. American television shows have become popular around the world. So, too, have athletes from many countries. Broadcasts of the sports events can reach millions of people in all corners of the globe.

When elements of different cultures are combined, it is called cultural blending. In recent times, ideas from the United States and Europe have been a major force in this blending. One reason is that Western nations dominate the mass media. This trend also results from the influence that the West has had in recent centuries. As a result, English is now a major world language. About 500 million people speak English as their first or second language. More people speak Mandarin Chinese. However, English speakers are more widely spread throughout the world. Western clothes can be seen throughout the world. Western foods—such as hamburgers and soft drinks—are enjoyed everywhere. Some ideas have also traveled from East to West.

Some see this growing international culture as a problem. They worry that their own culture will be drowned in a sea of influences from other lands. Some countries limit the amount of broadcast time given to foreign television programs. Others use censorship to keep unwanted ideas from entering the land. In some areas, people have revived old traditions in order to keep them alive.

Despite these difficulties, it is clear that the people of the world are more dependent on one another. All through human history, people have faced many challenges to their survival. In the 21st century, those challenges will be faced by different people around the world. They are people who are in increasing contact with others. They are people with a greater stake in living in harmony.

## Review

1. **Recognizing Effects** How have computers affected the way people gather information and communicate with one another?
2. **Drawing Conclusions** How have economies changed since World War II?
3. **Identifying Problems** What problems come with economic growth?
4. **Summarizing** What efforts have countries made to increase peace and security in the world?
5. **Clarifying** Give two examples of cultural blending.