

The World in 2010: Imposition of the Global Regime



World Politics Debated

A. The Nature of the International System

1. Is the state declining in significance as an actor in world politics?
 2. Is the United Nations an effective global institution?
 3. Do multinational corporations exploit developing countries?
 4. Will China become a superpower in the 21st century?
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World Politics Debated

B. Goals

1. Is Russia on the road to democracy?
 2. Should the promotion of liberal values, such as human rights, be a goal of U.S. foreign policy?
 3. Is it necessary to forgive developing nations' debt to the West (North?) to avoid economic catastrophe?
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World Politics Debated

C. Instruments of Power

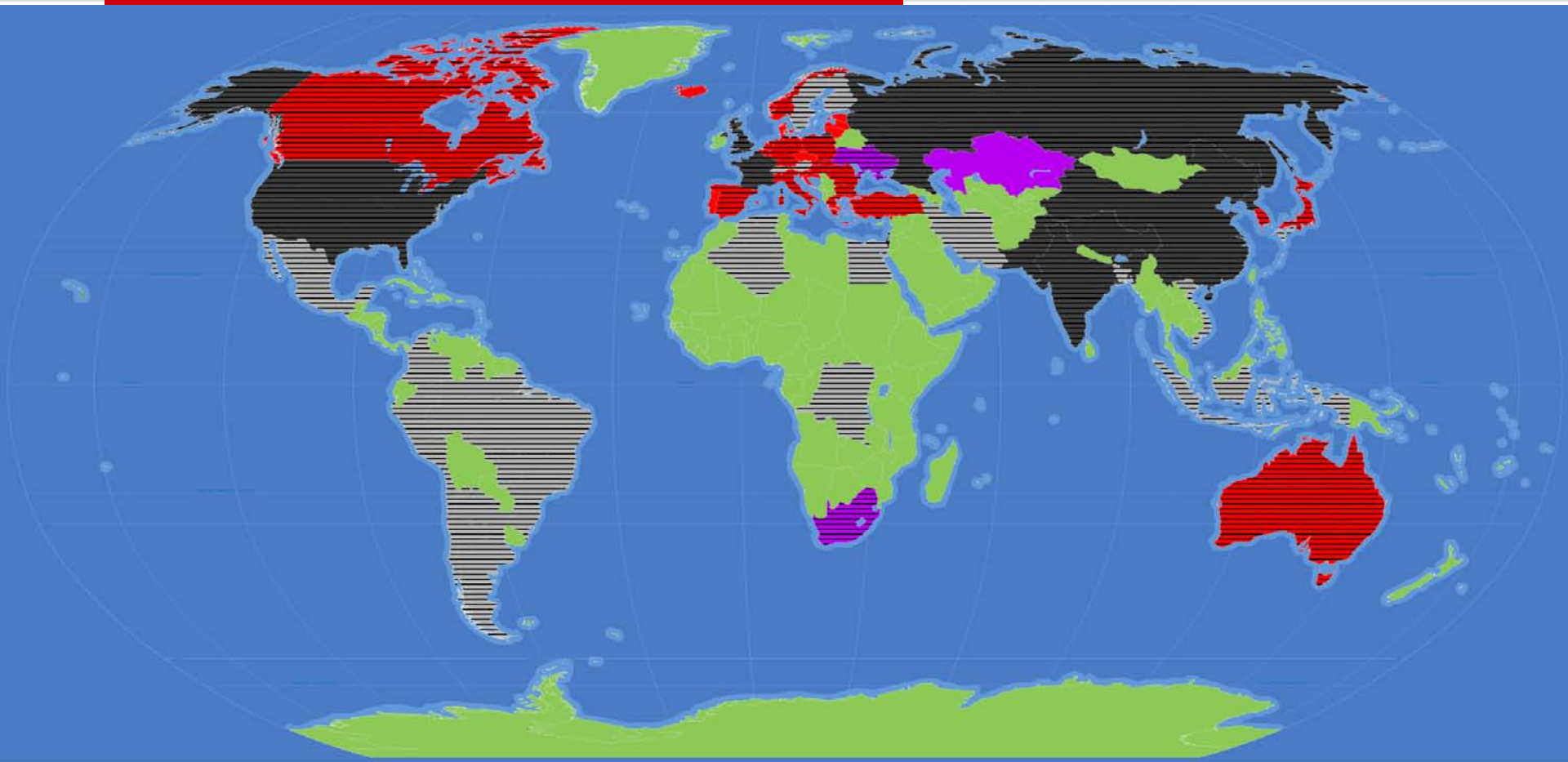
1. Should NATO be expanded?
 2. Is foreign aid counterproductive to economic development?
 3. Are economic sanctions an effective instrument of foreign policy?
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World Politics Debated

D. Constraints on War

1. Should a country adhere to international law even when its vital interests may be adversely affected?
 2. Is Israel the key obstacle to peace in the Arab-Palestinian-Israeli conflict?
 3. Has the nonproliferation treaty been effective?
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World Nuclear Map



World Politics Debated

E. The Future World Order

1. Will terrorism end if solutions are found for its root causes?
 2. Who is responsible for the global terror regime and why?
 3. Is rapid population growth a threat to economic development and world peace?
 4. What impact will global warming have?
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GUIs, UNIX/Linux, and the Internet

A.. Graphical User Interface

1. Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), Xerox
 2. Steve Jobs
 - a. Apple II
 - b. Macintosh
 3. Bill Gates (Microsoft)
 - a. MS-DOS
 - b. Windows
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GUIs, UNIX/Linux, and the Internet

B. UNIX/Linux

- 1969 – Unix computer operating system developed by AT&T employees at Bell labs
 - 1971 – first Unix programmers manual published
 - 1972 – Unix rewritten in C
 - 1975 – AT&T begins to license Unix to universities
 - 1982 – Don Ostrowski starts using Unix
 - 1991 – Linux 0.01 goes on the net under GPL
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GUIs, UNIX/Linux, and the Internet

C. Internet

1957 – Sputnik launched

1958 – In response, ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency) formed

1966 – first ARPANET plan

1969 – ARPANET commissioned by DoD for research into networking

1970 – first cross-country link (BBN to UCLA)

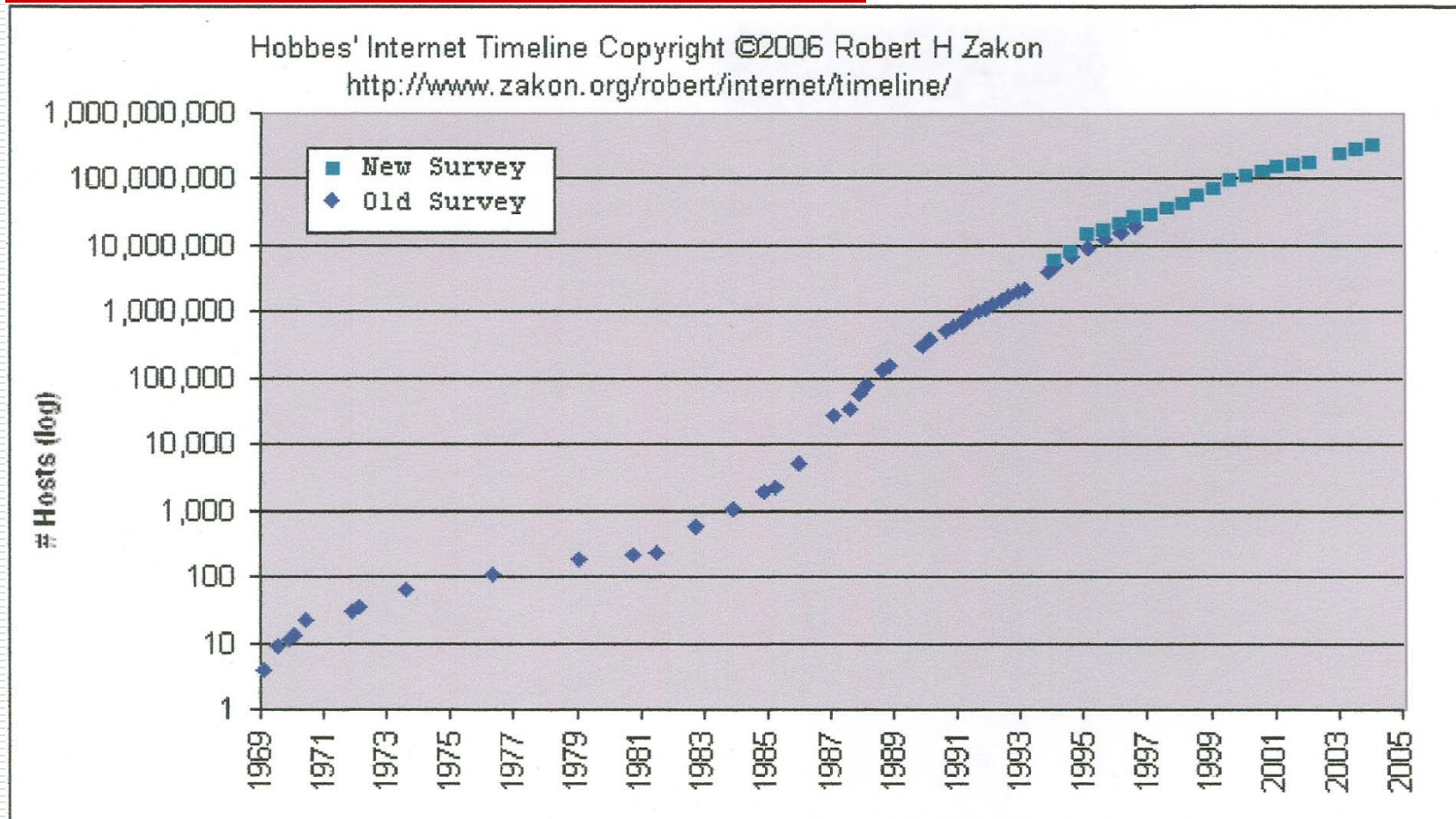
1971 – Roy Tomlinson (BBN) invents email program

GUIs, UNIX/Linux, and the Internet

C. Internet

- 1973 – Ethernet tested on Xerox PARC’s Alto computers
 - 1976 – Queen Elizabeth II sends an email
 - 1981 – BITNET (“Because It’s Time NETwork”) started as cooperative network at CUNY with first connection to Yale
 - 1983 – Name server developed at University of Wisconsin
 - 1984 – Domain Name System (DNS) introduced
 - 1990 – ARPANET ceases to exist
 - 1991 – World-Wide Web (WWW) released by CERN
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GUIs, UNIX/Linux, and the Internet



The Process of “Globalization” Scientific Developments, the Computer Revolution and the Internet

I. World History — Where Are We Now?

A. Economic

1. Prevailing Myth: Capitalism vs. Socialism
 2. Underlying Reality: Mixed Economies
 3. Question for the Future: What is the best mix?
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The Process of “Globalization” Scientific Developments, the Computer Revolution and the Internet

I. World History — Where Are We Now?

B. Social

1. Prevailing Myth: Social Equality
 2. Underlying Reality: Social Stratification
 3. Question for the Future: How to keep people moderately dissatisfied?
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The Process of “Globalization” Scientific Developments, the Computer Revolution and the Internet

I. World History — Where Are We Now?

C. Political

1. Prevailing Myth: Freedom vs. Totalitarianism
 2. Underlying Reality: Real totalitarianism may be coming
 3. Question for the Future: How to create a conscientious ruling class?
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The Process of “Globalization” Scientific Developments, the Computer Revolution and the Internet

I. World History — Where Are We Now?

D. Intellectual

1. Prevailing Myth: Society and the Individual Work for Each Other
 2. Underlying Reality: Individual values are often in conflict with social values
 3. Questions for the Future:
 - a. From society’s viewpoint: How to get individuals to work for the betterment of society
 - b. From the individual’s viewpoint: How to live well while helping to improve society
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II. Individual Experience vs. Systems of Thought

A. Matrices of Interpretation (Systematic outlooks, beliefs, and mindsets)

- 1) **Ageist**, a belief that people over or under a certain age are not capable, qualified, or to be trusted
 - 2) **Annalistic**, that is, belief in the broad sweep of *la longue durée*, that patterns of behavior filter up from below in society
 - 3) **Behaviorist**, that is, belief that the environment determines human and animal behavior
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II. Individual Experience vs. Systems of Thought

A. Matrices of Interpretation (Systematic outlooks, beliefs, and mindsets)(continued)

4) **Capitalist**, belief that profit for the individual and competition among individuals in a society benefit that society

5) **Culture Bias**, a belief that, since any particular culture may be inferior or superior in one feature, it is thus inferior or superior, respectively, in all features

6) **Democratic**, a belief that everything can be explained in terms of the rise of political and civil liberty for the individual

II. Individual Experience vs. Systems of Thought

A. Matrices of Interpretation (Systematic outlooks, beliefs, and mindsets)(continued)

7) **Elitist**, a belief that in any society, it is the elites who rule and determine standards for the rest of society, that patterns of behavior filter down from above in society

8) **Evolutionary**, a belief in the process of development from simple to complex, or from primitive to sophisticated, or more simply a belief in the inevitability of progress

9) **Existential**, a belief that any interpretation is an arbitrary and purely personal ordering of a random world

II. Individual Experience vs. Systems of Thought

A. Matrices of Interpretation (Systematic outlooks, beliefs, and mindsets)(continued)

10) **Gender Bias**, a belief that one gender is inherently superior to the other (now discredited in scholarship, but it was the prevailing view, in the male-oriented version, until the last few decades of the 20th century, and is still prevalent at non-scholarly levels)

11) **Marxist**, a belief in the rise of economic liberty for people within a community or society through cooperation and (if necessary) through violent overthrow of economic exploiters

II. Individual Experience vs. Systems of Thought

A. Matrices of Interpretation (Systematic outlooks, beliefs, and mindsets)(continued)

12) **Nationalist**, a belief that when one's own country gains that's good, but when one's own country loses that's bad

13) **Psychoanalytic**, a belief that the behavior of an individual can be explained in terms of patterns that the adult developed as a child

II. Individual Experience vs. Systems of Thought

A. Matrices of Interpretation (Systematic outlooks, beliefs, and mindsets)(continued)

14) **Racist**, a belief that there are superior and inferior races (now discredited in scholarship, but quite prevalent earlier in the 20th century and still prevalent at non-scholarly levels)

15) **Religious**, a belief that everything can be explained in relation to divine will.

B. Existentialism — a philosophy of the individual insofar as that philosophy is based on personal experience

1. Jean-Paul Sartre: “If God does not exist, then all things are permitted.”
 2. Mikel Dufrenne: “Existentialism represents the perpetual revolt of subjectivity against systems, any system that objectifies and enslaves it.”
 3. Simone de Beauvoir: “through her erotic experience woman feels—and often detests—the domination of the male”
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IV. Megatrends

A. Industrial to Information Society

1. Agricultural Society: time orientation toward the past
2. Industrial Society: time orientation toward the present
3. Information Society: time orientation toward the future

B. Forced Technology to High Tech/High Touch

C. National Economy to World Economy

D. Centralization to Decentralization

E. Representative Democracy to Participatory Democracy

THE GREAT RECESSION SINCE 2008

SOME IMPORTANT EVENTS IN U.S.

- A) collapse of some big financial institutions, e.g. Bear Sterns, Sept. 2008.
- B) then widespread layoffs, and businesses very cautious.
- C) attempted solutions by US government—(i) \$770 billion bank bailout Oct. 08, (ii) \$700 general stimulus Jan. 09;
- D) but still major problems—unemployment still about 10%; 2% of households foreclosed as of April 09; predicted that it will take at least 5 years to regain the 8.2 million jobs lost in the recession (“lots of jobs...” *Boston Globe*. 5/14/10)

SOME BROADER TRENDS

A) general economic deregulation since 1980.

B) deregulation of financial industry since 1990s; this included allowing for sale of “toxic” mortgages to people without real assets to back them up, then bundling of these mortgages into complex securities and speculation on those securities;

note—often dealers in these securities knew they were basically worthless because backed by only toxic mortgages, but dealers made lots of money in short term. Ditto executives in many financial firms.

CLIMATE CHANGE

EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM. Climate change is happening faster than had been predicted a few years ago, and we ALREADY live on an irreversibly-changed planet (#1, also Bill McKibben, *Eaarth* (Times Books, 2010) ch. 1) . We face greatly-increased amounts of heatwaves, floods, famines, desertification, species loss, etc....

QUESTION: in what major ways does human activity contribute to climate change?

HYPOTHESIS: A) for industrial countries: especially through multinational corporations' (MNCs') and governments' push to keep up with industrial production, together with cultures that mostly promote consumerism;

B) for developing countries: MNC's and governments as in industrial countries, PLUS (i) elites' drive to catch up with industrial countries,

SOME SPECIFIC ISSUES

Sources of greenhouse gases in US. Electricity CO₂—34%, Transportation CO₂—30%, Industrial CO₂—11%, Non-CO₂—17% (#8)....

NOTE ABOUT TRANSPORTATION: CO₂ per passenger-mile for long trips is 4 times more by plane than by bus; 2 times more by 1-person car w/ 50 miles per gallon (MPG); 8 times more by car w/ 15 MPG (#4)....

NOTE ABOUT FOOD: compared w/ 1940, food growing, transporting, storing etc. today uses 23 times as much fossil-fuel energy per calorie eaten (#8)

SOME SPECIFIC ISSUES (continued)

Related issues:

World population doubled between 1960 & 1999 (#8)....

Peak oil. Experts agree that—WHATEVER WE DO, regarding exploiting new oil sources—world production of oil is bound to start falling in just a few years (#8).

SOME SOLUTIONS in general, they are in 3 areas...

1. Public policy. At **Copenhagen world conference** Dec. 2009, governments officially only agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—with no targets, time-frames or binding commitments; developed countries pledged to raise \$100 billion/year to help poor countries address climate change....

But **Union of Concerned Scientists blueprint** for US clean energy predicts that if emissions were cut by 2015, then businesses and consumers would save \$138 billion....

SOME SOLUTIONS in general, they are in 3 areas... (continued)

Adaptation to climate change should be considered at once.

Note that often the same measures that reduce emissions also help with emissions. Adaptation measures should be flexible, and take advantage of natural cycles

SOME SOLUTIONS in general, they are in 3 areas... (continued)

2. *Action by groups*—perhaps by your school, church, mosque, workplace, etc.?

Often **low-tech. solutions and indigenous organizations** work best (#11)

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3. *Action by individuals*--#14....

SOME SOLUTIONS in general, they are in 3 areas... (continued)

3.Action by individuals--#14....

Reduce your own emissions: eat locally-grown and/or organic food; walk, don't drive OR use elevators (e.g. walk up to the 7th floor of 51 Brattle St.—hooray!)...

Get involved in organizations: e.g.join in the worldwide 10/10/10 work party organized by 350.org (#9)...

SOME SOLUTIONS in general, they are in 3 areas... (continued)

Think about your own ideas and values . E.g. would US students be willing to increase gasoline prices to European levels (say, \$10/gallon) through a far bigger gas tax, if the increased tax revenue was all dedicated to huge improvements in public transport? To what extent does human wellbeing depend on increasing one's material possessions—see #5? Do businesses have a basic responsibility to environmental sustainability and social justice, in addition to their responsibility to make profits?

SOME SOLUTIONS in general, they are in 3 areas... (continued)

NOTE: helpful players, in my opinion, are: a) thousands of non-government organizations, worldwide and with very diverse agendas—e.g. those that gathered at the World People's Congress in Bolivia in spring 2010 (#10); b) often, municipal, state/provincial and regional governments (but rarely national ones)

Bus rapid transit in Ahmedabad, India



Bicycle path in Sao Paulo, Brazil



CYCLING IN THE NETHERLANDS

