

The World in 2010: Imposition of the Global Regime

I. 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?

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?

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?

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?

E. The Future World Order

1. Will terrorism be ended 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?

F. Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism

1. Can Democracy survive counter-terrorism?
2. Is the claim of the need for security the way all authoritarian regimes expand and consolidate power over the citizenry?

II. 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?

B. Social

1. Prevailing Myth: Social Equality
2. Underlying Reality: Social Stratification
3. Question for the Future: How to keep people moderately dissatisfied?

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?

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

II. Individual Experience vs. Systems of Thought

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

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”

III. 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

Recommended Reading:

- Marshall McLuhan, *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*, 1964.
- John Naisbett, *Megatrends: Ten New Directions Transforming Our Lives*, 1982.
- Jean-Paul Sartre, *Being and Nothingness: An Essay on Phenomenological Ontology*, 1943.

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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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.