Industrialization, Colonialism & the Modern World System

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Industrial Revolution

• Began in England (early 19th c.) contributing factors:
  – Fewer ppl meant smaller work force
  – Need to transform domestic manufacturing through industrializatn
  – Cult'l values & Protestant work ethic
• Began w/ cotton prod's, iron & pottery
• Immediate effects?
• Mixed, initially std. of comfort ↑, but w/ enormous disparities
• Wages fairly ↑ at 1st, then ↓ as labor became cheaper
• Prior to industrialization how did the majority of ppl in Europe subsist?
• Peasant farming, leasing land from the elite
• Process of enclosures: as industrialization takes hold & makes manufacturing more efficient, wealthy landowners no longer willing to rent land to peasants
• What did they prefer to do w/ the land?
Enclosures

- Fenced off land to raise sheep for wool, ↑ lucrative than leasing to peasants
- So where did the peasants go?
• Peasants flocked (excuse the pun, =-) to the cities
• Abundce of labor, constant influx of peasants affected wages & brought major ↓ in std. of living
• Cities were crowded, crimes rates high, lacked infrastructure to suppt. pop. Growth
• Marx: wrote about class conflict, the radically opposed interests btwn 2 key social groups
• Bourgeoisie (capitalists): owned means of productn
• Proletariat (workers): sold their labor to survive
• Clash of the "haves" vs. "have-nots"
• Charlie Chaplin's modern times:
  • http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDnDaDYZ2AQ
  • http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fyyt3JGGvk&feature=related
  • http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKAOQbjeQMM&feature=related
• Greater efficiency in manufacturing brings about desire for new markets for trade & faster routes
• This fuels forward what process?
• Voyages of discovery & soon thereafter, colonialism
• Imperialism: polit., econom. & cult'l dominatn of a territory & ppl by a foreign pwr
• Colonialism: same as imperialism except that it also includes establishmt of a foreign govt
Subsequent phases of colonialism have a different purpose.

Sociological Evolutionism & Intervention philosophies: ideological justification for outside intervention, natives seen as incapable of governing themselves, in need of "guidance".

British & American Intervention philosophy, phrase "white man's burden" (finish that section of Race: Power of...) coined by?

Rudyard Kipling, wrote poem by the same name.

French intervention philosophy: "mission civilisatrice".

For workers, conditions gradually worsen until what process takes place?

- Unionization: workers organize & unite to demand change
- Helping to ensure min. wage, benefits & basic protections for workers & bring about min. wage
- Significant struggle to win this right, many lives lost
- Today, we have a middle class of skilled & professional workers that fills in the gap between rich & poor
- Mod. soc. Stratification still present, but more complex than prev. portrayed by Marx
Weber: 3 dimensions of social stratification
- Wealth, Power & Prestige
- Not as dichotomous as portrayed by Marx
- A person's standing in 1 dimension doesn't necessarily reflect his/her standing in the others
- Ex.: Who is arguably among the most powerful people in the world?
- President of U.S.A., compare to standing in other dimensions
- Careers, most prestigious professions? Compare with pay
21st c.: cultural imperialism, the legacy of colonialism persists

E. Africa: Belgian registry syst., entrenching ethnic distinctnls of Hutus & Tutsis, created animosity due to favoritism showed by colonial officials, registries arbitrarily determined not accurately collected (Malkki-anthro.)

Tutsis: pastoralists (described as more "pleasant" & Euro. Looking), Hutus: farmers (described as more "African looking" by Belgians), lived in same area, spoke same lang.
Wallerstein

• Years later, the registry records used for ethnic identification during mass killings in Rwanda & Burundi
• Development anthro: applied branch, focuses on social issues in economic development, attempt to merge respect for cultural diversity with "modernization"
• Wallerstein's world capitalist economy: single world system. Committed to production for sale/exchange, with objective of maximizing profits rather than supplying domestic needs
• Core nations: dominant position in the world system.
• Examples?
• United States of America, Great Britain, Canada, Japan
Economic Disparity in Brazil

- Rapidly industrializing, NE Brazil ↑ impoverished
- I.M.R., stands for? Wealthy in Brazil comparable to U.S.
- Infant Mortality Rate, compare nat'l avg. to NE Brazil sections
- Typically work in homes of the wealthy not allowed to bring their babies, children are either school age or working too, don't make enough to pay for child care, (sound familiar?)
- Thus, babies often left home alone
- Major issues identified by Scheper-Hughes: poverty, sexism, chronic hunger, economic exploitation
- Lack of equality in economic opportunity, no solid middle class

http://www.newint.org/issue254/facts.htm
• Periphery: natns that prod. Raw materials & agricult'l commodities for export
• Examples? (prev. known as "3rd wrld countries")
• Much of Africa, India, Vietnam, Mexico, parts of Latin America
• Semi-Periphery: intermediate status, oft. industrialized, but lack pwr & econom. domiance of core
• Examples?
• Former Soviet natns, Brazil, parts of Middle East
• A natn's position is not static, it can & does change over time due to changing conditns
FTZ's

- Issue of free trade zones (FTZ's): in developing natns, these spec. designated areas include reduced taxes on business operatns, relaxed environmental regulatns, no minimum wage, & unions are illegal
- Why would a nation allow such blatant exploitatn?
- In hopes that it will bring about ecnom. stimulus
- FTZ in Malaysia: Ong's research on spirit possessn by hantu spirits, ♂ deemed esp. vulnerable
- Highly patriarchal society (not unlike our own), Islam & adat cult'l influences
• ages 17-25 sent to work in factories in the FTZ's engaging in tedious work that is ↑ difficult on the eyes
• work long hrs (up to 14 hr shifts) for ltl pay
• Wages are sent back home to send brothers to school
• In recent decades, numer. Reports of spirit possessns taking place @ work, on the factory floor
• What's going on?
• Form of resistance for ♂ againsts the oppressive work & social conditns, w/ the added benefit of disrupting operatns
• Remember, this is an FTZ, workers can't organize (unions illegal) & they have no other means of recourse
• What can we do about all of this?
• Effect positive change using the means most effective in our capit. World economy: how we spend our $
  • http://www.knowmore.org/
• support fair trade certified products.
• Be informed. Spread the word.