

Chapter 8: People Creating a Future: The Global Wave

Chapter 8. A. Study Questions

Chapter 8. Section 1. Introduction to the Global Wave

Section 1. Terms to Consider:
none

Section 1. Questions to Consider:

1. Introductory quote: A Hopi prophecy speaks of two roads humanity can choose between ... that of the Two-Hearted People who only think with their heads—creating chaos and ultimately their own destruction or that of the One-Hearted People whose heads are united with their hearts in making choices—leading to a sustainable Earth for many generations to come. The Hopi say now is the time to make that choice.

- a. What is your reaction to the quote?
- b. Do you think it is an appropriate quote for the beginning of this chapter? Explain.
- c. Who are the Hopi? Why would they make such a statement?

1. Quote: "Now, once again, is a time of fundamental change."

- a. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
- b. In what ways do individuals react to these new conditions?

3. Ten Areas of Global Change

- a. Briefly describe the 10 areas of change.
- b. Can you think of other areas of change that should be added to the list?

Chapter 8. Section 2. Relationship with Nature: Ecosystem Currents

Section 2. Terms to Consider:

desertification
deforestation
slash-and-burn agriculture
tropics
carbon dioxide
greenhouse effect
carbon sequestering
livestock
fresh water
irrigation
drip irrigation
aquifers
Ogallala Aquifer
ethanol production
climate change
global warming
greenhouse gases

methane
 chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
 sea levels
 polar ice caps
 ozone shield
 Greenland ice sheet
 soil depletion
 erosion
 commercial agriculture
 Vincente Guerrero
 carrying capacity
 overshoot
 ecological footprint
 delay in feedback
 collapse
 Green Revolution
 biodiversity
 species extinction
 sixth extinction
 habitat loss
 Earth Day in 1970
 Rio Environmental Conference in 1992
 Kyoto Treaty in 2001
 ecologists
 Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
 Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)
 Redefining Progress

Section 2. Questions to Consider:

1. The Earth is an Island.
 - a. What is your reaction to this story?
 - b. Write your own story that is similar.
 - c. Do you think the environmental issues we face in the Global Wave are immense and urgent? Explain.

2. Desertification
 - a. What is causing expanding deserts?
 - b. Describe conditions in China.
 - c. Describe conditions in North Africa.
 - d. Describe conditions in Mexico.
 - e. Is this happening in your region or country?

3. Deforestation
 - a. Why have the tropics suffered most from deforestation?
 - b. Why do farmers abandon agricultural sites and move to another location to start the process once again?
 - c. Describe the rain cycle in tropical areas.
 - d. Why is it that once the forest is cleared, the soils become a source of carbon emissions instead of carbon sequestering?
 - e. What is the single biggest direct cause of tropical deforestation? What are other causes?

4. Fresh Water

- a. Why is the world quickly running out of fresh water?
- b. Where do we get our water?
- c. In what ways has greater water usage accompanied rising standards of living?
- d. Is there a way we can reduce greater water usage? Explain.
- e. Why is water usage for irrigation often wasteful?
- f. How are climate change and pollution making it difficult for developing countries to provide food for themselves?
- g. Why is water scarcity an important global issue?
- h. Are you aware of water issues in your community, state, regions, or country?

5. Climate Change

- a. When does climate change take place?
- b. What is the difference between climate change and global warming?
- c. How do greenhouse gases work to balance the Earth's temperature?
- d. What happened around 1800 to alter the balance of greenhouse gases?
- e. What is a major human contribution to the increase in greenhouse gases?
- f. What are the causes of increases in methane?
- g. What scientific evidence supports the fact that global warming is mostly caused by humans?
- h. Why is global warming an imprecise term to describe climate change?
- i. What contribution does the US have on climate change?
- j. Do you think climate change has had an impact on your life so far?
- k. How do you think people can best prepare for the changes we face in the future or for those facing the changes now?

6. Sea Levels

- a. Why are polar ice caps melting?
- b. What are the effects of melting ice caps?

7. Soil Depletion

- a. What is soil depletion
- b. Why has soil depletion occurred?
- c. What is the connection between an increase in grain production and soil depletion?
- d. Is there enough food for all of us? What variables need to be taken into consideration when answering this question?
- e. What are some methods to conserve and enhance worn out soils? Are they working?

8. Carrying Capacity

- a. What does it mean that we are in overshoot?
- b. How is your ecological footprint calculated?
- c. What is the carrying capacity of our Earth? What variables need to be considered when answering this question?
- d. What if all the people in the world consumed at the rate of people in the US? In India?
- e. Why haven't we dramatically felt the effects of overshooting the carrying capacity of our planet?
- f. What are some of the signs that we are in overshoot?
- g. Does a period of overshoot lead to collapse? What are other options besides collapse?
- h. Can people around the world reverse overshoot? How?
- i. Can you personally do things to reverse overshoot? What might you do?

9. Human Population

- a. Make a population chart to show our growth over the millennia.
- b. What has happened to our human population numbers recently?
- c. What impact did the Green Revolution have on food production? Do you think the effect was positive or negative?
- d. What countries have the highest population numbers? What cities?
- e. Why have the number of humans increased so dramatically?
- f. Do you see anything paradoxical about the world increase in population? Explain.
- g. What is happening to the population where you live?

10. Natural Populations

- a. What does it mean there is ongoing loss of biodiversity through species extinction?
- b. Why is this extinction sometimes called the sixth extinction?
- c. What are current extinction rates? Why are they so high?
- d. Do you care that so many species are facing extinction? Explain.

11. Insights: Ecosystem Currents

- a. How does one's worldview affect one's attitude about the environment? Explain.
- b. What was your country's reaction to the Kyoto Treaty in 2001? Do you agree with their decision?
- c. What is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)? How is it different than the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)? Explain.
- d. Which measure of the economy do you prefer? Explain.
- e. What is your reaction to the statement: "A growing number of ecologists see the Earth as an interconnected organism that can reawaken our sacred relationship with nature and in a positive sense support our psychic well-being." Explain your reaction.
- f. Do you feel a sense of depression and hopelessness after reading this section on the environment?
- g. Some commentators say that there is no (or little) connection between consumerism and environmental problems. What do you think?
- h. What can you do individually to help support the health and livability of the Earth? What can we do collectively?

Chapter 8. Section 3. Ways of Living: Techno-Economic Currents

Section 3. Terms to Consider:

economic globalization
 China
 industrial capitalism
 managed capitalism
 coal industry in Great Britain
 Gazprom
 privatization
 Cochabamba, Bolivia
 Carlos Slim Helu
 multinational corporations (MNCs)
 World Trade Organization (WTO)
 International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 core and periphery model
 structural adjustment policy (SAP)
 Chief Executive Officers (CEO)
 American underclass

inner cities
 Wal-Mart
Al Jazeera
 North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA)
bazaaris
soak
 consumer capitalism
 economic growth
 exponential growth
 information
 commodification
 advertising
 service workers
 minimum wage
 unionized jobs
 outsourcing
 economic self-determination
 local capitalism

Section 3. Questions to Consider:

1. Economic Systems: The Global Economy

- a. Why was there an economic crisis in the 1970s?
- b. What was the response to the crisis on the 1970s?

2. Neoliberalism

- a. What economic changes occurred in 1980?
- b. What is neoliberalism?
- c. What is the philosophy of neoliberalism?
- d. What are 10 principles of neoliberalism?

3. Economic Globalization

- a. What is a definition of economic globalization?
- b. How is economic globalization different from industrial capitalism?
- c. Why was there a shift from managed capitalism in the late 1970s and 1980s? What was the impact of this shift?
- d. What was the reaction of different groups to the privatization of the state owned coal industry in Great Britain by Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s?
- e. What is the effect of privatization on the majority of people? Who benefits from privatization?
- f. What happened in Cochabamba, Bolivia?
- g. What happened with Telemex and Carlos Slim Helu in Mexico?
- h. What kind of impact has economic globalization had on your individual life? On your workplace? On your family's life? Your community? Your state? Your nation?

4. Multi-National Corporations

- a. What impact have multinational corporations (MNCs) had on the global economy?
- b. What rules for the global economy are made by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and International Monetary Fund (IMF)? Give an example. Who benefits from these rules?

5. The Financial Sector

- a. What is the financial sector?
- b. Why did the financial sector take off after the crisis of the 1970s?
- c. Why is there an increased bifurcation between a hyperactive financial economy and a stagnant real economy?
- d. How has the stagnant economy affected your community? You as an individual?

6. State Capitalism and Other Versions

- a. What is state capitalism?
- b. What nations use a state capitalism economic system?
- c. What are other versions of capitalism?

7. Core and Periphery

- a. What terms are used to describe the economic discrepancies among nations that arise in the global economy?
- b. What terms do you think best describe economic globalization and the economic discrepancies? Why?
- c. Why is it hard to use precise terms to describe the global economy and economic discrepancies?
- d. What do you think should be the criteria for evaluating and ranking the well-being of nations?
- e. Does a simplified core/periphery model help explain the asymmetrical levels of participation and development by different nations and people participating in the global economy? Explain.
- f. What are the core regions/nations?
- g. What are the periphery regions/nations?
- h. How does the core and periphery model include people as well as nations?
- i. What are the various reasons for the periphery status of certain nations and regions?
- j. What does the following statement mean to you: Periphery nations have found the economic "deck" is stacked against them." Do you think this is true? Explain.
- k. How did the World Bank and other institutions contribute to the periphery remaining poor?
- l. What is the structural adjustment policy? Who benefitted from this policy?
- m. Why do critics call structural adjustment policies (SAPs) a "golden straight-jacket?"
- n. How can the core and periphery concept be applied to the United States?
- o. Why is it more difficult for local businesses to survive today than in the past?
- p. What does it mean that within wealthy core nations there are pockets of periphery-status people? Who are these people? Where do they live? Why are they stuck in their periphery status?
- q. What is happening to local businesses in your community? Are you aware of a "shop local" movement in your community?

8. Core Areas Economic Advantages

- a. What are the six advantages that help concentrate wealth among core people/regions and perpetuate the poor status of periphery regions/people?
- b. Do you think the economic policies of the core nations ensures that the economy will not be equitable for all participants? Explain.
- c. What is your reaction to the statement that nations are forced or duped to conform to the global economy? Do you think this is true?
- d. What impact has the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA) had on Mexico? The US?

9. Price

- a. What does externalizing costs mean?
- b. How is price manipulated by global corporations? Give an example.
- c. What externalized costs are not figured into the price of Walmart's products?
- d. How does the distortion of price give corporations like Wal-Mart a competitive advantage? Do you think this is fair?

10. Consumer Capitalism

- a. What is consumer capitalism?
- b. What is meant by the assertion that consumer capitalism has been too successful? Do you agree?
- c. What is the role of advertising in consumer capitalism?
- d. Why has consumer capitalism been successful?
- e. What is one of the paradoxes of the capitalist economic system? Do you agree?
- f. Agree or disagree with the statement: "Capitalism, with its reliance on competition, and its key values of individualism and material success, fosters a dog-eat-dog work environment where the winners feel little or no responsibility to the losers." Explain.

11. Economic Growth

- a. What is economic growth?
- b. Why is economic growth so entrenched in our economic system?
- c. In what ways is economic growth an essential component of the capitalist economic system?
- d. In what ways is growth given as a solution to every imaginable problem? Give examples.
- e. Do you agree or disagree with the assertion that "growth is an unquestioned good, an undeniable truth and a solution to intractable problems in our economy and environment?" Explain.
- f. How does a systems thinking approach see the concept of growth differently from a conventional view of the subject?
- g. Which approach – conventional or systems – do you agree with? Explain.
- h. Do you agree with the author's assertion that the concept of growth with its influence on population and the economy has been the principal force driving our global society past its limits? Explain.
- i. Did a 14-fold boost in world industrial output since 1930 end poverty? Why not?
- j. Do you think another 14-fold increase (even if that were possible within the earthly limits) would end poverty? Explain.
- k. What happens when the ecological footprint grows beyond the sustainable level?
- l. How would you answer the following questions about capitalism's imperative for economic growth: Growth of what? For whom is economic growth important? Who pays for economic growth? At what cost is economic growth? What is the real need or economic growth? How much is enough? What are the obligations for individuals to share? Are we asking ourselves and our politicians these questions?

12. Information Technology

- a. What is the purpose of adding information to a product?
- b. What does it mean that information has become commodified? Give your own example.
- c. When, in your opinion, is information that is added to a product beneficial? Detrimental?

13. Labor

- a. Workers in the Global Wave can be categorized into what two groups?
- b. Why are there so many more service workers in the US than manufacturing workers?
- c. What do service workers do?
- d. Where do service workers on the low end of the pay-scale work? What wages do they receive?
- e. What are "guest workers?"
- f. What do CEOs do?
- g. What do highly-skilled information workers do? Why is their pay higher than others?
- h. What is outsourcing?
- i. What are *maquilladores*? How do they affect U.S. workers?
- j. What role do unions play in helping to determine workers' wages?

14. Insights: Learning from the Past, Techno-Economic Currents

- a. What alternatives are there to the concentration of wealth among the elite in a globalized economy?
- b. What is local capitalism? Do you think this is a viable alternative to a globalized economy?

Chapter 8. Section 4: Human Networks: Social Currents

Section 4. Terms to Consider:

traditional/religious social groups
 traditional family values
 globalized social group
 diversity
 workplace
 Equal Rights Amendment
 Roe v Wade in 1973
 "equal pay for equal work"
 social gap
 poverty
 near poor
 have and have nots
 privilege
 schools
 public education
 home schooling
 charter schools
 individualism
 community
 "it takes a village to raise a child"

Section 4. Questions to Consider:

1. Introduction

a. Why are global social patterns difficult to assess?

2. Groups and Institutions

- Social groups in the United States are organized according to what two categories? Do you think this is a good division? Can you think of other ways to organize social groups?
- In this book, values-based social groups are categorized into what three groups?
- Describe the traditional/religious social group. Describe people you may know in this group. (no names please)
- Describe the globalized social group. Describe people you may know in this group. (no names please)
- Describe the transformative social group. Describe people you may know in this group. (no names please)
- What do you admire about each group? What do you disagree with in each group?
- Which group do you most closely identify with? Why? (no right or wrong answer here!)
- What effect do disruptions, rapid changes, and upheaval have on people? Why?

3. The Family

- In what ways are families different from the past?
- What other social institutions are fulfilling the responsibilities that traditional families previously fulfilled? Do you think this is good or bad? Why?
- In what ways is the idealized 1950s family more a myth than an actual reality?
- What role does the workplace have in people's social life?

e. Do you agree with some critics who charge that work so consumes family energy and time that in many cases family life is an empty shell? Explain.

f. Why is the workplace not a good substitute for the family?

g. Are there ways in which you think the workplace is a good substitute for the family?

4. Gender

a. Briefly describe how gender relations have changed in the last 100 years. Do you think this is good?

b. What negative and positive effects of gender role changes are felt today?

5. Prestige and Status

a. A widening social gap is growing between what groups? Why?

b. What group has done the best economically over the last few decades?

c. What constitutes the middle class in America today?

d. What is the social gap situation worldwide?

e. In what ways do social arrangements systematically reward the privileged with the power and resources to acquire even more privilege?

f. What are several examples of privilege?

g. How do poverty-perpetuating structures arise?

h. What role can women play in alleviating poverty?

6. Socialization and Education

a. What significant role do educational institutions play in the lives of young people? Is this true for you?

b. What attitudes and values do public educational institutions promote? Why do they promote these values and attitudes? Can you think of other values and attitudes they should promote?

c. What pressing social problems make the work of public education even more difficult for both educators and students?

d. What are some criticisms of educational institutions? Can you think of other criticisms?

e. What are some alternatives to public education?

7. Insights: Learning from the Past, Social Currents

a. What problems does the author see with the current social structures that are in place in the US?

b. Do you agree with the author's criticism?

c. How can looking at these social problems from a holistic perspective help to solve these problems? Do you agree?

d. What do you think of the statement "It takes a village to raise a child has been replaced by it takes a day care to raise a child?" Do you agree? Why?

e. How can the Communal and Agricultural Waves provide valuable insights into how our social patterns can be reformed?

f. Do you agree that the shift from the community to the individual has created many of our social problems? How has this shift affected your life?

g. According to the chapter, how can our social patterns be changed for a more equitable, nourishing, and sustainable world to be achieved? Do you have other ideas about how this can be done?

Chapter 8. Section 5. Establishing Order: Political Currents

Section 5. Terms to Consider:

nation-state
sovereignty
republic

elite democracy
 participatory democracy
 US election process
 United Nations (UN)
 non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
 regional political organizations
 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
 human rights
 tribalism
 "new world order"
 multi-ethnic nations
 American imperialism
 "national interest"
 terrorism
 state terrorism
 asymmetric warfare
 "big money"
 Clean Elections

Section 5. Questions to Consider:

1. Political Systems

- a. Describe the political systems of the Modern Wave. Have changes occurred?
- b. Do you think it is accurate to describe democracy as divided into two contending segments: elite democracy and participatory democracy? Why or why not?
- c. Why do politicians need large sums of money to win elections? What are the repercussions of this?
- d. How is participatory democracy carried out? What are examples of this?

2. Global Organizations

- a. What are some new international political entities? What do they do?
- b. What role do NGOs play in the world?
- c. What are some examples of NGOs?
- d. What role do regional political organizations perform?

3. U.S. an Empire?

- a. Do you think the US is an empire? Why or why not?
- b. How did the US interact with Iraq leading up to the war in Iraq?
- c. How is the US regarded by other nations throughout the world?

4. Cooperation, Conflict, and War

- a. What are the reasons for conflict in the Global Wave? Which one do you think is most pressing?
- b. What is tribalism? What are some examples of tribalism? Do you agree with the examples the author gives in the book? Why?
- c. Do you think it is important to have multi-ethnic nations? Why or why not?
- d. What unique challenges do multi-ethnic nations face?
- e. Do you agree with the assertion that America is imperialistic today? Why or why not?
- f. If you think America is imperialistic today, why do you think it embarked on an imperialistic path?
- f. Do you see a problem with the fact that America has many "national interests" around the world? What does this mean?
- g. What is your opinion about the statement: "Generally, democracies do not fight each other?"

5. Terrorism

- a. What definition of terrorism do you agree with? What other definitions are you aware of?
- b. Why are there differing definitions of terrorism?
- c. How does terrorism have a psychological impact?
- d. How do terrorists inflict terrorism?
- e. How does state terrorism differ from other terrorism?
- f. How do you determine what is state terrorism and what is "freedom fighting?"
- g. What states sponsor state terrorism? How is this determined? Do you agree with the list?
- h. What are the causes of terrorism?

6. Insights: Learning from our Past, Political Currents

- a. What does it mean that political institutions are slow to reflect the problems associated with our globalized society?
- b. What do you think of Clean Elections? Are they possible?
- c. Did either Barack Obama or John McCain comply with the Clean Elections standards in their 2008 presidential campaigns? Why or why not?
- d. Did either Barack Obama or Mitt Romney comply with the Clean Elections standards in their 2012 presidential campaigns? Why or why not?

Chapter 8. Section 6. Human Expression: Cultural Currents

Section 6. Terms to Consider:

communication
 identity
 glocal
 Protestant ethic
 advertising industry
 infantilizing adult behaviors
 teens
 'lifestyles'
 brands
 branded identities
 globalization of identity
 first order choices
 second order choices
 fundamentalism
 New Age spirituality
 earth-based spirituality
 prosperity gospel
 emergent
 wisdom of elders
 natural capitalism
 socially responsible investing
 social entrepreneurship
 micro-credit banking and lending
 community development
 local businesses
 self-managed, worker-run enterprises

cooperative enterprises
 non-profit organizations
 ecological awareness
 ecotourism
 renewable energy
 wind and solar energy
 fossil fuels
 urban revitalization
 urban sprawl
 public transportation
 suburbs
 commuting time
 peace movements
 social and economic justice movements
 human rights
 animal rights
 gay rights
 indigenous people's rights
 industrial agriculture
 organic foods
 sustainable agriculture
 holistic health
 Slow Food Movement
 obesity
 spirituality
 feminist spirituality
 ecopsychology
 holistic education
 multiple intelligences
 multi-cultural
 tipping point
 social myths

Section 6. Questions to Consider:

1. Introduction

a. Do you think the economy and technology have been the two driving variables in catalyzing change? Explain.

2. Communication

a. Do you think there is an overwhelming amount of information today? Explain.

b. What does the following statement mean to you: "Technological and economic developments have outpaced our cultural and social responses?"

c. Do you think intense debates are raging in the world today? What groups are involved in these debates? What are the debates about? Why have many of the debates descended into incivility?

d. In what ways do you think technology has influenced our way of communication? What have been the positive effects of this change? What have been the negative effects of this change?

3. Identity and Belonging

a. What is identity?

b. Who do individuals identify with? Why?

- c. Explain how one's worldview influences who and what one identifies with. Explain.
- d. Which form of identity do you connect with? (no right answer on this one) Why?

4. Consumer Society

- a. What is the Protestant ethic? Why don't advertisers adhere to the values of the Protestant ethic?
- b. Do you think the advertising industry has been successful in transforming the rational, logical, steadfast behaviors of mature adults into what Benjamin Barber calls "infantilizing adult behaviors?" Explain.
- c. Do you think the advertising industry has been successful in transforming children's and teens' behaviors as well? Explain.
- d. Why do advertisers see teens as profitable consumers?
- e. What do teens buy? Why do they buy these things? If you are a teen (or close to it), do you buy these things? If yes, why? If no, why not?
- f. Do you think adults holding to a globalized worldview are pawns to the advertising industry? Explain.
- g. Do you agree with Barber's statement: "Consumerism has attached itself to a novel identity politics in which business itself plays a role in forging identities conducive to buying and selling." Explain.
- h. What are branded identities? Why are they important?
- i. Do we freely choose our branded identities? Explain.
- j. Do you think there is a "globalization of identity?" Explain.

5. Advertising

- a. Do you agree with critics like Barber who argue that "the omnipresent impact of advertising on consumers actually homogenizes taste and narrows rather than expands variety and choices." Give examples.
- b. What is the difference between first order choices and second order choices? Give examples of each.
- c. When you shop do you use first order choices or second order choices? Explain and give examples.
- d. What implicit promises do advertisers make to us about their product? Find examples of this promise.
- e. Do you think the consumption of goods and services makes us happier and healthier, and results in loving relationships with others? Explain.
- f. What are the consequences of a consumer driven society for individuals? For families? For communities? For the planet?
- g. Do you think a consumer society is a totalitarian society? Explain.

6. Aesthetic Expression

- a. In what ways does aesthetic expression vary according to an individual's particular worldview?
- b. How do people from a globalized worldview see art, music, entertainment? Does this apply to you? Give examples.
- c. Describe aesthetic expression from a transformative worldview perspective? Give examples.
- d. Which worldview seems to inform your aesthetic expression choices more closely? Give examples of your choices.

7. Religion/Spirituality

- a. How has our particular worldview shaped our religious/spiritual choice? Has it shaped yours?
- b. Why has fundamentalism surged in the past several decades?
- c. Do you agree with social commentator Mary Clark's assessment of why this surge in fundamentalism has taken place? Can you think of other reasons?
- d. What does it mean that Christianity encompasses a wide spectrum of beliefs and interpretations? Do you agree? Do you believe there is one "true" way of Christian beliefs? If so, what is that "true" way? If not, why not?
- e. What universal religions have continued today? What other religious beliefs have surface or continued?
- f. Do you think that a spiritual malaise permeates our society? Explain.

- g. Do you agree with the author's assertion that "this spiritual malaise may have to do with the absorption of many religious leaders and their flocks into the consumer ethos?" If yes, give examples of this assertion. If not, explain why not.
- h. Do you think there is an internal contradiction between the values and attitudes of consumerism and religious values? Explain.
- i. What is the prosperity gospel? Do you agree with its premises?
- j. How does the prosperity gospel reflect our society today?

8. Globalized Worldview

- a. Do you agree with the author's assertion that the most well-established, mainstream ideology in the United States is that of the globalized view? Explain and give examples.
- b. Do you think the globalized worldview is spreading around the world? Give examples.

9. Transformative Worldview

- a. Do you think it is possible to accommodate diverse opinions without losing social and national cohesiveness? What does this mean to you?
- b. Briefly, what are 10 aspects of the globalized worldview? List them in the order you think are most important.
- c. Can you think of other descriptors that characterize the transformative worldview?
- d. What are community-focused values?
- e. What economic changes do you think are most viable?
- f. What does the term ecological awareness mean to you? Have you experienced ecological awareness in yourself? Among your friends? If so, how would you describe your ecological awareness.
- g. What are the effects of our car-dependent society? What do you think are viable solutions to this problem?
- h. What issues do you think are most important in the peace and social and economic justice movements?
- i. Do you or your family buy organic or local foods? If so, what foods? If not, why not?
- j. Do you use or do you know anyone who uses holistic healing/health methods? If so, what are the methods and the results? If not, why not?
- k. Why is obesity rampant, particularly in the United States?
- l. What changes has spirituality taken? Do you agree with these changes? Are universal religions declining?
- m. Do you see any holistic approaches practiced in your educational experience? What are they?

10. Insights: Learning from the Past, Cultural Currents

- a. Do you think there are huge challenges for the human species in the Global Wave? What are these challenges? Which do you think is the most urgent?
- b. Explain the following statement: "Our innate behaviors and historical experiences have not prepared us well for the urgency of the global issues that confront us now." Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Explain.
- c. Do you think most of our political leaders are equipped to deal with the challenges we all face? Explain.
- d. Do you think politicians have provided a vision of the direction we need to take and what we need to do? Explain.
- e. Do you think many of our religious leaders have failed us? Explain.
- f. Do you think technology can help us deal with some of the urgent issues? What issues can technology help us with? What issues can technology not help us with?
- g. Do you think the modern and globalized worldviews are capable of addressing the challenges we face today? Explain.
- h. Explain the following statement: "We eagerly install fluorescent light bulbs or turn off our computers at night, but deep structural systemic changes are difficult to accomplish on our own."
- i. Do you think that we have reached a tipping point in our global society?

11. Insights: Learning from the Past, The Global Wave: Concluding Insights

- a. Do you think that a transformative worldview can help us avert environmental collapse and deal with the myriad of issues facing us today and in the near future? Explain.
- b. How would you go about or not go about formulating and expanding a transformative worldview?
- c. Do you agree with the author who thinks that the study of a holistic world history can help develop visions of a shared future? Explain.