

A Annual Editions E

GLOBAL ISSUES



87/88

GLOBAL ISSUES 87/88

Editor

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Robert Jackson is a professor of political science and Director of the Center for International Studies at the California State University, Chico. In addition to teaching, he has published articles on the international political economy, international relations simulations, and political behavior. His special research interest is how northern California is becoming increasingly linked to the Pacific Basin. His overseas travels include China, Hong Kong, Portugal, Spain, and Morocco.

Cover illustration by Mike Eagle

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The Dushkin Publishing Group, Inc.
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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Main entry under title: Annual editions: Global issues.

1. Civilization, Modern—20th century—Addresses, essays, lectures—Periodicals. 2. Social prediction—Addresses, essays, lectures—Periodicals. 3. Social problems—20th century—Addresses, essays, lectures—Periodicals. I. Title: Global issues.
909.82'05 ISBN 0-87967-684-1

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Members of the Advisory Board are instrumental in the final selection of articles for each edition of Annual Editions. Their review of articles for content, level, currency, and appropriateness provides critical direction to the editor and staff. We think you'll find their careful consideration well reflected in this volume.

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To The Reader

In publishing ANNUAL EDITIONS we recognize the enormous role played by the magazines, newspapers, and journals of the *public press* in providing current, first-rate educational information in a broad spectrum of interest areas. Within the articles, the best scientists, practitioners, researchers, and commentators draw issues into new perspective as accepted theories and viewpoints are called into account by new events, recent discoveries change old facts, and fresh debate breaks out over important controversies.

Many of the articles resulting from this enormous editorial effort are appropriate for students, researchers, and professionals seeking accurate, current material to help bridge the gap between principles and theories and the real world. These articles, however, become more useful for study when those of lasting value are carefully *collected, organized, indexed, and reproduced* in a *low-cost format*, which provides easy and permanent access when the material is needed. That is the role played by *Annual Editions*. Under the direction of each volume's *Editor*, who is an expert in the subject area, and with the guidance of an *Advisory Board*, we seek each year to provide in each ANNUAL EDITION a current, well-balanced, carefully selected collection of the best of the public press for your study and enjoyment. We think you'll find this volume useful, and we hope you'll take a moment to let us know what you think.

As the twentieth century begins to draw to a close, the issues confronting humanity are increasingly complex and diverse. While the mass media may focus on the latest crisis for a few days or weeks, the broad, historical forces that are at work shaping the world of the twenty-first century are seldom given the in-depth treatment that they warrant. Research and analysis of these issues, furthermore, are published across a wide variety of sources. As a result, the student just beginning to study global issues is often discouraged before he or she is able to make much sense out of this situation. In selecting and organizing the materials in this book, it has been the needs of the beginning student that were kept in the forefront.

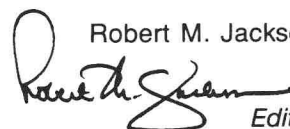
Each unit begins with an article providing a broad overview of the area to be explored. The remaining articles examine in more detail some of the issues presented in the introductory article. The unit then concludes with an article or two that not only identifies an issue but suggests positive steps that are being taken to improve the situation. The world faces many serious problems, the magnitude of which would discourage even the most stout-hearted individual. Though identifying problems is easier than solving them, it is encouraging to know that many of the issues are being successfully addressed.

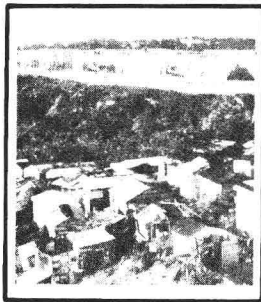
Perhaps the most striking feature about the study of contemporary global issues is the absence of any single, widely-held theory which explains what is taking place. Therefore, a conscious effort has been made to consider a wide variety of ideologies and theories. The most important consideration has been to present global issues from an international perspective, rather than from a purely American or Western point of view. By selecting materials originally published in many different countries and written by authors of various nationalities, the anthology represents the great diversity of opinions that people hold on important global issues. Two writers examining the same phenomenon may reach very different conclusions. It is not a question of who is right and who is wrong. What is important to understand is that people from different vantage points have differing perceptions of reality.

Another major consideration when organizing these materials was to explore the complex interrelationship of factors that produce issue areas such as Third World development. Too often discussions of these problems are reduced to arguments of good versus evil or communism versus capitalism. As a result, the interplay of the complex web of causes is overlooked. Every effort has been made to select materials that illustrate the interaction of these forces.

Finally, the materials in this book were selected for both their intellectual insights and their readability. Timely and well-written materials should stimulate good classroom lectures and discussions. It is hoped that students and teachers will enjoy using this book.

I would like to thank Ian Nielsen for his encouragement and helpful suggestions in the selection of materials for *Annual Editions: Global Issues 87/88*. I would also like to thank Gail Lawley for providing some timely research assistance. It is our continuing goal to encourage the readers of this book to have a greater appreciation of the world in which they live. We hope they will be motivated to further explore the complex issues that the world faces as we approach the last decade of the twentieth century.

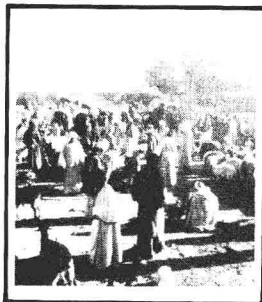
Robert M. Jackson

Editor



Unit 1

Global Issues: A Clash of Views

The two articles in this section present distinct views on the present and future state of life on earth.



Unit 2

Population

The five articles in this section discuss the contributing factors of culture, political unrest, environmental degradation, and migration on the world's population growth.

To the Reader

Topic Guide

Overview

1. **Life on Earth Is Getting Better, Not Worse**, Julian L. Simon, *The Futurist*, August 1983.

After analyzing historical trends, Professor Simon concludes that life is getting better and will continue to improve in the *future*. He points to decreases in infant mortality, increases in life expectancy, the historical economies of basic necessities (*food and energy*), and other data as evidence for his conclusion.

2. **The Cornucopian Fallacies**, Lindsey Grant, *The Futurist*, August 1983.

A critical analysis of the basic assumptions about global trends is presented in this companion article to Professor Simon's. Grant disagrees with Simon and states that it is impossible to predict the *future* by "extrapolating" from past growth.

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Overview

3. **A Global Accounting**, Anne Firth Murray, *Environment*, July/August 1985.

In this comprehensive article, the scope of global *population* dynamics is described along with the evolution of international *political* concern. The author describes the 1984 international population conference held in Mexico City and the changing attitudes expressed at that conference. She concludes by discussing the various impacts of population growth.

4. **The Global Phenomena of Immigration**, Charles Keely, *The World & I*, January 1987.

Migration today is a worldwide occurrence that has caused a breakdown of cultural and ethnic barriers, and has affected national economies and political structures. This article examines the extent and impact of these worldwide migrations.

5. **The World's Urban Explosion**, *The UNESCO Courier*, March 1985.

The rapid growth of the world's cities is described in this article. Before the year 2000, the world will have more urban than rural residents. The implications of this rapid *population* growth in urban areas will have its greatest impact on *Third World* countries.

6. **Egypt Stymied by Population Explosion**, Mary Curtius, *The Christian Science Monitor*, July 8, 1986.

This article is a brief case study of the *population* dynamics of Egypt. The rapid growth of this *Third World* country's population, especially in Cairo, along with the *cultural* factors resistant to international efforts at family planning, are described.

7. **The Politics of Population**, Margaret Wolfson, *Harvard International Review*, March 1986.

Many countries today have formulated an explicit *population* policy that is designed to control their rate of population growth. As the author points out, however, whether to increase or decrease the rate of growth is motivated by the political administration in power.

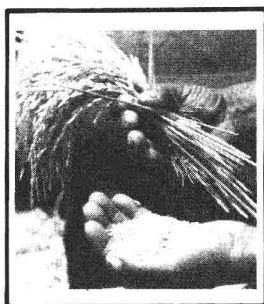
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Unit 3

Natural Resources

Sixteen selections divided into four subsections—the international dimension, raw materials, food and hunger, and energy—discuss natural resources and their effects on the world community.

Overview

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A. INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS

8. **Management of Global Environmental Issues**, Yoichi Kaya, et al., from *World Futures*, Gordon and Breach, Science Publishers, Inc., Vol. 19, 1984. 44

The authors describe the characteristics of the global *environmental* issues, including deforestation and the carbon dioxide problem. They also discuss various countermeasures and alternative financing methods to deal with global environmental problems.

9. **Chernobyl: Estimating Long-Term Health Effects**, Frank von Hippel and Thomas B. Cochran, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, August/September 1986. 48

In April of 1986, the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in Russia was a disaster that will have long-term health effects on many European people. This article examines some of the lasting effects that the released *nuclear fission products* will have on their health.

10. **Managing the World Environment**, John S. Perry, *Environment*, January/February 1986. 55

This excerpt from the magazine, *Environment*, reviews the history of *international efforts* to study and control human impacts on the *environment*. Three types of approaches are described and evaluated.

B. RAW MATERIALS: CASE STUDIES

11. **State of the Earth: 1985**, Lester R. Brown, et al., *Natural History*, April 1985. 60

Over the years, Lester Brown, president of Worldwatch Institute, has provided a wealth of information on a variety of global issues. This partial summation of the *State of the World: 1985* reviews the vitality of the earth's treasure of *natural resources*.

12. **Disappearing Species: A Global Tragedy**, Peter H. Raven, *The Futurist*, October 1985. 71

Botanist Peter Raven describes how alarming numbers of plants, animals, and microorganisms are on the verge of extinction—the likes of which have not occurred since the age of dinosaurs. Using case studies from the Hawaiian Islands, Madagascar, Puerto Rico, and Brazil, the extinction of a wide variety of species is described. Professor Raven, who is also Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, argues for appropriate methods of sustainable use of *tropical resources* for human benefit.

13. **Riches Beckon from the Depths**, John Holmes, *Insight*, April 7, 1986. 75

Three years after the United States laid claim to a vast undersea area bordering its land mass, preparatory mapping is well under way for *mining* the mineral deposits found in this area. The marine equivalent of a gold rush, however, may not start for some years, for undersea *technology* must be perfected and *management* issues resolved.

14. **Converting Garbage to Gold: Recycling Our Materials**, William U. Chandler, *The Futurist*, February 1984. 78

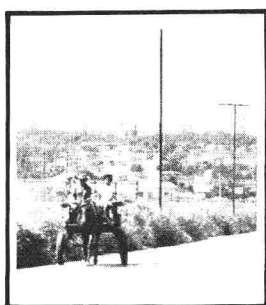
Recycling conserves *energy* and *natural resources*, fights pollution and inflation, and creates jobs. However, according to the author, the world has fallen far short of achieving recycling's potential.

C. FOOD AND HUNGER

15. **A Crisis of Many Dimensions: Putting Food on the World's Table**, Lester R. Brown, *Environment*, May 1984. 86
The global *food* production and distribution system is described in this comprehensive overview. Lester Brown examines recent trends and *political* involvement in the manipulation of markets. Food security indicators are examined as are the many dimensions of famine in the contemporary world.
16. **The Famine in Africa: Causes and Solutions**, Brian W. Walker, *USA Today Magazine* (*Society for the Advancement of Education*), July 1985. 97
Awareness of the *famine* in Africa has grown tremendously in the past few years. Mr. Walker, president of the International Institute for Environment and Development, identifies specific elements in the history and politics of the current crisis. He describes the activities that are at the base of the current famine and provides many important insights.
17. **The Miracle of Rice**, Monkombu S. Swaminathan, *The UNESCO Courier*, December 1984. 100
The author is a noted Indian scientist who has had a significant role in *food research* and the "green revolution." Since 1982 he has served as Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute. In this article, Dr. Swaminathan reviews the efforts to develop and disseminate new varieties of rice whose yields have increased by forty percent since 1960.
18. **Seeds of Plenty: The Promise of Biotechnology**, Yuri Ovchinnikov, *The UNESCO Courier*, April 1984. 105
By describing the Soviets' wide variety of scientific approaches to increasing *food* production—chemical, biological, and other—this article provides the reader with a sense of the sophisticated *research* that is taking place in the USSR and elsewhere.

D. ENERGY

19. **Oil and the Gulf War**, Paul McDonald, *The World Today*, December 1986. 108
The six-year-old *Gulf war* that has preoccupied some of *OPEC's* most powerful members has caused a new-found unity. This article discusses some of the results of this unity of purpose and the potential effects of the war on *OPEC's* well-being.
20. **The World's Shrinking Forests**, David Winder, *The Christian Science Monitor*, January 10, 1984. 112
According to the author, for more than one-third of the world's *population*, the real *energy* crisis is the daily search for firewood, which is used for cooking and heating. Rapidly growing populations have put tremendous pressure on this *resource*, resulting in deforestation and spreading deserts.
21. **Third World Dilemma**, Sajid Rizvi, *World Press Review*, July 1986. 116
Third World countries (that had been moving toward the nuclear option for *electrical power* generation because of high oil prices) have been forced to reexamine this plan since the Chernobyl accident. The author concludes, however, that a reversal in policy is not likely to happen for a variety of reasons.
22. **Power Without Nuclear**, *The Economist*, May 24, 1986. 117
This article reviews the options available to the world if it abandons *nuclear power*. Each of the options, however, has serious *economic* and *environmental* shortcomings. The article concludes that if nuclear power stations were closed in either the near or distant future, energy prices would rise.
23. **Shapes of a Renewable Society**, Daniel Deudney and Christopher Flavin, *The Humanist*, May/June 1983. 120
The authors suggest that today's *economic* society has been shaped by the availability of cheap coal and oil *energy* sources. They argue that continuing to use finite *natural resources* means sacrificing other economic and *political* priorities to maintain current energy levels.



Unit 4

Development

Eleven articles divided into two subsections present various views on world development in the non-industrial and industrial nations.

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| Overview | 126 |
| A. NONINDUSTRIAL NATIONS | |
| 24. A Village Called Nanpur , Prafulla Mohanti, <i>The UNESCO Courier</i> , June 1983. | 128 |
| The author describes life in the Indian village where he grew up. He discusses the <i>customs</i> and traditions of its peasants and how life has changed there in recent years. | |
| 25. International Stratification and Third World Solidarity: A Dual Strategy for Change , Ali A. Mazrui, <i>Ceres</i> , January/February 1985. | 132 |
| Dr. Mazrui, a native of Kenya, reviews recommendations for altering the <i>international economy</i> . His calls for a New International Technological Order and a debtors' cartel are just two of the many thought-provoking points he makes. | |
| 26. The Development Delusion , Elie Kedourie, <i>The New Republic</i> , December 17, 1984. | 137 |
| The author describes the relationship between <i>political traditions</i> and <i>economic development</i> . Focusing on the political inheritance of African tribalism and Oriental despotism, the author argues that development requires that passive subjects be mobilized into action. But within the political and economic conditions that exist in Africa and Asia, this is not likely to happen. | |
| 27. The Next Earthquake , Curtis Skinner, <i>Commonweal</i> , July 11, 1986. | 142 |
| Mexico's debt problem and the collapse of international <i>oil</i> prices have resulted in a severe <i>economic</i> crisis that has had a heavy impact on the country's poorest people. The author describes the recent internationalization of Mexico's economy and how domestic economic policy is now largely controlled by international bankers. The <i>political</i> consequences of these developments are described in some detail. | |
| 28. Economic Reform in China , Christopher Johnson, <i>The World Today</i> , March 1985. | 145 |
| A review of Chinese <i>agricultural reform</i> plus the challenges that await in reforming industry highlight this article. The author also describes planning policy, trade, and the Special Economic Zones. Mr. Johnson is optimistic that reform efforts will continue in the <i>future</i> . | |
| B. INDUSTRIAL NATIONS | |
| 29. The Changing World of Work , John Lloyd and Charles Leadbeater, <i>World Press Review</i> , September 1986. | 148 |
| This comprehensive article looks at the structural changes that have occurred in the major <i>industrial nations</i> since the first oil price shocks of the early 1970s. The authors focus on how these changes have affected employment and the <i>values associated with work</i> . Responses of both the political right and left are analyzed as are the implications for educational systems. | |
| 30. America's War on Imports , Sylvia Nasar, <i>Fortune</i> , August 19, 1985. | 151 |
| The United States appetite for imported goods has been growing. This has caused a large deficit in its balance of payments with other countries. The result has been the call for legislation that would raise tariffs. In this article, the author examines these proposals and evaluates their <i>economic</i> consequences. She concludes that new tariffs will not work because they will further undermine the United States economy. | |

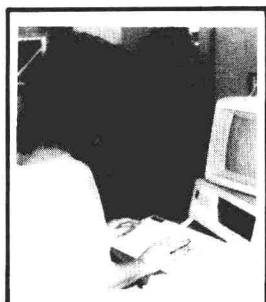


Unit 5

Conflict

Four articles in this section discuss the basis for world conflict and the current state of peace in the international community.

31. **Reforming the Soviet Economy**, Bruce Steinberg, *Fortune*, November 25, 1985. 154
The author describes the inefficiencies of the *Soviet economy* and the attempts of the new Communist party leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, to reform them. One of the primary goals of this reform effort is to boost productivity, but Steinberg points out the many obstacles to these efforts that exist in the Soviet's centralized system of planning. He concludes that the USSR will continue to lag behind the West and "will remain isolated from the main currents of *international trade*."
32. **Japanese Women in a Male Society**, Nobuko Hashimoto, *The Christian Science Monitor*, January 10, 1985. 157
The role of Japanese *women* in the work force is summarized in this article. The author explores the conflicts between traditional roles and increased participation in positions of *economic* responsibility. Results of a major research study and prospects for equal opportunity legislation are reported.
33. **A New Age of Capitalism**, *Time*, July 28, 1986. 160
Not too long ago socialism seemed to be ascending and countries all over the world were nationalizing industries. Recently, however, the pragmatic efficiency of profit-making private ownership (*capitalism*) has been turned to for more production and jobs.
34. **What Tomorrow Holds**, Gene Bylinsky, *Fortune*, October 13, 1986. 166
This article provides an overview of where *science and technology* appear to be heading. The *future* of computers, biotechnology, and energy research are the main topics discussed.
- Overview 168
35. **On the International Uses of Military Force in the Contemporary World**, Klaus Knorr, *The Global Agenda: Issues and Perspectives*, 1984. 170
The idea that *military* force has lost its usefulness in the contemporary world is rejected by the author. Instead, Professor Knorr concludes that a significant trend has shifted military conflicts to the *Third World*.
36. **The Power of the Fanatics**, Thomas L. Friedman, *The New York Times Magazine*, October 7, 1984. 174
The *Times'* bureau chief describes the cycle of religious and political *violence* that characterizes much of Middle Eastern relations. He identifies a number of reasons why extremists are winning. They play by their own rules, set the agenda, identify simple answers to complex issues, and have a wider base of support than many imagine. In the process, he describes many of the dynamics of Israel's relations with its Arab neighbors.
37. **Arms Control: Misplaced Focus**, William A. Schwartz and Charles Derber, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, March 1986. 181
The authors argue that activists from all political persuasions focus on the hardware of the *nuclear arms race*. The attention that the weapons themselves receive, along with incremental changes in these systems between the superpowers, is misplaced, according to the authors. In contrast, they argue that the real task should be dealing with the sources of potential superpower *conflicts*, that is, those conflicts that can escalate into nuclear war.
38. **Back from the Brink**, McGeorge Bundy et al., *The Atlantic Monthly*, August 1986. 187
The use of *nuclear weapons* and their potential rapid escalation makes no sense when one considers the virtual suicide that would occur. This article, by some of the most important people concerned with the arms dialogue, outlines a realistic plan that would reduce the risk of nuclear confrontation.

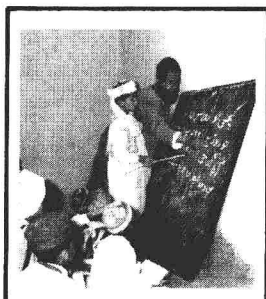


Unit 6

Communications

Six selections examine the impact of communications on the world's cultural, economic, and sex role stereotypes.

- Overview** 194
- 39. What Next? A World of Communications Wonders, *US News & World Report*, April 9, 1984.** 196
- A global *communications* revolution will bring astonishing change to virtually every country on earth, according to this article. It reviews developments in telephones and computers, fiber optics, and satellites.
- 40. Tuning in to Development, Bernard Anderson, *South: The Third World Magazine*, August 1986.** 200
- Broadcasting in the *developing world* has seen rapid change in the past decade. Television and imported programming, however, now threaten to undermine development.
- 41. The Regional Solution to a Global Problem, Mohamed Amin, *South: The Third World Magazine*, August 1986.** 202
- Mohamed Amin, the journalist who provided the first video footage about the famine in Ethiopia, describes some of the issues surrounding Western *news* coverage of the *Third World*.
- 42. Uprising in the Philippines, Jonathan Kolatch, *TV Guide*, May 31, 1986 and June 7, 1986.** 204
- This article describes the control the Marcos regime had over the *media* and how this control was eroded during the presidential campaign. The roles of both US television and local television in Manila are described in terms of their impact on the *revolution* that drove Marcos into exile.
- 43. Why Soviets Are Behind in Computer Technology, *US News & World Report*, August 13, 1984.** 209
- It has been argued that the sluggish Soviet *economy* could receive a shortcut to increased productivity through the widespread application of modern computer *technology*. However, according to the article, this does not appear likely to happen. Secrecy, the fear of hackers, and the lack of service and spare parts are just some of the reasons that an information revolution will not occur in the USSR in the near future.
- 44. Women's Place in the Integrated Circuit, Rachael Grossman, *Joint Issues of Pacific Research*, July-October 1980.** 211
- This excerpt from *Joint Issues of Pacific Research* analyzes the role of *women* in the global *communications* revolution by focusing on female assembly-line workers in Southeast Asia. The impacts of women working outside the home on traditional, male-dominated cultures are explored. The article critically reviews management techniques, working conditions, and ties to the *international economy*.



Unit 7

Human Values

Five articles discuss human rights and values in today's world. The effects of women, science, and religion on the world's cultures are examined.

Overview	220
45. Visit to South Africa , Bhupinder Singh Liddar, <i>International Perspectives</i> , March/April 1986.	222
A writer from Ottawa, Canada, reports on his experiences during a visit to South Africa. The author describes aspects of everyday life in that troubled country. The article provides a critical look at the clash of <i>values</i> surrounding <i>apartheid</i> .	
46. Agenda for the Twenty-First Century , Rushworth M. Kidder, <i>The Christian Science Monitor</i> , December 31, 1986.	225
What is on humanity's agenda for the twenty-first century? This article summarizes some of the themes that have emerged from interviews with sixteen leading thinkers. The topics include the threat of <i>nuclear annihilation</i> , the danger of <i>overpopulation</i> , and the degradation of the <i>global environment</i> .	
47. The Woman Revolution , Han Suyin, <i>The UNESCO Courier</i> , July 1982.	227
The historical oppression of <i>women</i> is described, along with the various forms it has taken. The author discusses ways to redress this injustice and speculates about how women's unique qualities can contribute to the changing world.	
48. Gandhi: A Twentieth-Century Anomaly? John Broomfield, <i>LSA</i> , Winter 1984.	231
The life of the twentieth century's most unique political figure is reviewed in this article. Describing a number of Gandhi's personal attributes, Professor Broomfield reveals that Gandhi's use of the symbols of traditional India was necessary in order to attempt "the construction of an <i>economic and political order</i> in which the peasantry could have a full role."	
49. Where the Future Begins , Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, <i>The UNESCO Courier</i> , January 1983.	237
The Director-General of UNESCO discusses the primary global issues. The <i>international economic system</i> , peace and the <i>arms race</i> , <i>human rights</i> , the <i>environment</i> , <i>communications</i> , <i>cultural identity</i> , and other issues are reviewed.	
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Topic Guide

This topic guide suggests how the selections in this book relate to topics of traditional concern to students and professionals involved with the study of global issues. It is very useful in locating articles which relate to each other for reading and research. The guide is arranged alphabetically according to topic. Articles may, of course, treat topics that do not appear in the topic guide. In turn, entries in the topic guide do not necessarily constitute a comprehensive listing of all the contents of each selection.

TOPIC AREA	TREATED AS AN ISSUE IN:	TOPIC AREA	TREATED AS AN ISSUE IN:
Agriculture, Food, and Hunger	1. Life on Earth Is Getting Better, Not Worse 3. A Global Accounting 11. State of the Earth 15. Putting Food on the World's Table 16. The Famine in Africa 17. The Miracle of Rice 18. Seeds of Plenty: The Promise of Biotechnology 28. Economic Reform in China	Economics	4. The Global Phenomena of Immigration 14. Converting Garbage to Gold 15. Putting Food on the World's Table 19. Oil and the Gulf War 22. Power Without Nuclear 23. Shapes of a Renewable Society 30. America's War on Imports 31. Reforming the Soviet Economy 32. Japanese Women in a Male Society 33. A New Age of Capitalism
Communications	34. What Tomorrow Holds 38. Back from the Brink 39. A World of Communication Wonders 40. Tuning in to Development 41. The Regional Solution to a Global Problem 42. Uprising in the Philippines 43. Why Soviets Are Behind in Computer Technology 44. Women's Place in the Integrated Circuit	Energy: Exploration, Production, Research, and Politics	1. Life on Earth Is Getting Better, Not Worse 9. Chernobyl: Estimating Long-Term Health Effects 11. State of the Earth 14. Converting Garbage to Gold 19. Oil and the Gulf War 20. The World's Shrinking Forests 21. Third World Dilemma 22. Power Without Nuclear 23. Shapes of a Renewable Society 27. The Next Earthquake 34. What Tomorrow Holds
Cultural Customs and Values	3. A Global Accounting 4. The Global Phenomena of Immigration 6. Egypt Stymied by Population Explosion 14. Converting Garbage to Gold 16. The Famine in Africa 23. Shapes of a Renewable Society 24. A Village Called Nanpur 32. Japanese Women in a Male Society 33. A New Age of Capitalism 36. The Power of the Fanatics 43. Why Soviets Are Behind in Computer Technology 44. Women's Place in the Integrated Circuit 45. Visit to South Africa 46. Agenda for the 21st Century 47. The Woman Revolution 48. Gandhi: A Twentieth-Century Anomaly? 49. Where the Future Begins	Environment, Ecology, and Conservation	2. The Cornucopian Fallacies 3. A Global Accounting 8. Management of Global Environmental Issues 9. Chernobyl: Estimating Long-Term Health Effects 10. Managing the World Environment 11. State of the Earth 12. Disappearing Species 14. Converting Garbage to Gold 20. The World's Shrinking Forests 22. Power Without Nuclear 23. Shapes of a Renewable Society
Development: Economic and Social	5. The World's Urban Explosion 6. Egypt Stymied by Population Explosion 7. The Politics of Population 15. Putting Food on the World's Table 16. The Famine in Africa 26. The Development Delusion 27. The Next Earthquake 28. Economic Reform in China 31. Reforming the Soviet Economy 33. A New Age of Capitalism 40. Tuning in to Development 44. Women's Place in the Integrated Circuit 47. The Woman Revolution 49. Where the Future Begins	The Future	1. Life on Earth Is Getting Better, Not Worse 2. The Cornucopian Fallacies 5. The World's Urban Explosion 14. Converting Garbage to Gold 19. Oil and the Gulf War 23. Shapes of a Renewable Society 28. Economic Reform in China 29. The Changing World of Work 34. What Tomorrow Holds 38. Back from the Brink 39. A World of Communications Wonders 49. Where the Future Begins
		Health and Medicine	6. Egypt Stymied by Population Explosion 7. The Politics of Population 9. Chernobyl: Estimating the Long-Term Health Effects 34. What Tomorrow Holds 44. Women's Place in the Integrated Circuit

TOPIC AREA	TREATED AS AN ISSUE IN:	TOPIC AREA	TREATED AS AN ISSUE IN:
Industrial Economics	14. Converting Garbage to Gold 23. Shapes of a Renewable Society 29. The Changing World of Work 30. America's War on Imports 31. Reforming the Soviet Economy 34. What Tomorrow Holds 39. A World of Communications Wonders 43. Why Soviets Are Behind in Computer Technology	Population and Demographics (Quality of Life Indicators)	1. Life on Earth Is Getting Better, Not Worse 3. A Global Accounting 4. The Global Phenomena of Immigration 5. The World's Urban Explosion 6. Egypt Stymied by Population Explosion 20. The World's Shrinking Forests
International Economics: Trade, Aid, and Dependencies	15. Putting Food on the World's Table 17. The Miracle of Rice 19. Oil and the Gulf War 25. International Stratification and Third World Solidarity 27. The Next Earthquake 29. The Changing World of Work 30. America's War on Imports	Science, Technology, and Research and Development	9. Chernobyl: Estimating Long-Term Health Effects 11. State of the Earth 12. Disappearing Species 13. Riches Beckon from the Depths 14. Converting Garbage to Gold 15. Putting Food on the World's Table 17. The Miracle of Rice 18. Seeds of Plenty: The Promise of Biotechnology 34. What Tomorrow Holds 39. A World of Communications Wonders 43. Why Soviets Are Behind in Computer Technology
Military: Warfare and Terrorism	35. On the International Uses of Military Force in the Contemporary World 36. The Power of the Fanatics 37. Arms Control 38. Back from the Brink 42. Uprising in the Philippines 45. Visit to South Africa	Third World	3. A Global Accounting 5. The World's Urban Explosion 6. Egypt Stymied by Population Explosion 12. Disappearing Species 16. The Famine in Africa 17. The Miracle of Rice 20. The World's Shrinking Forests 21. Third World Dilemma 24. A Village Called Nanpur 25. International Stratification and Third World Solidarity 26. The Development Delusion 27. The Next Earthquake 28. Economic Reform in China 35. On the International Uses of Military Force 36. The Power of the Fanatics 40. Tuning in to Development 41. The Regional Solution to a Global Problem 44. Women's Place in the Integrated Circuit 47. The Woman Revolution 48. Gandhi: A Twentieth-Century Anomaly?
Natural Resources	2. The Cornucopian Fallacies 3. A Global Accounting 8. Management of Global Environmental Issues 9. Chernobyl: Estimating Long-Term Health Effects 10. Managing the World Environment 11. State of the Earth 12. Disappearing Species 13. Riches Beckon from the Depths 14. Converting Garbage to Gold 20. The World's Shrinking Forests		
Political and Legal Global Issues	3. A Global Accounting 4. The Global Phenomena of Immigration 9. Chernobyl: Estimating Long-Term Health Effects 10. Managing the World Environment 11. State of the Earth 15. Putting Food on the World's Table 16. The Famine in Africa 19. Oil and the Gulf War 26. The Development Delusion 27. The Next Earthquake 29. The Changing World of Work 30. America's War on Imports 37. Arms Control 38. Back from the Brink	Women	3. A Global Accounting 32. Japanese Women in a Male Society 44. Women's Place in the Integrated Circuit 47. The Woman Revolution

Global Issues: A Clash of Views

Imagine a clear, round, inflated balloon and further imagine that a person begins to brush yellow paint onto this miniature globe. Symbolically the color yellow represents *people*, for in many ways the study of global issues is ultimately the study of people. Today, there are more people occupying the earth than ever before. In addition, we are in the midst of a period of unprecedented population growth. Not only are there many countries where the majority of people are under age sixteen, but because of improved health care, there are also more older people alive than ever before. The effect of a growing global population, however, goes beyond sheer numbers, for a growing population impacts on natural resources and social services in unprecedented ways. Population issues, then, are an appropriate place to begin the study of global issues.

Imagine that our fictional artist dips the brush into a container of blue paint to represent the world of *nature*. The natural world plays an important role in setting the international agenda. Shortages of raw materials, drought and crop failures, and pollution of waterways are just a few examples of how natural resources can have global implications.

Adding blue paint to the balloon also reveals one of the most important concepts found in this book of readings. Although the balloon originally was covered by yellow and blue paint (people and nature as separate conceptual entities), the two combined produce an entirely different color: green. Talking about nature as a separate entity or about people as though they were somehow removed from the forces of the natural world is a serious intellectual error. The people-nature relationship (symbolically represented by the mixing of blue and yellow paint) is one of the keys to understanding many of today's most important global issues.

The third color added to the balloon is red. It represents the "*meta*" component—i.e., those qualities that make human beings more than (or beyond) mere animals. These qualities include: new ideas and inventions, culture and values, religious and spiritual qualities, and art and literature. The addition of the red paint immediately changes the color green to brown, again emphasizing the relationship between all three factors.

The fourth and final color added is white. This color represents *social structures*. Factors such as whether a society is urban or rural, industrial or agrarian, planned or decentralized, and consumer oriented or dedicated to the needs of the state fall into this category. The relationship between this component and the others is extremely important. The impact of political decisions on the environ-

ment, for example, is one of the most unique features of the contemporary world. Historically, the forces of nature determined which species survived or perished. Today, survival depends on political decisions—or indecisions. Will the whales or bald eagles survive? The answer to this question will be the result of governmental activities, not evolutionary forces. Understanding this relationship between social structure and nature (known as "ecopolitics") is important to the study of global issues.

If the painter continues to ply the paintbrush over the miniature globe, a marbling effect will become evident. In some areas, the shading will vary because one element is greater than another. The miniature system appears dynamic. Nothing is static; relationships are continually changing. This leads to a number of theoretical insights: (1) there is no such thing as separate elements, only connections or relationships; (2) changes in one area (such as the weather) will result in changes in all other areas; and (3) complex relationships make it difficult to predict events accurately, so observers are often surprised by unexpected processes and outcomes.

This book is organized along the basic lines of the balloon allegory. This brief, two-article unit demonstrates the lack of agreement among the so-called experts. Unit two focuses on population. Unit three examines the environment and related issues (e.g., agriculture and energy). The next three units look at different aspects of the world's social structures. They explore issues of development (for both industrial and nonindustrial societies), conflict, and communications. In the final unit, a number of "meta" factors are discussed. However, you should be aware that just as the individual colors disappeared and blended into new colors in the balloon allegory, it is also impossible to separate these factors into discrete chapters in a book. Any discussion of agriculture, for example, must take into account the impact of a growing population on soil and water resources, as well as new scientific approaches to food production. Therefore, the organization of this book is really an attempt to focus attention on issue areas; it should not suggest that these factors are somehow separate.

In this unit, it is evident that when people are part of the situation they are commenting on, they cannot see the complete, objective picture. Their views are affected by the social structure to which they belong and the particular vantage point they have. Furthermore, because the global situation is always changing, there are always opportunities for further controversy and debate.

In the lead article, Professor Julian Simon argues that the quality of life is improving. Describing a variety of



historical trends, Simon argues that the declining costs of basic necessities along with advances in health care all support his hypothesis that the quality of life will continue to improve. In contrast, Lindsey Grant criticizes the assumptions implicit in the Simon analysis. Grant argues that many of the problems people face today are historically unique. Though the two authors look at the same world, they come to different conclusions. Their clashing viewpoints establish a theme that runs throughout the remainder of this book.

Looking Ahead: Challenge Questions

Does either Simon's or Grant's analysis follow the assumptions presented in the allegory of the balloon? If so, how? If not, how are the assumptions of the authors different?

Both authors point to connections between different factors. What are some of the relationships they cite, and how do the authors differ in terms of the relationships they emphasize?

How does each of the authors use history to support his arguments?

What are some of the positive factors that are available to help people solve the problems they face?

How will the world be different in the year 2030? What factors will contribute to these changes?

What major events during the twentieth century have had the greatest impact on shaping the world of today?

What do you consider to be the five most pressing global problems of today? How do your answers compare to those of your family, friends, and classmates?