

Week 1

Galton's Problem is the observation by Francis Galton in 1888 that similar cultural traits may arise by diffusion.

- **Diffusion** is the dissemination (spread) of elements of culture to another region or people.

All language bar Korean Hangul are thought to derive from the **Phoenician alphabet**.

A **Pandemic** is an epidemic disease that spread across the whole world, or at least major accessible populations.

- **Viral pandemics** often spread across the **Afro-Eurasian landmass** as early as AD 100-200, resulting in these people having a partly integrated biology. This explains immune deficiencies in other indigenous populations.

A **Global Social Problem** is an issue that affects interconnections amongst human beings, driven by global forces with potentially global implications. They are **global in conceptual scope**, even if they are not always global in scale of effect.

- Best understood via **global level theories and comparative analysis**.

The rich countries today were those **colonised** in the early modern era.

The **'typical' country** has a population of 10 million people and a GDP per capita of approximately \$5,000 e.g. Jordan.

There are approximately **200 countries in the world**, with 193 member states of the United Nations.

Most countries are **small** and **poor**.

Above **1/8 of the world's population** live in developed countries that have GDP per capita of \$20,000 or more.

English is the top second language in the world.

Membership in the **global world society** is conducted in English, even though English speakers make up a small fraction of the global population.

The **norms of modernity** and of **'the West'** are:

- **Human Rights (Cultural)**.
- **Rule of law (Economic)**.
- **Democracy (Political)**.

In China children are being **left behind** to live with their older relatives as their parents seek work in cities.

- These relatives often need care themselves so these children are **highly responsible** at a young age.

There are **60 million** left behind children in China, half of them being pre-school age.

China's adult floating population consists of approximately 250 million people, 1/4 of the adult population.

The **Hukou (Registration) System** legally specifies where a person is able to live and traditionally receive government benefits such as schooling.

Left behind children are also seen in other countries such as the **Philippines** and **Mexico**.

- These workers support economies in countries such as the UAE and Singapore, where **Guest Workers** who work on low salaries in manual labour are required.

Week 2

According to **Immanuel Wallerstein** in his **'World-Systems Analysis'** the structural positions in the economy that generate the observed income level can be separated into three categories being **Core**, **Semiperiphery**, and **Periphery**.

Core countries are rich, post-modern and post-industrial where **everyone can have a decent life**.

- They have a **GDP greater than \$20,000** per year.
- For example the **USA**, the **UK**, **Australia** and **New Zealand**.
- **High value-added activities** are concentrated in these countries e.g. design, banking, finance, and marketing.

Semiperiphery countries are middle income, currently dealing with modernity and nationalism, and are currently industrial or industrialising.

- The rich, skilled and educated can live a core lifestyle but **many are left behind**.
- They have a **GDP of around \$5,000 - \$20,000** per year.
- For example **India**, **China**, **Russia**, and **Brazil**.

Periphery countries are poor, traditionally poorly integrated, and are agricultural or simple industrial e.g. ship breaking in Bangladesh.

- Often **no coherent nationalism** with borders drawn by colonial powers without any reference to culture, ethnicity or identity resulting in a lack of national cohesion.
- **Non-monetised economies** exist in these nations with **people working for subsistence** e.g. many citizens working for favours or growing their own food resulting in **GDP per capita of less than \$5,000** per year.
- For example **African** nations, **Middle Eastern nations**, and some **South Asian** nations.
- **Low value-added activities** are concentrated in these countries e.g. assembly and 'dirty' manufacturing.
- These countries **rely on foreign aid** to provide the basic necessities of life.

Andre Gunder Frank argued that **periphery countries are designated low income zones** of the global political-economic system rather than being merely 'undeveloped' nations.

The general structure of the **contemporary world system** has been stable for at least 200 years, and probably since **1500**.

Many global social problems are generated by **wealth and power differentials** that characterise the global world system.

Japan is the only country that has 'joined' the core of the world-system in last 500 years.

Core countries are not just rich but are the **control centres of the global economy**.

Japan joined the core after WWII due to changes imposed by **USA occupation** including wage and labour reform, agricultural reform and high tax rates.

Japan developed its own peripheries in Asia e.g. China.

As the ultimate core, the **USA** is the **Hegemonic State** in today's world-system as it is powerful enough to set the rules of the world-system. Other countries accept these rules as the cost of resistance is higher than the cost of acceptance.

- E.g. **USA sanctions** imposed on Iran (1980-2015) prohibited world trade with the country.

Core countries produce emissions disproportionately to their population, especially when the fact that peripheries emit to produce for the core is considered.

Brain Drain occurs as experts and skilled workers from poorer countries leave their native lands to join core countries.

- For example African doctors and Chinese engineers often work at **lesser skill levels but higher wages** in the core.

Demographic Borrowing is when rich countries accept workers from poor countries during their years of greatest productivity and lowest health risk. These workers are sent home before they become costly elderly citizens.

Semiperipheral countries have **functioning state institutions** that are not strong enough to support a leading economy.

These countries are **Fiscally Vulnerable** as they generate **insufficient tax revenue** and experience **repeated currency crises**. Subsequently they often **borrow in \$US** rather than their own currencies.

