



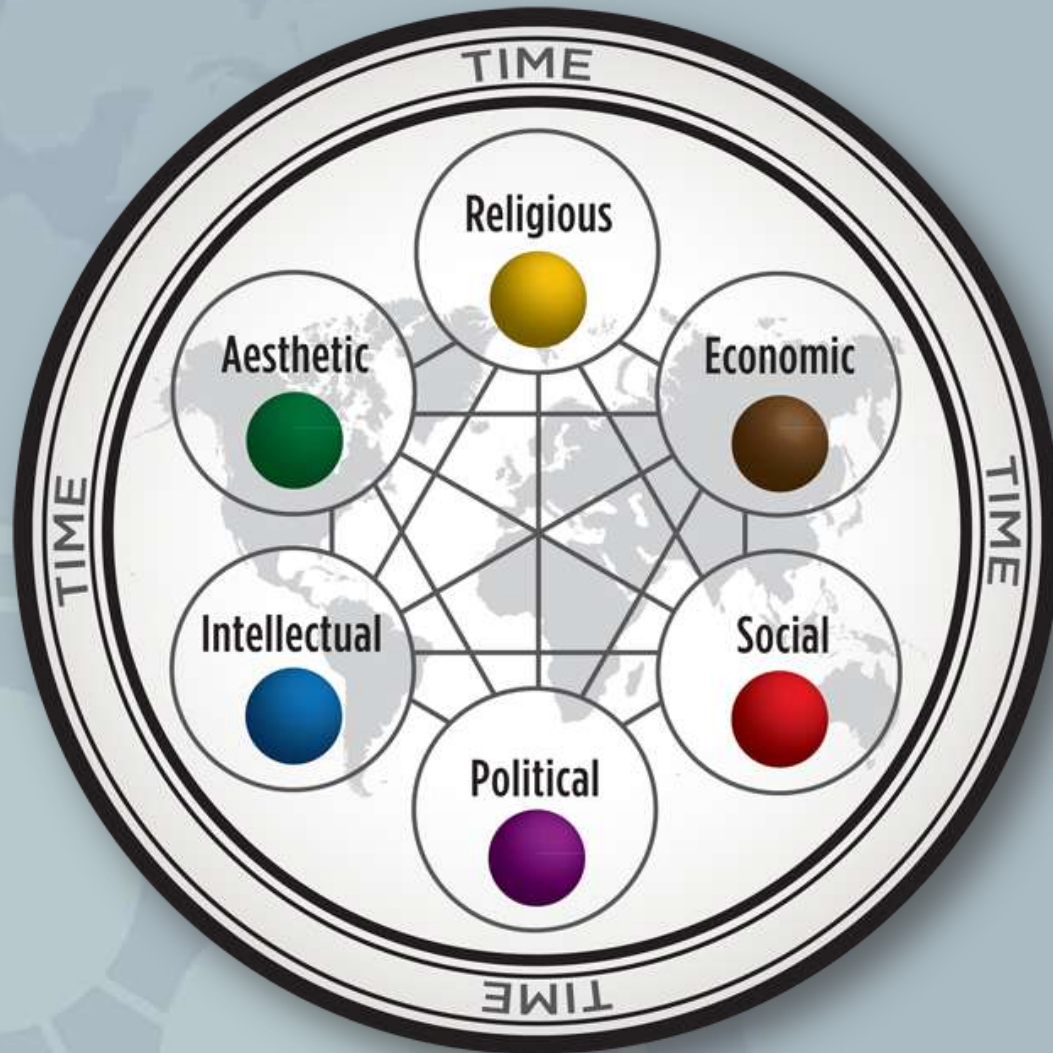
History

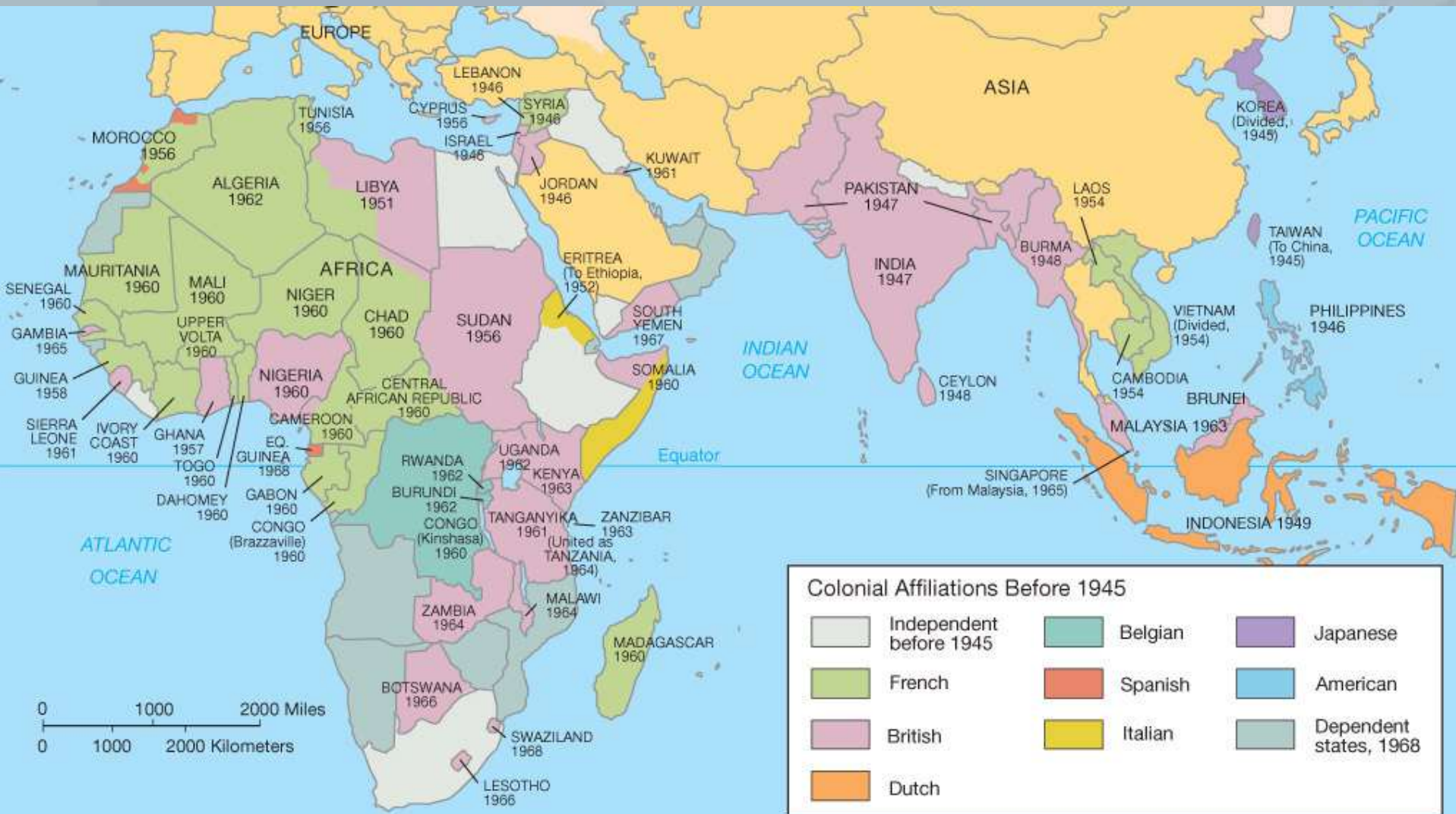
a cultural approach

Decolonization and the
Third World

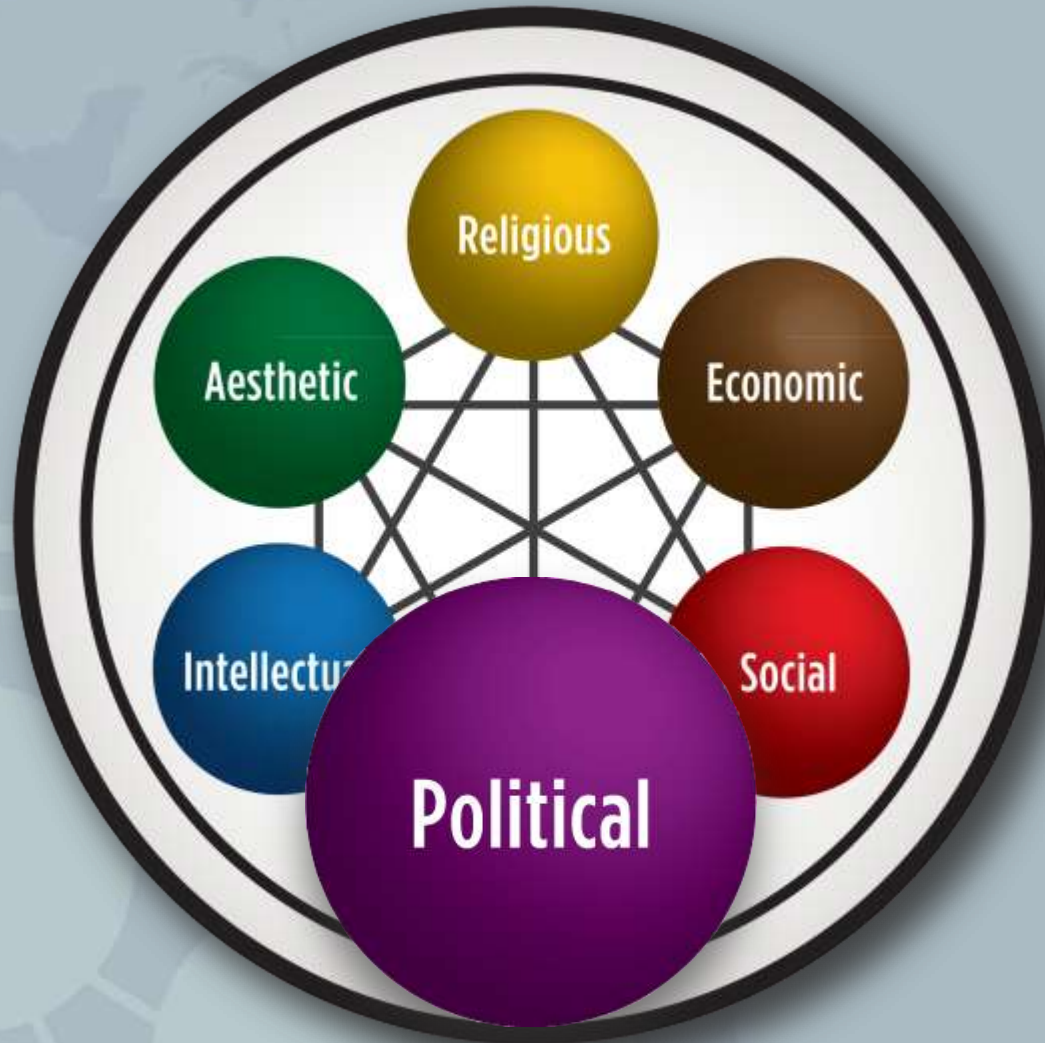
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Time and Geography





POLITICAL



Decolonization: Retreat from Empire

- Major turning point in world history
- End of colonial empires built up since 1500
- By 1970, end of Europeans governing from distant capitals of hundreds of millions of Asians, Africans, Polynesians, and others



Decolonization: Retreat from Empire

- Late 1980s, the last colonial power, the Soviet Union, released eastern European and Asian satellites from imposed communist rule
- Colonialism as an overt political relationship was “history.”
- Today, Europe’s influence on non-European states is subtle: economic rather than political or military



Political cartoon depicting President GHW Bush and Gorbachev

Causes of Decolonization

- Rising nationalism in Asia, Africa
 - National pride, resentment were driving forces
 - Led by small but important intelligentsia, Western-educated, and aware of discrepancies
 - In few cases, such as Vietnam, decolonization led to Marxism

Indian children
showing national
pride



Social

Political

Causes of Decolonization

- Loss of European moral authority
 - Weakened by two world wars
 - “White Man’s Burden” stripped away
 - European self-assurance about their fitness to rule foreign peoples evaporated



Social

Political

Causes of Decolonization

- Temporary prostration of Europe
 - Colonial powers were busy repairing damage caused by war, reforming their economies
 - No public interest in diverting capital, labor to colonies
 - New critical attitude toward imperial responsibilities



The destruction left by WW2 made folks care very little for plights of colonies

Economic

Political

Causes of Decolonization

Printed copy of Atlantic Charter distributed as propaganda

- Opposition to continuation of colonies
 - United Nations clearly anti-colonial
 - Atlantic Charter, included 8 basic freedoms
 - Right of self-determination for all peoples and nations
 - Charter was an important step toward formation of UN
 - Right of self-determination a cornerstone of UN Charter
 - Western countries' released their colonies between 1946 and 1974; Soviet Union in late 1980s

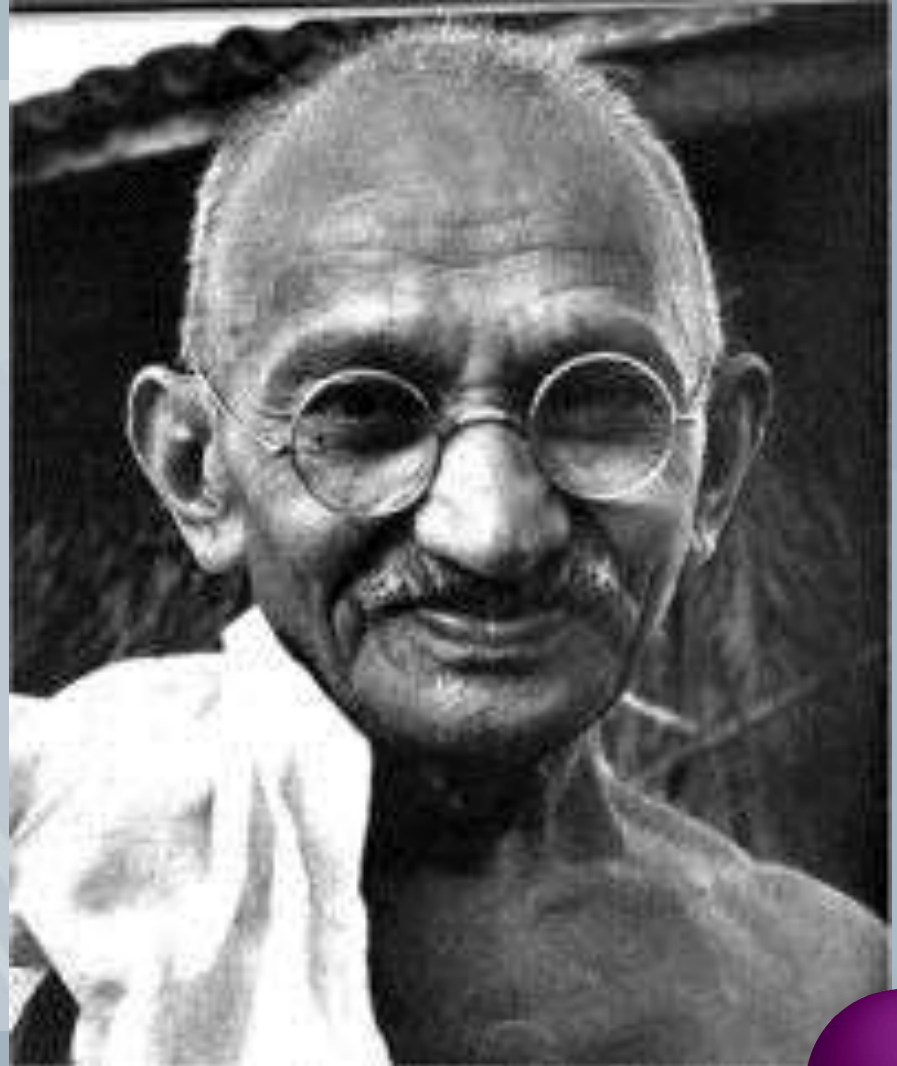


Economic

Political

India

- British Conservative Party opposed peaceful independence movement led by Gandhi and Hindu Congress Party
- Labour Party gradually won over to idea, began negotiations



Mahatma Gandhi

India

- Large Muslim minority demanded separate statehood
- Independence granted in 1947
- Immediate result: civil war between Hindus and Muslims
 - Two new states emerged – India and Pakistan
 - They are hostile to present day: frequent border disputes, nuclear near-confrontation



Other British Holdings

- Myanmar (Burma), Sri Lanka gained independence peacefully
- Ghana became self-governing, joined British Commonwealth
- Almost all British colonies quickly followed
- Granted either self-government or full independence

Other European Holdings

- France
 - Public and government attitude toward empire changed sharply, result of unsuccessful wars in Vietnam, Algeria
 - Charles DeGaulle became president – most colonies independent within 4 years
 - French kept positions of privilege, influence in former colonies



Charles DeGaulle

Other European Holdings

- Belgians, Dutch, Portuguese
 - All forced from holdings by uprisings, international pressure
 - Gave up only reluctantly



Dutch Soldiers

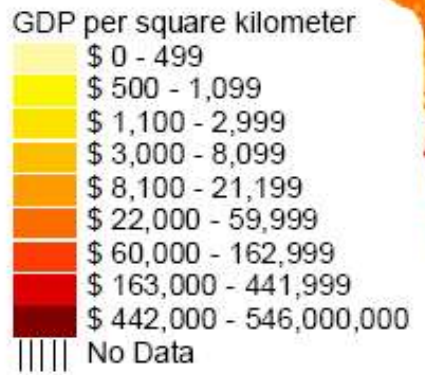
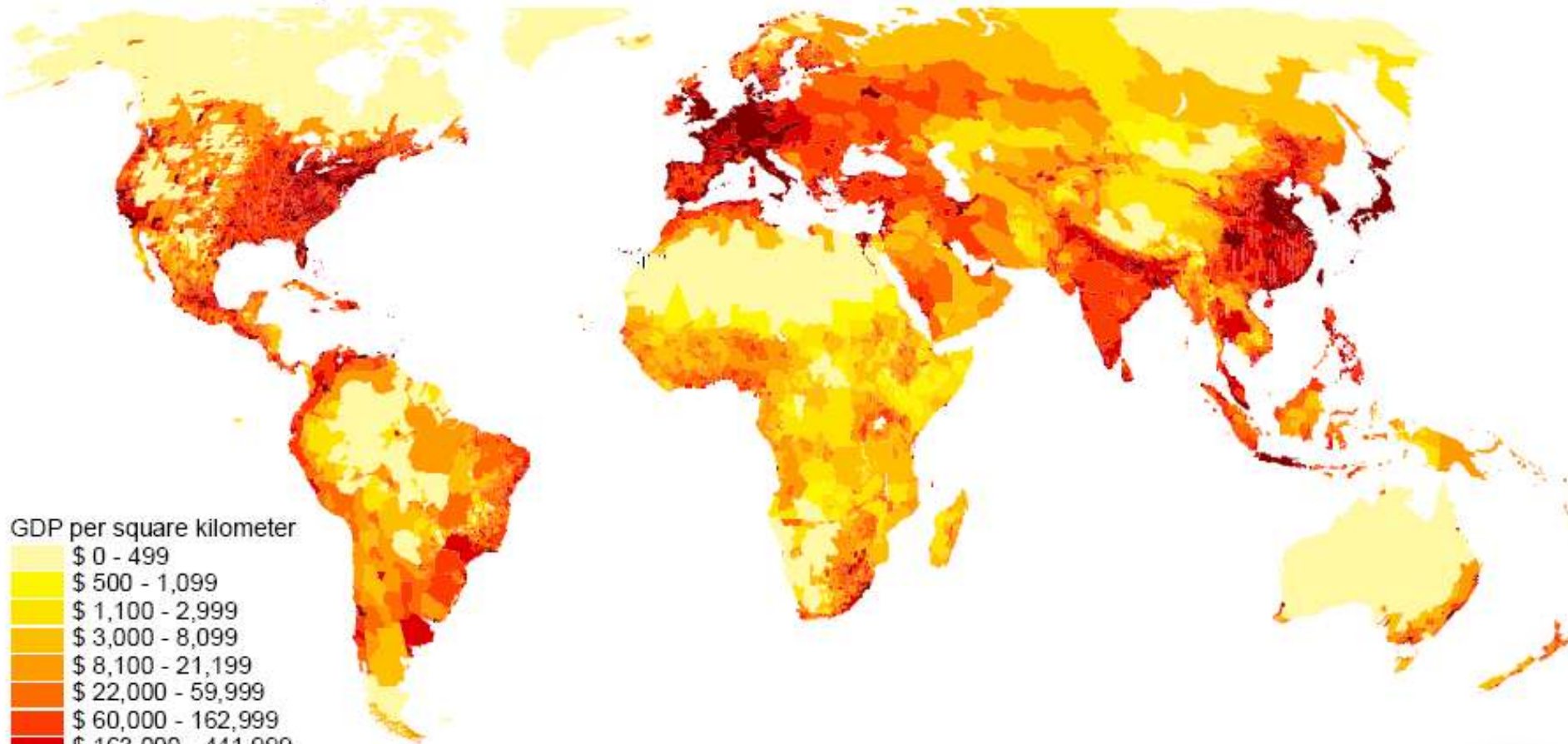
ECONOMIC



Problems of the Third World – Area Holds Largest Part of World's Population

- $\frac{3}{4}$ of world's 6 billion people lived in poorer countries
- Material poverty
- Different set of cultural values
- Fewer opportunities
- This group is still an untapped market

GDP Density



What is a Third World Society? Economically

- Poverty is norm
- Production of basic raw material is majority of gross national product
- Unskilled labor predominates



Impoverished
African children

What is a Third World Society? Economically

- Few opportunities for higher education, economic advancement
- Industrial, commercial enterprises controlled by foreign capital or dependent on world market prices
- Remain underdeveloped due to high tariffs by First World nations - **neocolonialism**

AFRICA THEN



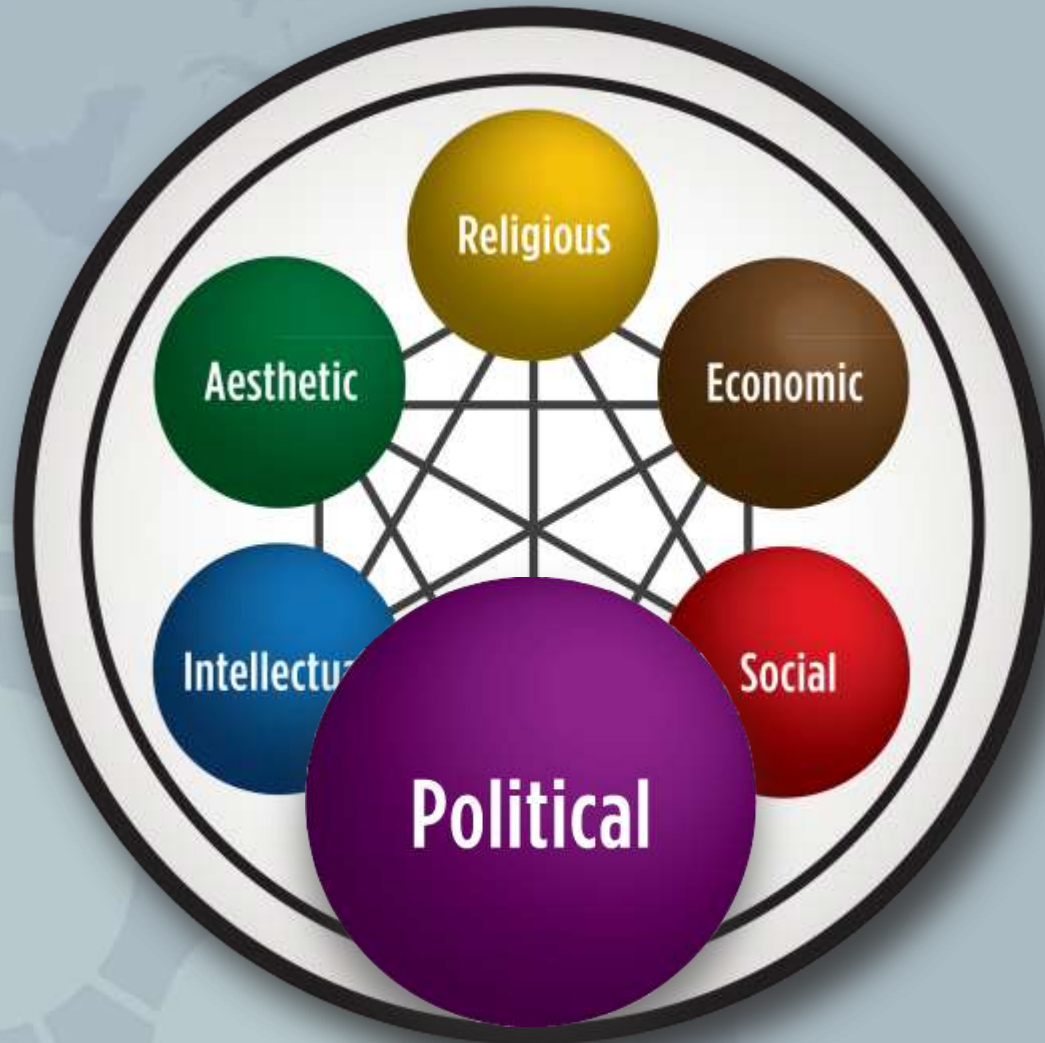
AFRICA NOW



neocolonialism

Economic

POLITICAL



What is a Third World Society? Politically

- Small elite controls access to power, wealth
- Roots go back to colonial privileged few
- Army or single party rules, often with dictatorial power
- Large landholders dominate politics

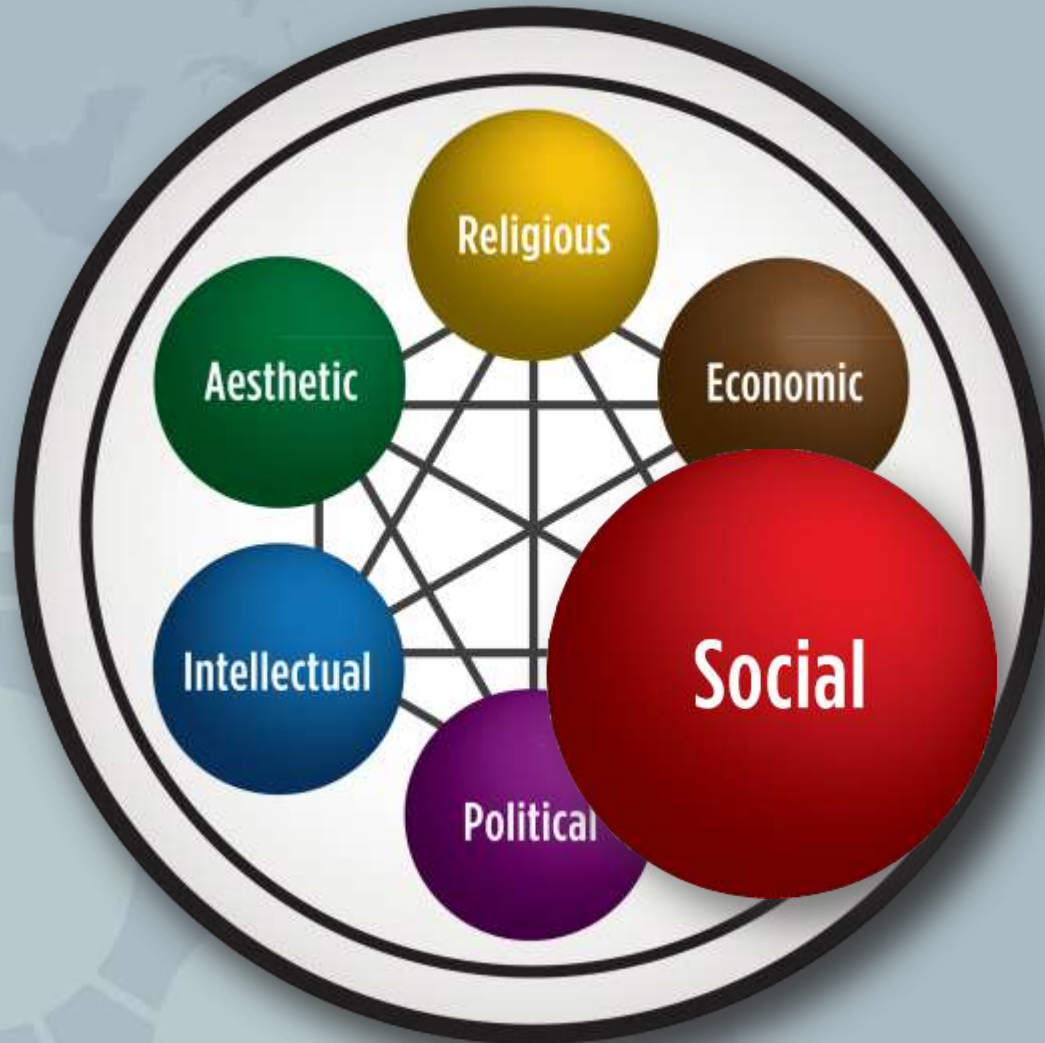
What is a Third World Society? Internationally

- Still reliant on more developed countries
- Treated as pawns in Cold War foreign policy
- Reduction in already limited bargaining power



Uncle Sam and a bear marked "Russia" play chess on a board marked "Syria"

SOCIAL



What is a Third World Society? Socially

- Overpopulation problem severe and growing
- Males still have control over females
- Education is highly desired, but not available to most people



The overpopulation problem in the third world isn't getting any better

What is a Third World Society? Socially

- Clan or extended family is more important than in developed countries
- Upward mobility much harder
- Imbalance between expanding towns and stagnant rural areas



Post-Cold War Situation

- Can no longer pit communism and capitalism against each other for their own advantage
- Attitudes of cultural superiority, even racism continue
- Third World needs are often ignored
- Standards of living have actually declined in Africa since independence
 - Famine and banditry in Sahel and eastern Congo

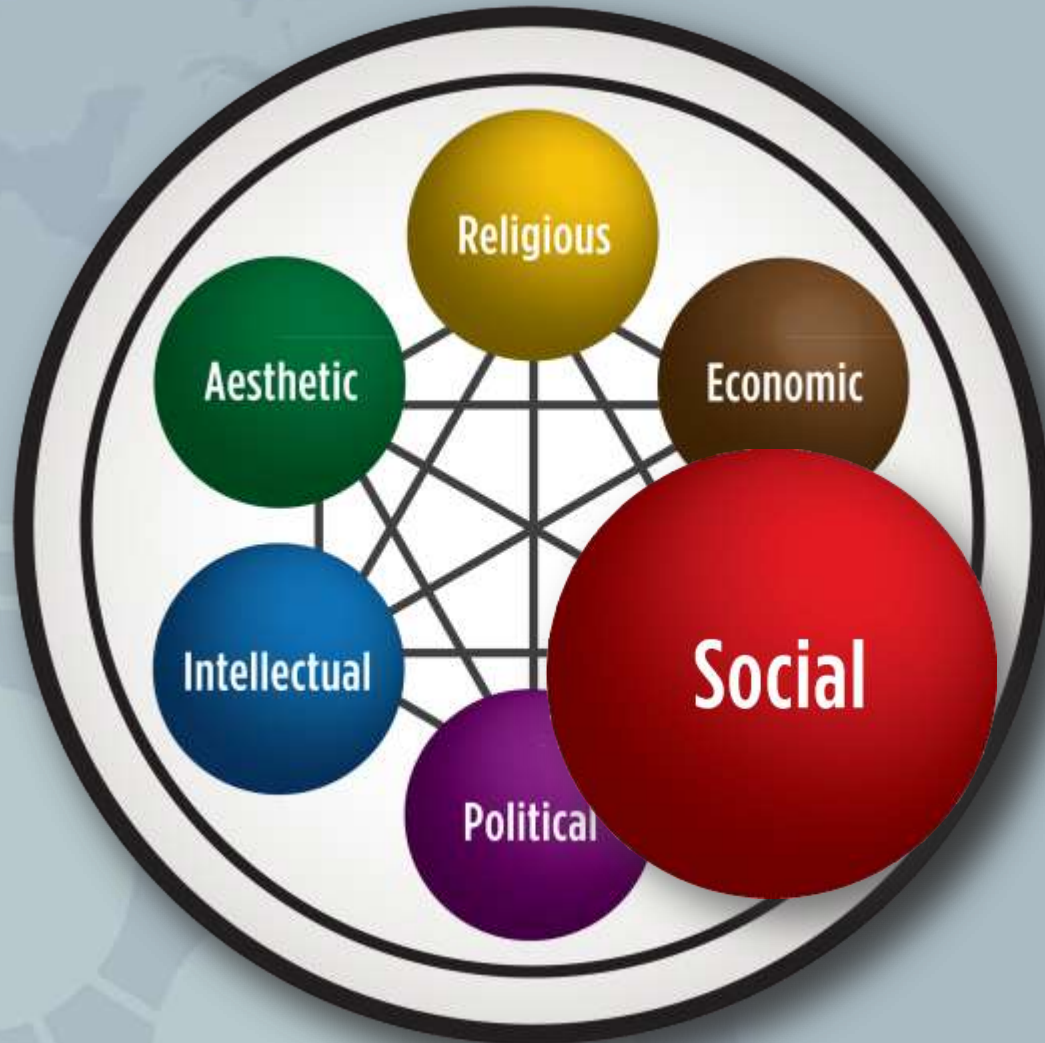


East Congo
bandits

Post-Cold War Situation

- Root causes of problems
 - Overpopulation for available resources
 - Continuing policies of First World
 - Misapplied technology
 - Unequal distribution of power, wealth

SOCIAL

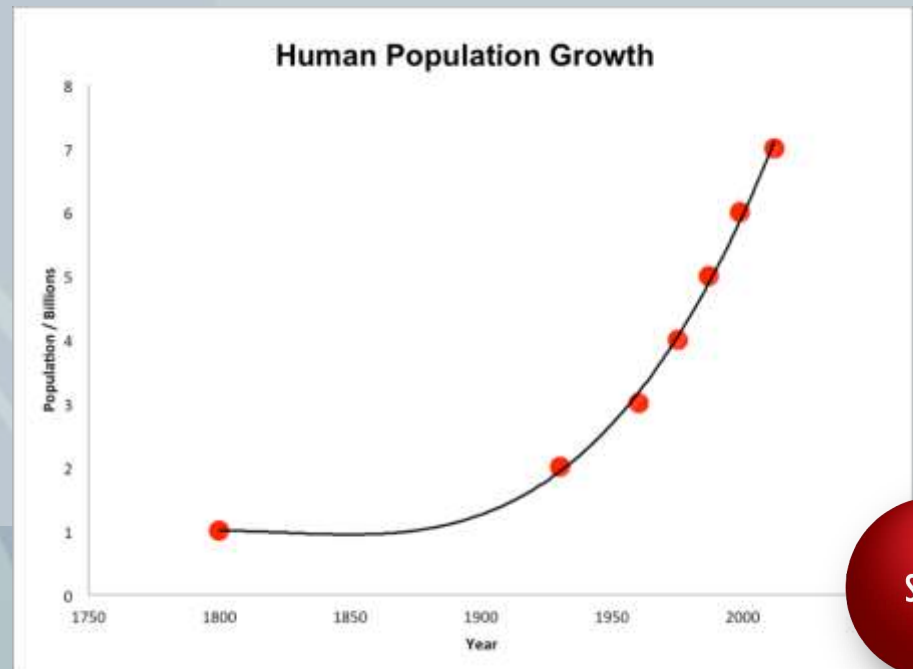


Population of the Earth

- Ehrlich's *The Population Bomb* warned of impending massive famine – has not yet happened because of Green Revolution
- He also did not consider demographic transition
 - Transition when parents produce fewer, better cared-for children
 - Occurs when society becomes industrialized
 - Lower death rate means most will live to maturity
 - Hoped that birth rates would drop, but this has not happened
- Birthrates are double or triple Western rates

Earth's Population Evolution

- First half-billion people took 50,000 years
- Second half-billion appeared over 500 years (1300–1800)
- Nearly 2 out the 6.4 billion people in 2005 came aboard in 15 years!



Earth's Population Evolution

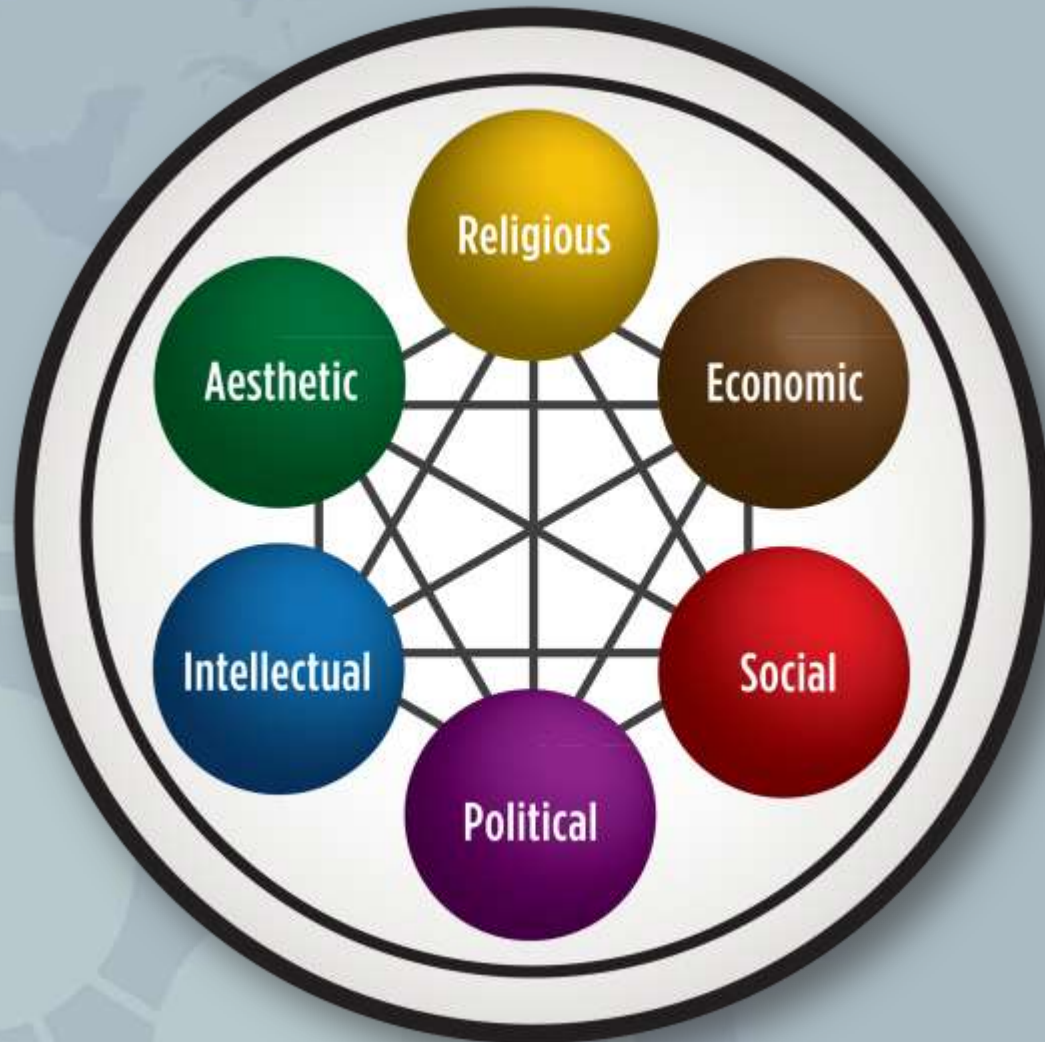


- Most of this proportion live in the less developed countries, where the rate of natural increase—births over deaths without counting migration—is two to four times that of the industrial world

Misapplied Technology

- Developed countries' attempts to assist former colonies and the Latin American states compounded difficulties those nations faced
- With superabundance of labor and an economy that couldn't provide more work, World Bank and international agencies promoted projects that *lessened* job opportunities:
 - Shipped bulldozers and large dump trucks to build dam or mine rather than use of shovels and baskets that create jobs
 - In agriculture, modern equipment substituted for plowing or thinning topsoil and delicate biosystem
 - Laborers out of work added to problems of poor villages and city slums'
 - Development efforts have not raised standard of living for masses; rather the rich have gotten richer, the poor poorer

REVIEW



Discussion Questions

1. What parallels do you see between independence movements in India and elsewhere in the Third World and the US Revolution for Independence? Are there similarities? What are the major differences?
2. Overpopulation is one of the greatest problems facing developing nations today. Why do you think this have been such a persistent problem with few apparent solutions? Why is it predominantly a problem of developing countries? How do you think it can be solved?



History

a cultural approach



COLUMBUS STATE

UNIVERSITY