

## THEMATIC REVIEW SHEET #11: Global Community at the Crossroads of History

- Against the backdrop of wars, revolutionary violence, and rapid technological change, 20<sup>th</sup> century humans have often felt like victims -- rather than participants -- in an impersonal and fast-paced world. In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the transformations of industrialism, nationalism, imperialism, and global war have undermined the stability and security of both individuals and their communities.
  - The intrusion of constantly changing technology in our daily lives has created a sense of persistent unfamiliarity and alienation at the same time that the technology of communication has brought people closer together.
- At the same time technology has provided the means to raise the standard of living of a portion of the world's population while damaging the environment through deforestation and the pollution of water and air, progress in transportation and communication technology has brought the peoples of the world closer and closer together, enhancing awareness of humanity's common fate and interests.

### CONTINUING THEMES:

- humans persist in the hierarchical and gender relationships that have always placed some in dominant and others in subordinate positions
- they are as mobile as they always been, if not always because they want to be --> migrations produced by the need for food, occupation, protection; because of population pressures or the sense of adventure
- there are more of them than there used to be -- population growth greatly complicated human and environmental relationships

### The human failure to resolve issues of difference and inequality of individual relations remains:

- political servitude - Auschwitz, Soviet gulags, Asian or African refugee camps, Japanese detention camps in the U.S.
- social servitude in the marketplace - consumerism, "wage slavery"
- technological servitude - bound to factory routines or to computers
- gender relationships