Ch. 35/36 Discussion Questions:

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU MADE IT TO THE END!!!!!!!

1. What factors led to the decline of the Soviet Union? In what ways did the government attempt to reform?
   1. Leadership: had turned conservative
   2. Islamic fervor: Soviets felt threatened because large minority of Muslims. Led to soviet invasion of Afghanistan to set up puppet govt, ultimately unsuccessful. (US backed Afghanistan…)
   3. Success of Western European economy
   4. Chinese inclusion in the world market
   5. Nuclear Arms build-up under policy of Ronald Reagan in the 1980’s: put too much pressure on the soviets to compete.

**Reforms:**

1. Led by Gorbachev: Western-minded reforms in fashion, press conferences, cooperation with soviet media, reduction in nuclear arms, ended war in Afghanistan
2. Glasnost: openness of the media to “criticize” the government.
3. Perestroika: economic reforms in response to need for technological advancements. Allowed for limited private ownership (in comparison to China), decentralized industrial and agricultural sectors (farmers received more rights), reduction in military commitments
4. Constitution of 1988: gave power to new parliament **Congress of People’s Deputies**, elected Gorbachev in 1990.

**Effects of these reforms?** Sparked agitation among minority nationalities within the Soviet Unions and satellite states. Breakdown of the Soviet Union began as countries pulled away or adopted more western-style political and economic structures. (Ex: East Germany, Hungary, Czech.) Some states resorted to violence as see in the Balkans and Romania.

**End of Soviet Union**: Boris Yeltsin assumes control in 1991, proclaims the end of the SU. Replaced by Vladimir Putin in 1999.

1. Explain the spread of democracy. Why was it easily adopted in some places and not others?
   1. Economic success: Spain, Greece, and Portugal adopt democratic forms of govt.
   2. Latin America: by 1990’s all except Cuba and replaced authoritarian regimes with democratic systems.
   3. Asia: South Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Turkey (had both secular and Islamic parties)
   4. Africa: S. Africa in 1990, Nigeria in 1999.
   5. Georgia, Ukraine allowed democratic elections in the 1990’s
   6. MidEast: following American invasion in Iraq other nations experimented with democratic elections. (though authoritarian regimes predominated the region)
   7. Mid 2000’s: democracy was uncertain in many places previously adopted. Latin America: authoritarian dictatorships, Russia under Putin and increasing problems in the Mideast
2. Describe the conflicts that arose in the 1990’s
   1. Endemic: caused by the reduction of cold war tension and control, issues arose in Mideast, specifically Iraq & Iran. **First Iraq War** with Saddam Hussein, Israeli-Palestinian tension grew. American presence in the region increased tensions bw US government and Arab states.
   2. Ethnic: Genocides such as Rwanda, Congo, Sierra Leone, Liberia.
3. Explain how globalization is different from earlier patterns of contact:
   1. Post-classical world: intercontinental networking allowed for limited imitation, but not global. Certain regions still left out. Expansion of world religions but not fully.
   2. Early modern period: fully connected the globe the faster and increased communication, cultural impacts limited, trading groups created (dutch east india, british east india) but lacked local effects
   3. Modern (1800+): led by imperialism, expanded foreign policy, global conflict, new **technology** (internet, cell phones…). Emergence of **multinational companies** that extended control in local areas. (think American factories in international locations) formation of **global networks** (for aid purposes, etc) popular opinion of globalization went back and forth (countries adopting then abandoning policies of isolation), growth of international economies (China, Russia, Japan), **cross-cultural impact** (coca-cola, nike..)
4. Define and describe with examples:
   1. Economic globalization: stock exchanges, growth of Chinese, Japanese, western economies, Foreign investments, foreign, factories at home. Multinational corporations, competition for raw materials (oil),
   2. Cultural globalization: The sharing of cultural aspects b/w nations. Fast-Food (McDonalds, Burger King) in foreign countries, American movies & television series, Pokemon, American blue-jeans. **Globalization of the middle class**.
5. Describe effects of globalization: Environmental concerns (rainforests, oil spills, chemical leaks, ozone) fossil fuels, spread of localized diseases (AIDS, SARS), financial crises (US stock crash 2008)
6. How have various governments and organizations resisted trends of globalization? Nationalism protest movements grew in the late ‘90’s. (French govt hesitant to incorporate English words, Chinese parents encouraging Confucian education) Religious movements: Protestant Fundamentalism, Orthodox Christianity, Islamic fundamentalism. These all appealed to the impoverished (those who could not easily participate in globalization) Religious fundamentalism led to increased conflicts b/w ethnic groups. (ex: Yugoslavia)