



This is the Yangtze River delta near Shanghai, China.

The Yangtze River is China's equivalent to the Mississippi River: the country's largest inland waterway, carrying the highest volume of river traffic in the world.

The Yangtze River connects China's interior with global markets, making this corridor one of the world's most important trade routes.

GPS Tracking Map of Ships in the Shanghai Region

May 23, 2014



This is the view of the Yangtze River from Shanghai's Pudong International Airport, one of the most important airports in China.

Sitting here, you can view a steady stream of ships carrying goods down the river and out to world.

The world's largest inland waterway +
The world's third largest cargo airport =
A landscape shaped by globalization

Course Foundations

Focus on Globalization

UNT
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH-TEXAS
Discover the power of ideas

TNT Focus on Globalization

- **Today:** looking at an idea many people have used to say something important about what our world is like today
- “Globalization” is one of those terms most of us have heard and even used, but few of us have thought much about
 - A word that captures something important about what our world is like

TNT Focus on Globalization

- **Before we deal with globalization further, a couple of questions to discuss:**
 - 1. What words would you use to describe our modern world? What is our world like?
 - 2. In what ways
 - Is the world different from the way it was 100 years ago?
 - Is the world the same as it was 100 years ago?

TNT Focus on Globalization

- **Ideas related to the *economy, society, technology, connectedness, and pace of life*** often rate highly when we’re trying to describe or explain what our modern world is like
- Globalization relates to a lot of this

TNT Focus on Globalization

- **Q:** what is globalization?
 - Is it new?
 - Is it growing?
 - How do we see it?
 - Where do we see it?
 - When did it start?
 - Will it ever stop?
 - Can you measure it?
 - Why is it happening?
 - **Is it important?**

TNT Focus on Globalization

- **People have many ideas and levels of awareness about globalization**
 - Let’s take a quick look at a video that some students at Auburn University in Alabama put together about globalization
 - **Is your idea of globalization the same as any of the views shown here? Is there anything missing?**



TNT Focus on Globalization

- **Your course textbook defines globalization as this (p. 2):**
 - “...*the increasing interconnectedness of people and places through converging economic, political, and cultural activities*”
 - **Q:** What do you think about this definition? What does this tell you about what globalization is like?



TNT Focus on Globalization

- Three key points we will discuss:
 - 1. Economic activities are the main motivation behind globalization: people around the world using emerging technologies to make a dollar
 - 2. The consequences of globalization affect all aspects of the world (not just the economy)
 - 3. Globalization is controversial



TNT Globalization and the Economy

- The current global economy is the result of developments that date back to the 1800s
 - Q: What is an “assembly line”?
 - Henry Ford is widely credited for implementing the assembly line on a massive scale to produce Model T automobiles



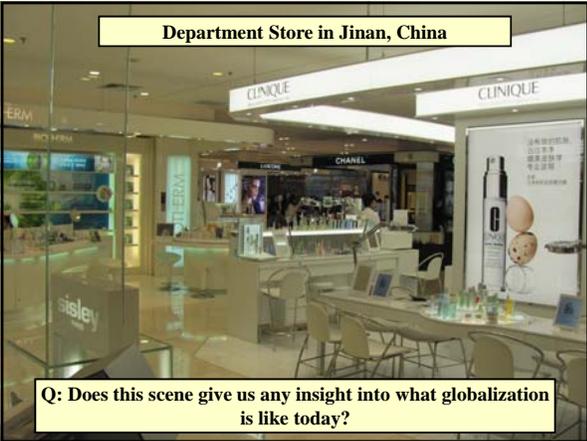
TNT Globalization and the Economy

- The current global economy is the result of developments that date back to the 1800s
 - Before Ford: cars were something only the rich could afford
 - After Ford: a “mass-market” item
 - The creation of mass markets was an essential component of the growth of globalization since 1900

TNT Globalization and the Economy

- The current global economy is the result of developments that date back to the 1800s
 - Complex global geographies of production and consumption have evolved over the past several decades
 - 1960: you might have been able to think of the global economy as a *wealthy North America and Europe* buying goods made around the world
 - Much from developing nations with cheap labor
 - Today: although this is still partly true, you can't think that simplistically any more

Department Store in Jinan, China



Q: Does this scene give us any insight into what globalization is like today?

Credit Card Advertisement at the Prime Outlets Mall, I-35, San Marcos, TX



Asks people who want a card to call the China Merchants Bank at a phone number in China (note the “86” country code)

Q: Does this scene give us any insight into what globalization is like today?

TNT Globalization and the Economy

- Where things are made, where things are consumed, how things are paid for, and which places are otherwise impacted by this entire process, has become enormously complex
- The impacts of economic activity spread far and wide

TNT Consequences of Globalization

- Q:** What happens when someone starts a business?
 - Who is impacted?
 - What is impacted?
 - What kinds of impacts can we identify?
 - Are these impacts simple to list?**

TNT Consequences of Globalization

- Your textbook indicates some of the areas where impacts of economic activity (and economic globalization) are possible (see pages 2-5)**
 - Cultural impacts – how do we see this?
 - Impacts on geopolitical systems – how?
 - Environmental impacts – how?

TNT Debates over Globalization

- Globalization is one topic where people have very different views
 - Some are pro-globalization: globalization is a logical and inevitable process that benefits all people through free, efficient flows of goods and services around the world
 - Others are anti-globalization: globalization is a process that creates “haves” and “have-nots”, emphasizing exports at the expense of local sustainability

TNT Debates over Globalization

- Activity: in-class discussion**
 - Let's divide the class into two groups:
 - one half of the class to argue the *pro-globalization* side,
 - the other to take the *anti-globalization* side
 - What are your best arguments, for and against globalization?
 - What ideas and examples can you share that make the most compelling case for your side?
 - Five minutes for discussion in groups, then we'll come back and compare notes**

TNT Globalization and Geography

- Something like globalization that is so complex needs to be given some serious thought if we are to make any sense of it**
 - The concepts bundled into geography are especially well-suited to analyzing complex phenomena like globalization

TNT Globalization and Geography

- **One major issue related to globalization is the relationship between humans and the environment**
 - We're going to dive into this environmental dimension more deeply tomorrow, but let's give it some initial thought now

TNT Globalization and Geography

- **Your textbook highlights three basic questions that geographers ask about the human-environment relationship (p. 11):**
 - 1. *Where and under what conditions does nature control, constrain, or disrupt human activities, and what kinds of societies are most vulnerable to these environmental influences?*
 - **Q:** Why this is an important question? How does this question relate to globalization?

TNT Globalization and Geography

- **Your textbook highlights three basic questions that geographers ask about the human-environment relationship (p. 11):**
 - 2. *How have human activities affected natural systems such as the world's climate and water, and what are the consequences of these actions?*
 - **Q:** Why this is an important question? How does this question relate to globalization?

TNT Globalization and Geography

- **Your textbook highlights three basic questions that geographers ask about the human-environment relationship (p. 11):**
 - 3. *Is there any evidence that humans can live in balance with nature so that human use of natural resources might be sustainable over long periods?*
 - **Q:** Why this is an important question? How does this question relate to globalization?

TNT Globalization and Geography

- **Of course, along with environmental relationships, purely human questions about what people do on and with the earth are also important to ask**
 - *How do people create places, and how and why are places different from each other?*
 - This question is based on the idea that understanding the places people create (towns, cities, states, countries, ports, farms) tells us something about the people themselves

TNT Globalization and Geography

- **Thinking about people and place leads us to one last "big idea" for today: scale**
 - *Geographic scale should be thought of as a continuum: from things that are very local to things that span the globe*
 - **Q:** what would be some good examples of both?
 - Things that are very local by nature
 - Things that are global in scope

Globalization and Geography

- **Thinking about people and place leads us to one last “big idea” for today: scale**
 - Key insight: things that happen at one geographic scale can have a big impact on what happens at another geographic scale
 - **Q:** What would be a good example of something that begins at one scale but has an impact at another scale?
 - Something that happens locally but has an impact around the world?
 - Something that operates globally but has an impact on local places?

Globalization and Geography

- **Thinking about people and place leads us to one last “big idea” for today: scale**
 - One of the key characteristics of globalization (that we will see many times through this course) is that it is constantly connecting
 - things that are local to things that are global, and
 - things that are global to things that are local

Wrapping Up...

- **For next class:**
 - Please review the reading for our next module where we will discuss *people and our relationship with the natural environment* (chapter 2)
 - Continue thinking about your project topic and making plans with your group