Unresolved Problems of the Modern World
Industrialization Transforms the World

For thousands of years of human history, change happened very slowly.

In the 200 years since the beginning of industrialization, people’s way of life began to be transformed rapidly.
A better life?

In addition to new inventions designed to make life easier, industrialization also brought challenges.

• Exploitation of workers
- Greater concentration of wealth in the hands of the few
• Pollution
• Mass production of increasingly deadly weapons
With the invention of the silicon microchip, transistor technology has led to extremely rapid advancements in computer capabilities.
People now communicate instantly across the planet.
Technological changes such as these have had both positive and negative effects.
Developed and Undeveloped World
Developed countries are nations with all the facilities needed for the advanced production of manufactured goods.
Technological Imperialism

• The technological disparity between developed and developing countries has led to even more of an imbalance of wealth and power.
• This imbalance can be traced back to the colonial era.
• After industrialization, powerful countries exploited colonies by using them as sources for raw materials and markets for their products.
We are a part of the few. . .

• Almost half the world — over three billion people — live on less than $2.50 a day.
• Americans live on an average of 90 to 100 dollars a day.

• The U.S. Government spent $10.46 billion each day in 2011.
• The poorest 40 percent of the world’s population accounts for 5 percent of global income. The richest 20 percent accounts for three-quarters of world income.
• According to UNICEF, 22,000 children die each day due to poverty.
Based on enrollment data, about 72 million children of primary school age in the developing world were not in school in 2005; 57 per cent of them were girls. And these are regarded as optimistic numbers.
• Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names.
• Less than one per cent of what the world spent every year on weapons was needed to put every child into school by the year 2000 and yet it didn’t happen.
• An estimated 40 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, with 3 million deaths in 2004.
• Every year there are 350–500 million cases of malaria, with 1 million fatalities: Africa accounts for 90 percent of malarial deaths and African children account for over 80 percent of malaria victims worldwide.
• Some 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water, and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation.
• In the United Kingdom the average person uses more than 50 litres of water a day flushing toilets (where average daily water usage is about 150 liters a day. The highest average water use in the world is in the US, at 600 liters day.)
• Close to half of all people in developing countries suffering at any given time from a health problem caused by water and sanitation deficits.
• It has been estimated that the water crisis globally could be solved; but the cost would be about $9 billion.
Every year Americans spend about $10 billion... on ice cream.
We spend $8 billion on cosmetics.
Europeans spend $50 billion a year on cigarettes.
It is estimated that it would take... 

$6 billion to provide basic education for all kids.

$13 billion to provide basic health and nutrition for everyone who does not have it.
Source:

http://www.globalissues.org/
• Today, many former colonies struggle for stability.
• The developing nations of Africa are perhaps the most unstable.
Civil wars have ravaged post colonial African nations leading to human suffering on multiple levels.
• Millions of people have fled their homes to escape war violence and have become refugees.
• Famine has swept many regions of Africa leading to the death of countless children.
Famine

• A famine is a widespread scarcity of food.
• Famine is usually accompanied or followed by regional malnutrition, starvation, epidemic, and increased mortality.
• Potential causes of famine are
  – crop failure
  – population unbalance
  – governmental policies/wars