Challenges and Hopes for the Future

Key Events
As you read this chapter, look for key issues that challenge the contemporary world.
• Today’s world faces the challenges of protecting and preserving the environment, addressing economic and social changes, implementing new technologies, resolving political conflicts, and eliminating international terrorism.
• The world’s inhabitants must adopt a cooperative global vision to address the problems that confront all humankind.

The Impact Today
The events that occurred during this time period still impact our lives today.
• The debate over nuclear weapons continues as European leaders question the United States government’s desire to deploy a nuclear missile defense system in outer space.
• Peacekeeping forces remain in the Balkan Peninsula.
• Automakers, fuel companies, and other manufacturers are developing methods to reduce harmful emissions.

World History—Modern Times Video  The Chapter 25 video, “In the Twenty-first Century,” explores various issues that the world is facing today.
The International Space Station, shown here in 2000, combines the scientific and technological resources of 16 nations.

Cleanup after oil spill in Alaska

1989 Exxon Valdez causes oil spill in Alaska

2001 World responds to terrorist attack on United States

2003 United States and its allies overthrow Iraqi dictator

1986 Explosion at nuclear plant in Chernobyl releases deadly radiation

1987 Montreal meeting creates first world environmental pact

1990 World Wide Web created

1992 Earth Summit proposes solutions to environmental challenges

2001
2005
2003
1990
1995
2000
1985
1980

Chapter Overview
Visit the Glencoe World History—Modern Times Web site at wh.mt.glencoe.com and click on Chapter 25–Chapter Overview to preview chapter information.
A Time for Heroes

On September 11, 2001, international terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes, two of which were used to destroy the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Thousands of people died in the attack when first one tower, and then the other, collapsed. Many of those who died were firefighters, police officers, and other rescue workers who rushed into the buildings to help people to safety.

In the days following the attack, countless tales of unimaginable bravery emerged. Two office workers carried a disabled woman down 68 floors to safety. Peter Ganci, a 33-year veteran of the New York City Fire Department, survived the collapse of the first tower but died trying to evacuate people from the second tower. Father Mychal Judge, the Fire Department chaplain, removed his helmet to give last rites to a dying firefighter but died himself when he was hit by debris. One firefighter, as he climbed toward the flames, stopped to give a fleeing woman a bottle of water. She escaped, but he did not.

George Howard, a Port Authority officer, raced to help people, even though it was his day off, and died in the effort. In an address to the American nation, President George W. Bush said that he would carry Howard’s badge as a reminder of the horrors of terrorism, for “Freedom and fear are at war. The advance of human freedom, the great achievement of our time and the great hope of every time, now depends on us... We will not falter and we will not fail.”

Why It Matters

The destruction of the World Trade Center was not an attack on the United States alone. People from over 80 countries were killed in what the United Nations condemned as a “crime against humanity.” More and more, people are coming to understand that destructive forces unleashed in one part of the world soon affect the entire world. As British prime minister Tony Blair said, “We are realizing how fragile are our frontiers in the face of the world’s new challenges. Today, conflicts rarely stay within national boundaries.” Terrorism, worldwide hunger, nuclear proliferation, global warming—these issues make us aware of the global nature of contemporary problems. Increasingly, the world’s nations must unite to create lasting solutions.

History and You

What contemporary global problem concerns you the most? Write an essay explaining what the world’s nations should do, together, to solve this problem.
Main Ideas
• The world faces environmental, social, economic, and political challenges.
• The benefits of the technological revolution must be balanced against its costs.

Key Terms
ecology, deforestation, ozone layer, greenhouse effect, acid rain, bioethics, biowarfare, bioterrorism, global economy

Preview of Events
1980
1984
Toxic fumes kill 3,800 people in Bhopal, India

1985
1989
Oil spill from tanker in Alaska devastates environment

1990
1997
Indonesian wildfires destroy rain forests and endanger species

Reading Strategy
Cause and Effect Complete the table below as you read the chapter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deforestation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss of ozone layer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenhouse effect</td>
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<td>Acid rain</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weapons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunger</td>
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Voices from the Past

In 1962, Rachel Carson wrote:

"It is not my contention that chemical pesticides must never be used. I do contend that we have put poisons and biologically potent chemicals into the hands of persons largely or wholly ignorant of their potentials for harm. We have subjected enormous numbers of people to contact with these poisons, without their consent and often without their knowledge. . . . I contend, furthermore, that we have allowed these chemicals to be used with little or no advance investigation of their effect on soil, water, wildlife, and man himself. Future generations are unlikely to condone our lack of prudent concern for the integrity of the natural world that supports all life."

—Silent Spring, Rachel Carson, 1962

The modern movement to protect the environment began with Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring.

The Environmental Crisis

In 1962, American scientist Rachel Carson argued that the use of pesticides—chemicals sprayed on crops to kill insects—was having deadly, unforeseen results. Besides insects, birds, fish, and other wild animals were being killed by the buildup of these pesticides in the environment. Also, the pesticide residue on food was harmful to human beings.
involves chlorofluorocarbons, which are gases used in aerosol cans, refrigerators, and automobile air conditioners. Many scientists warn that the release of chlorofluorocarbons is destroying the ozone layer, a thin layer of gas in the upper atmosphere that shields Earth from the Sun’s ultraviolet rays.

Other scientists have proposed the existence of a greenhouse effect, global warming caused by the buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Global warming could create various problems. Sea levels could rise because of melting polar ice, for example, and cause flooding of coastal areas.

Yet another problem is acid rain, the rainfall that results when sulfur produced by factories mixes with moisture in the air. Acid rain has been held responsible for killing forests in both North America and Europe.

Major ecological disasters have also occurred during the last 20 years. In 1984, a chemical plant at Bhopal, India, released toxic fumes into the air, killing 3,800 people and injuring another 100,000. A nuclear explosion at Chernobyl in 1986 released radiation that killed hundreds. In 1989, the oil tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground in Alaska. Thousands of

### Impact of Population Growth

Dangers to the environment have many sources. Some fear that population is growing too fast for Earth’s resources to support it. Deforestation—the clearing of forests—is one by-product of a growing population. Forests and jungles have been cut down to provide more farmland and firewood, removing the natural dwelling places for plants and animals. In 1997, fires in Indonesia raged out of control, destroying thousands of acres of rain forest that were home to many species. The fires, which have recurred in recent years, also caused intense smog.

Especially worrisome is the rapid destruction of tropical rain forests near Earth’s equator. Although the tropical rain forests cover only 6 percent of Earth’s surface, they support 50 percent of the world’s species of plants and animals. The tropical rain forests are also crucial to human survival. They remove carbon dioxide from the air and return oxygen to it.

### Chemical Wastes and Disasters

Another danger to the environment is chemical waste. One concern involves chlorofluorocarbons, which are gases used in aerosol cans, refrigerators, and automobile air conditioners. Many scientists warn that the release of chlorofluorocarbons is destroying the ozone layer, a thin layer of gas in the upper atmosphere that shields Earth from the Sun’s ultraviolet rays.

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Health Care and Agriculture In the field of health, new medicines enable doctors to treat both physical and mental illnesses. New technologies, including computer-aided imaging, have enabled doctors to perform “miracle” operations. Mechanical valves and pumps for the heart as well as organ transplants have allowed people to live longer and more productive lives.

Technological changes in the field of health have raised new concerns, however, and have led to a new field of study called bioethics, which deals with moral choices in medical research. For example, genetic engineering is a new scientific field that alters the genetic information of cells to produce new variations. Some scientists have questioned whether genetic engineering might accidentally create new strains of deadly bacteria that could not be controlled. The issues of stem-cell research and human cloning have also generated intense debate.

In agriculture, the Green Revolution has promised immense returns. The Green Revolution refers to the development of new strains of rice, corn, and other grains that have greater yields. It was promoted as the technological solution to feeding the world’s ever-growing population. However, immense quantities of chemical fertilizers are needed to grow the new strains, and many farmers cannot afford them.

The Technological Revolution

In this section, you will learn how two American astronauts landed on the moon in 1969. This landing opened the new frontier of space to world exploration.

Since World War II, a stunning array of changes has created a technological revolution.

Transportation, Communications, and Space

Modern transportation and communication systems are transforming the world. Since the 1970s, jumbo jet airlines have moved millions of people around the world each year. The Internet—the world’s largest computer network—provides quick access to enormous quantities of information. The development of the World Wide Web in the 1990s made the Internet even more accessible. Satellites, cable television, facsimile (fax) machines, and cellular telephones allow people to communicate with each other practically everywhere on Earth.

The exploration of space is another world-changing development. In 1969, the American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon. Space probes and shuttle flights have increased scientific knowledge, but not without human costs. In 1986, space shuttle Challenger exploded a minute or so after liftoff, killing all onboard. In 2003, seven astronauts died when the shuttle Columbia abruptly disintegrated over Texas in the last minutes of a 16-day mission.
In addition, the new crops have been subject to insects. The pesticides used to control the insects create environmental problems.

**Weapons** The technological revolution has also led to new and frightening weapons, such as nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. The end of the Cold War reduced the risk of a major nuclear conflict, but regional nuclear conflicts are still possible. There are also fears that terrorists will somehow obtain and use nuclear materials.

After anthrax-filled letters were used to kill U.S. citizens in 2001, there was an increased awareness of the threat from biological and chemical weapons. **Biowarfare**, the use of disease and poison against civilians and soldiers in wartime, is not new. The first known incident occurred in Europe in the 1300s when plague-infested corpses were launched over city walls to infect those inside. Chemical weapons were used extensively in World War I. The Japanese used biological weapons on China in the 1930s and 1940s.

Governments have made agreements to limit the research, production, and use of biological and chemical weapons. In 1972, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to permit work only on defensive biological weapons. These measures have not prevented terrorists and terrorist-supporting governments from practicing **bioterrorism**, the use of biological and chemical weapons in terrorist attacks. For example, in 1995, members of a Japanese religious sect, Aum Shinrikyo, released a chemical agent, sarin gas, in a Tokyo subway, killing 12 people and injuring thousands.

**Economic and Social Challenges**

Since World War II, the nations of the world have developed a **global economy**—an economy in which the production, distribution, and sale of goods take place on a worldwide scale. In 1995, the **World Trade Organization** (WTO) was established. Trade agreements are made and upheld by its more than 140 members. The WTO has been criticized for placing commercial over environment and health interests and for leaving out small and developing countries. Still, the WTO is the only global international organization dealing with rules of trade among nations.

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**Reading Check** Identifying List the industries that the technological revolution has affected since World War II.

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**The Gap Between Rich and Poor Nations** One of the features of the global economy is the wide gap between rich and poor nations. Rich nations are mainly in the Northern Hemisphere and include the United States, Canada, western Europe, and Japan. They have well-organized industrial and education systems and use advanced technologies. Poor nations, often called developing countries, are mainly in the Southern Hemisphere and include many nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Developing countries are mainly farming nations with little technology.

A world population of about 6 billion today is expected to reach 8.9 billion by 2050. Most growth will take place in developing nations. This explosive population growth makes it difficult for developing nations to modernize their economies.

Rapidly growing populations mean that many people move to the cities to find work. Some cities have grown dramatically. Sao Paulo, Brazil, for example, had 8.1 million people in 1970, but 17.9 million in 2000. Millions live in slums or shantytowns ringing the city.

Hunger has also become a staggering problem. Every year, more than 8 million people die of hunger. Civil wars have also created devastating food shortages. In Sudan’s civil war in the 1980s, both sides refused to allow food to be sent to their enemies. By the early 1990s, 1.3 million had died from starvation.

**Threats to World Health** Certain diseases have raised global concerns in recent decades. The most important is AIDS, or “acquired immune deficiency syndrome.” AIDS is caused by the virus known as HIV, which is spread through bodily fluids. HIV weakens the immune system so people with the disease cannot fight other illnesses, such as cancer.

AIDS was first reported in the United States in 1981 among gay men. Public support for research and treatment expanded when the disease spread to other groups. While no cure has been found, new drugs were developed in the late 1980s and 1990s. Taken in combination, they allow some people to slow the fatal progression of the disease.

In the United States and other developed countries, education and treatment has limited AIDS’ spread. By 2000, about 470,000 Americans had died from the disease. In less developed countries, AIDS has claimed many more lives because people often have poor diets, unclean water, and poor health care. Prevention efforts have faced many obstacles, and almost no one can afford the costly drugs.

By the end of 2002, the United Nations estimated that 42 million people worldwide were HIV-positive or
had AIDS. More than 29 million were in sub-Saharan Africa, while another 6 million were in South and South-east Asia. In Africa, an estimated 12 million children have been orphaned because of AIDS.

The economies of nations with high AIDS rates are severely handicapped. Countries cannot make economic progress since AIDS victims are usually the young adults who are its best workers.

Without sufficient resources, many African nations have been unable to respond well to the crisis. International support has begun to help, however. In 2003, the United States committed $15 billion to treat AIDS in 12 African and 2 Caribbean nations.

A second infectious disease raised a world threat in 2003—SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome. SARS spreads much like the common cold. About 10 percent of people with SARS die. By late spring 2003, the World Health Organization was reporting that there had been 8,221 cases in 28 countries and that 735 people had died. Most cases were found in China.

**Comparing** What are the differences between developing and industrialized nations?

**Explaining** Name the areas of the world where conflict exists. Describe the nature of the conflicts.

### Critical Thinking

6. **Analyze** What are the individual and global consequences of overpopulation?

7. **Summarizing Information** Create a chart like the one below listing technological advances in transportation, communications, space exploration, health care, agriculture, and weaponry. List the drawback or cost of each technological advance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technological Advances</th>
<th>Drawback or Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space Exploration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaponry</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

8. **Compare** the photo on page 753 to the photo of the International Space Station on page 749. Describe the advances and changes in space technology that are reflected in these two photos. How many years have elapsed between the two photos?

### Writing About History

9. **Expository Writing** By now, most leaders of major nations have recognized that environmental damage is a significant issue. For this reason, these leaders frequently hold meetings and summits to negotiate solutions. In an essay, discuss why negotiations are needed. What concerns can cause nations or individuals to ignore the environment?
On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. . . . Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. . . . Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person. . . . Everyone has the right to freedom of movement. . . . Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.”

— The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

The United Nations took the lead in affirming the basic human rights of all peoples.

The United Nations

As people have become aware that many problems humans face are global—not national—they have responded to this realization in different ways. The United Nations (UN) has been one of the most visible symbols of the new globalism.

The United Nations was founded in 1945 in San Francisco, when representatives of the Allied forces worked out a plan for a new international organization. U.S. president Franklin Delano Roosevelt was especially eager to create such an organization to help maintain the peace after the war. At the Yalta Conference in February 1945, Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union agreed to join the new organization.

In the original charter, the members pledged “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime . . . brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and
worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.” The United Nations, then, has two chief goals: peace and human dignity.

The General Assembly of the United Nations is comprised of representatives of all member nations. It has the power to discuss any question of importance to the organization and to recommend the action to be taken. The day-to-day administrative business of the United Nations is supervised by the secretary-general, whose offices are located in New York City.

The most important advisory group of the United Nations is the Security Council. It is composed of 5 permanent members—the United States, Russia, Great Britain, France, and China—and 10 members chosen by the General Assembly to serve limited terms. The Security Council decides what actions the United Nations should take to settle international disputes. Because each of the permanent members can veto the council’s decision, a stalemate has frequently resulted from Security Council deliberations.

A number of specialized agencies function under the direction of the United Nations. These include the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The International Monetary Fund (IMF), an agency of the United Nations, provides funds for developing nations to aid economic development. All these agencies have been successful in helping to address economic and social problems around the world.

The United Nations has on various occasions provided peacekeeping forces, which are military forces drawn from neutral member states to settle conflicts and supervise truces. Missions in Somalia and Bosnia, however, raised questions about the effectiveness of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations.

Until recently, the basic weakness of the United Nations was that, throughout its history, it had been subject to the whims of the two superpowers. The rivalry of the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War was often played out at the expense of the United Nations. The United Nations had little success, for example, in reducing the arms race between the two superpowers. With the end of the Cold War, the United Nations has played a more active role in keeping alive a vision of international order.

Reading Check Describing Outline the history of the United Nations, name its three main divisions, list its specialized agencies, and explain how each unit functions.

New Global Visions

One approach to the global problems we face has been the development of social movements led by ordinary citizens. These movements have addressed issues including environmental problems, women’s and men’s liberation, human potential, appropriate technology, and nonviolence. “Think globally, act locally” is frequently the slogan of such grassroots groups.

Hazel Henderson, a British-born economist, has been especially active in founding public interest groups. She believes that citizen groups can be an important force for greater global unity and justice. In Creating Alternative Futures, Henderson explained: “These aroused citizens are by no means all mindless young radicals. Well-dressed, clean-shaven, middle-class businessmen and their suburban wives comprise the major forces in California fighting against nuclear power. Hundreds of thousands of middle-class mothers are bringing massive
pressure to ban commercials and violent programs from children’s television.”

Related to the emergence of social movements is the growth of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs include professional, business, and cooperative organizations; foundations; religious, peace, and disarmament groups, which work to limit or reduce armed forces and weapons; youth and women’s organizations; environmental and human rights groups; and research institutes.

According to the American educator Elise Boulding, who has been active in encouraging the existence of these groups, NGOs are an important instrument in the cultivation of global perspectives. Boulding states: “Since NGOs by definition are identified with interests that transcend national boundaries, we expect all NGOs to define problems in global terms, to take account of human interests and needs as they are found in all parts of the planet.” The number of international NGOs increased from 176 in 1910 to nearly 29,000 in 1995.

Global approaches to global problems, however, have been hindered by political, ethnic, and religious disputes. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict keeps much of the Middle East in constant turmoil. Religious differences between Hindus and Muslims help to inflame relations between India and Pakistan. The United States and Canada have argued about the effects of acid rain on Canadian forests.

The collapse of the Soviet Union has led to the emergence of new nations in conflict and a general atmosphere of friction and tension throughout much of Eastern Europe. The bloody conflict in the lands of the former Yugoslavia clearly indicates the dangers in the rise of nationalist sentiment among various ethnic and religious groups in that region. Even as the world becomes more global in culture and as the nations of the world become more interdependent, disruptive forces still exist that can work against efforts to enhance our human destiny.

Many lessons can be learned from the study of world history. One of them is especially clear: a lack of involvement in the affairs of society can easily lead to a sense of powerlessness. An understanding of our world heritage and its lessons might well give us the opportunity to make wise choices in an age that is often crisis laden and chaotic. We are all creators of history. The choices we make in our everyday lives will affect the future of world civilization.

Examining List two ways people have attempted to resolve global problems and describe the obstacles to solving these problems.
Developing Multimedia Presentations

Why Learn This Skill?

You have been assigned a research project about Brazil’s rain forest. To vividly present the important issues to your classmates, you would like to show them slides of the endangered animals and plants in the rain forest, along with videos of the region and recordings of native music. This type of presentation is called a multimedia presentation because it uses a variety of media, such as photographs, music, and video, to convey information to others.

Learning the Skill

At its most basic, a multimedia presentation can be as simple as using equipment such as a slide projector, a VCR, a TV, and a portable stereo. You can use pre-recorded materials or make your own videotapes or sound recordings.

With the right tools, you can also develop a multimedia presentation on a computer. Computer presentations can combine text, graphics, audio, animation, and video in an interactive program. To create this kind of presentation, you might use traditional graphic tools and draw programs, animation programs that make still images move, and authoring systems that tie everything together. Your computer manual will tell you which tools your computer can support.

Practicing the Skill

Suppose you want to give a report about the importance of the Brazilian rain forest. Ask yourself the following questions to develop an effective multimedia presentation.

• What equipment would I need to present the media I want to use?
• If I want to make a computer presentation, which of these media forms does my computer support?

Applying the Skill

Think of a topic that would be suitable for a multimedia presentation. Keeping in mind the guidelines given above, create a plan that describes the presentation you would like to develop. Indicate what tools you will need and what steps you must take to make the presentation an exciting reality.

Multimedia equipment

• What kind of software programs or systems do I need? A graphics program? An animation program? A program that allows users to interact with the on-screen presentation? An authoring system that will allow me to change images, sound, and motion?
• Is there a “do-it-all” program I can use to develop the kind of presentation I want?
Using Key Terms

1. The destruction of large forests and jungles that affects the world’s climate, animals, and plants is called ______.
2. A ______ is based on the interdependency of nations’ economic systems.
3. The science of ______ studies the relationship between living things and their environment.
4. Organizations that seek to limit or reduce armed forces and weapons are called ______ groups.
5. When the sulfur produced by factories mixes with moisture in the air the result is ______.

Reviewing Key Facts

6. History What environmental message was the theme of Silent Spring?
7. Science and Technology What chemical is suspected of harming Earth’s ozone layer?
8. Science and Technology Explain the greenhouse effect and the problems it could create.
9. History When and where did the world’s nations meet to discuss environmental issues?

Critical Thinking

10. Government What problems do developing nations face?
11. Science and Technology What contributes to the hunger problem in developing nations? What are some of the possible solutions to the hunger problem?
12. Citizenship Why are nongovernmental organizations taking greater responsibility for protecting the world’s environment?
13. Culture How have the introduction of Western ideas and customs had a destabilizing effect in many areas of the world?
14. Government What is the United Nations Security Council? Why is it difficult for this council to make decisions?
15. Citizenship What is the slogan of grassroots public interest groups? What kind of issues do these groups address, and what kind of members do these groups usually attract?

Chapter Summary

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the world has become a global society. Nations are politically and economically dependent on each other, and the world’s problems are of a global nature, as shown in the chart below.

Cultural Diffusion
- Jumbo jetliners transport passengers around the world.
- Corporations have offices in more than one country.
- Advances in communication, such as the Internet, connect people around the globe.

Technological Innovation
- The science of ecology is born.
- American astronauts land on the moon.
- Super strains of corn, rice and other grains produce greater crop yields.
- Health care advances prolong lives.
- Developments in transportation and communication transform the world community.

Cooperation
- The Earth Summit meets in Rio de Janeiro.
- Nations enact recycling programs and curb the dumping of toxic materials.
- The United Nations forms to promote world peace.
- Nongovernmental organizations advocate social and environmental change.

Conflict
- Massive growth in world population causes overcrowding and hunger in many countries.
- Regional, ethnic, and religious differences continue to produce violence around the world.
- International terrorists remain a threat to peace and security.
Writing About History

18. Expository Writing Write an essay comparing the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl with the chemical plant accident in Bhopal and the grounding of the Exxon Valdez in Alaska. Which disaster was the most devastating to the environment in your opinion? Why do you have this opinion, and how would you prevent a future disaster?

Analyzing Sources

Rachel Carson cautioned about the dangers of harmful chemicals in her book, *Silent Spring*:

“...It is not my contention that chemical pesticides must never be used. I do contend that we have put poisons and biologically potent chemicals into the hands of persons largely or wholly ignorant of their potentials for harm. ... Future generations are unlikely to condone our lack of prudent concern for the integrity of the natural world that supports all life.”

19. Summarize the argument that Carson is presenting in this quotation.

20. Who will question the lack of concern shown for the natural world, in Carson’s opinion?

21. Why was *Silent Spring* a groundbreaking book? How has it influenced the ways in which people view the relationship between humans and the natural world?

Applying Technology Skills

22. Using the Internet The science of ecology has led to a new form of travel known as ecotourism. Use the Internet to research an area of the world where ecotours take place. Select an area to visit as an ecotourist, explain why you have selected this area, and describe what you will see on your travels in your journal.

Making Decisions

23. Grassroots politics have moved the burden of decision making from the politicians to the individual citizen. Having read this chapter, what global issues concern you? What have you done or what would you like to do to help resolve these issues?

Analyzing Maps and Charts

Use the above map and the text to answer the following questions.

24. Where is the radioactive fallout most concentrated?
25. Where are the furthest traces of radioactive fallout found (using Chernobyl as the point of origin)?
26. What global effects did the explosion at Chernobyl have?

Standardized Test Practice

Directions: Choose the best answer to the following question.

Which of the following statements is not true about the United Nations (UN)?

F There are five permanent members of the Security Council.
G Its chief goals are peace and the protection of human rights.
H It is easy to get UN members to agree on a course of action.
J Several UN committees have tackled global poverty and environmental issues.

Test-Taking Tip: If a question contains a key word such as not or except, slow down. Reread the question to make sure you understand it completely.
Jonathan Iwegbu counted himself extraordinarily lucky. “Happy survival!” meant so much more to him than just a current fashion of greeting old friends in the first hazy days of peace. It went deep to his heart. He had come out of the war with five inestimable blessings—his head, his wife Maria’s head and the heads of three out of their four children. As a bonus he also had his old bicycle—a miracle too but naturally not to be compared to the safety of five human heads.

The bicycle had a little history of its own. One day at the height of the war it was commandeered “for urgent military action.” Hard as its loss would have been to him he would still have let it go without a thought had he not had some doubts about the genuineness of the officer. It wasn’t his disreputable rags, nor the toes peeping out of one blue and one brown canvas shoes, nor yet the two stars of his rank done obviously in a hurry in Biro, that troubled Jonathan; many good and heroic soldiers looked the same or worse. It was rather a certain lack of grip and firmness in his manner. So Jonathan, suspecting he might be

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**Read to Discover**

How does Chinua Achebe describe the conditions of the civil war? Do you think this story accurately reflects conditions for African families following civil war?

**Reader's Dictionary**

- **commandeer**: to seize for military purposes
- **Biro**: a British term for a ballpoint pen
- **raffia**: fiber of a type of palm tree
amenable to influence, rummaged in his raffia bag and produced the two pounds with which he had been going to buy firewood which his wife, Maria, retailed to camp officials for extra stock-fish and corn meal, and got his bicycle back. That night he buried it in the little clearing in the bush where the dead of the camp, including his own youngest son, were buried. When he dug it up again a year later after the surrender all it needed was a little palm-oil greasing. “Nothing puzzles God,” he said in wonder.

He put it to immediate use as a taxi and accumulated a small pile of Biafran money ferrying camp officials and their families across the four-mile stretch to the nearest tarred road. His standard charge per trip was six pounds and those who had the money were only glad to be rid of some of it in this way. At the end of a fortnight he had made a small fortune of one hundred and fifteen pounds.

Then he made the journey to Enugu and found another miracle waiting for him. It was unbelievable. He rubbed his eyes and looked again and it was still standing there before him. But, needless to say, even that monumental blessing must be accounted also totally inferior to the five heads in the family. This newest miracle was his little house in Ogui Overside. Indeed nothing puzzles God! Only two houses away a huge concrete edifice some wealthy contractor had put up just before the war was a mountain of rubble. And here was Jonathan's little zinc house of no regrets built with mud blocks quite intact! Of course the doors and windows were missing and five sheets off the roof. But what was that? And anyhow he had returned to Enugu early enough to pick up bits of old zinc and wood and soggy sheets of cardboard lying around the neighborhood before thousands more came out of their forest holes looking for the same things. He got a destitute carpenter with one old hammer, a blunt plane and a few bent and rusty nails in his tool bag to turn this assortment of wood, paper and metal into door and window shutters for five Nigerian shillings or fifty Biafran pounds. He paid the pounds, and moved in with his overjoyed family carrying five heads on their shoulders.

1. What does Jonathan’s encounter with the false officer reveal about the conditions of the war?
2. Biafra lost the civil war. What clues in the text indicate this outcome?
3. Why was having a bicycle a “miracle”?
4. CRITICAL THINKING Do you think it is effective for Achebe to discuss the war through an individual account rather than as a direct discussion of the devastation created? Why or why not?

Applications Activity
Choose a contemporary problem and describe it through the effect it has on an individual or family.