

New Challenges in the 21st Century

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Introduction

- The 21st century begun with a continuation of much of what was happening in the 20th century.
- On one hand, major economies, technological advancements, and changes in consumer preferences have developed have lead to the development of new economies.
- Terrorists attacks and wars on terror have escalated.
- The world has experienced, SARS, MERS, Ebola, and is currently battling Covid-19.
- So far, Covid-19 has killed more than 300,000 people with the US having most of the fatalities at more than 90,000 deaths.

Europe in the 21st Century

- Europe has experienced many problems some of them financial, others political, and currently, the disintegration of Eurozone.
- The 2008 recession caused a major financial crisis in Greece, Spain, Ireland, and Portugal
- There's a refugee crisis from people coming from Syria and others escaping unstable African countries.
- Russia also annexed Crimea from Ukraine and has been involved in fights in Ossetia, Georgia.
- The UK has also been pulling away from the Eurozone in what is infamously known as BREXIT



Americas in the 21st Century

- The Americas have been changing drastically as South American states have been gaining economic strength.
- Brazil is one of the countries that has gained drastically in terms of economic power, and political voice over the years.
- Venezuela's socialist policy is also worth noting given its effect to the once prosperous nation.
- Argentina and Chile have transitioned to democracies, while Mexico although a democracy struggles with drug related violence and corruption.
- The US has also been facing challenges such as the 9/11 attacks, the Great recession, but also enacted major people-centered reforms during Obama presidency.



East Asia in the 21st Century

- The East Asia has been developing fast and currently has some of the fastest growing emerging markets such as Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam.
- Due to lack of clearly existing demarcations, there have been territorial disputes in the region in South China Sea by all countries bordering it.
- To the Far East, the Korean conflict has persisted to date, with a few meetings of the leaders in the recent past showcasing a softening of North Korea's stance on South Korea.
- Some countries such as India have also emerged as industrial powerhouses with immense reforms, but fails in protecting women and vulnerable groups.

Africa in the 21st Century

- The Darfur civil war was one of the most destructive in Africa given the casualties, IDPs, and the refugees that ended up in neighboring countries.
- Somalia has also been experiencing similar problems since the ousting of Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991.
- To the west, the Boko Haram are yet to be defeated in Nigeria because of political and military weaknesses in combating the Al Qaeda linked group.
- Still, there are problems with the health system in Africa, and some fast developing nations exhibit extreme inequalities.



Middle East in the 21st Century

- Middle East and North Africa are two of the most undemocratic regions.
- Only Israel and Tunisia are ranked as free, with Turkey, Lebanon, and Kuwait being termed as partially free.
- These nations have also been accused of human rights violations.
- Some are making efforts to create free societies such as Tunisia.
- Terrorism, dictatorship, abuse of women and minorities still persist.



Global Concerns...

- Many third world countries are developing very fast as their rise in consumerism increases but have been slow in attaining social welfare targets.
- The US and China have been leading as the strongest economies competing to dominate the world economy.
- Due to too much industrialization, nations signed the Paris Agreement to enable them to regulate their emissions of Greenhouse gases.
- Also, the fight to make countries stop making Nuclear weapons also continues with the US pressuring Iran and North Korea to desist from their plans.
- While the 20th Century saw an increased focus on globalization, currently, nationalism has been growing and some countries have sought to withdraw from some of the global and/or regional programs.




...Global Concerns

- The world is facing one of the biggest pandemics since the Spanish flu.
- The Covid-19, that was first experienced in China has its effects being felt all over the world.
- More than 4 million people have tested positive with more than 300000 people dead.
- Nations and private organizations have been trying to come up with a remedy and where possible, a vaccine.
- The world economy as it stands is in a free fall, and millions of people have lost their jobs.



Covid-19 in the US

- The US is one of the hardest hit by the Covid-19.
- More than 1.4 million Americans have tested positive for Covid-19.
- Additionally, more than 85000 Americans have died from the disease.
- the United States economy has also been adversely affected with about 30 million having filed as more people keep losing their jobs.
- The effects of Corona Virus could cause a worse situation than the one caused by the 2008 recession (TED, 2020).



Effects of Covid-19 in New York

- New York is the worst hit of all states in the US.
- Governor Cuomo locked down all non-essential businesses, but more people keep getting infected.
- More than 22000 people have died in the state.
- Additionally, the economy of the state has been greatly affected as people file for unemployment every day.

Summary

- The world has experienced many challenges in the first 20 years of the 21st century.
- There have been many terror attacks, famines in war-torn countries, and the outbreak of SARS in China.
- Some countries have become democratic, while others have held on or reverted to dictatorship.
- Currently, the world is battling Covid-19, which has crippled major industries such as the airlines, oil industries, and manufacturing industries as people have been confined at home to avoid spread of the disease.
- Also, there have been hundreds of thousands of casualties.

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