



WHEN THE BORDER VANISHES

Script Outline

GLOBAL AFFAIRS INTRODUCTION

- Complex international issues are called “global issues”
- Modern air travel dramatically reduced the distance between nations
- Global issues are too big for nations to solve alone
- Global issues diplomacy relies on non-diplomats
- Disease and the Environment are two important global issues

DIPLOMACY AND DISEASE

- Good health is a valuable asset of the United States

PLAGUE AND THE REVOLUTION

- Yellow fever was known as the American Plague
- Yellow fever terrified Americans for 250 years
- Smallpox, malaria, and yellow fever had an effect on the American Revolution
- 30,000 fled with General Cornwallis; 90 percent died of smallpox and disease
- Disease threatened the existence of the new US Government in 1793
- Refugees fleeing the Revolution in Haiti brought smallpox to Philadelphia
- Congress created the Marine Hospital Service to check ships for disease in 1798

YELLOW FEVER & EXPANSION

- Disease moved West with the pioneers
- Memphis was the richest city in the South until yellow fever hit in 1878
- Memphis never recovered; Atlanta became the most important city instead
- American leaders looked to Cuba for territory
- Cuba was a hotbed of disease; yellow fever had to be conquered
- During the Spanish-American War, 7 soldiers died of disease for each one in battle
- The Army sent Dr. Walter Reed and the Yellow Fever Commission to Cuba
- The Commission found that mosquitoes transmitted yellow fever
- Americans wanted to build a canal across Panama
- Tropical diseases made Panama the world’s “pesthole”
- Yellow fever and malaria were controlled, despite the expense
- The Panama Canal opened in 1914

H1N1 AND WORLD WAR I

- As US soldiers mobilized for war, a new virus emerged
- H1N1 killed many and quickly spread around the world
- No newspapers reported how deadly it was because of the Espionage Act of 1917
- The Germans halted their April 1918 attack on Paris in part because of H1N1
- In 1908, John D. Rockefeller funded the eradication of hookworm from the southern U.S.
- His success changed the way Americans thought about disease
- The Rockefeller Foundation expanded the campaign to 52 countries
- Businessmen realized that a healthier foreign workforce would mean more profit
- The United Fruit Company eradicated hookworm from its workforce

OLD ENEMIES, NEW THREATS

- WWII soldiers were inoculated against many diseases that were still a threat
- In 1943, the Army's Malaria Control Unit discovered a chemical called DDT
- DDT killed insects at all stages of their life cycles
- Yellow fever, malaria, and other insect-borne diseases could now be eradicated

- The best way to protect the United States was by stopping disease overseas
- The Army's Malaria Control Unit became the Centers for Disease Control in 1946
- The CDC worked to eradicate smallpox in Africa during the 1960s
- Global cooperation led to the total eradication of smallpox in 1977

- People began dying from HIV/AIDS in 1981
- Governments were unable to stop its spread; more information was necessary
- In 2004, Congress funded a Global Disease Detection Program to share information

- Less-developed countries have been hard-hit by infectious disease
- HIV/AIDS has orphaned more than 13 million children around the world
- 9.5 million people die of infectious diseases every year

- In 2000, members of the United Nations agreed on 8 Millennium Goals
- Goal No. 6 was the fight against AIDS and other diseases
- The Gates Foundation will spend \$10 billion to develop vaccines during this decade
- But vaccines aren't enough; they must be distributed
- During the 1990s, former President Carter negotiated a "guinea worm" ceasefire

- Good health keeps us strong; improving the health of other nations may keep us safe.

DIPLOMACY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Borders define a nation and determine who has access to its resources
- Would a world without borders affect your attitude toward resources?

A NEW WORLD, RICH AND EMPTY

- The resources of the New World seemed inexhaustible to European settlers
- But colonists needed borders to prosper
- Mason and Dixon cut a border between Pennsylvania and Maryland in 1763
- Andrew Ellicott cut an international border between Georgia and Spanish territory in Florida

- Thomas Jefferson was interested in the other side of America's borders
- In 1803, Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to the Pacific Ocean
- Americans did not know what was inside Spain's North American territory
- German scientist Alexander von Humboldt traveled through Spain's land
- Von Humboldt was the first to understand that man could damage the environment
- Von Humboldt admired Thomas Jefferson and gave him copies of his maps
- Von Humboldt's maps helped Americans expand for 40 years

MOVING WEST: MORE BECOMES LESS

- Americans valued civilization, not wilderness
- Rich Northeasterners worried that settlement had changed their landscape
- Poets, authors, and artists celebrated the beauty of their lost land
- They traveled to the West to find wilderness
- By the 1880s, the Western wilderness was vanishing, too
- Theodore Roosevelt wanted to hunt so he worked to protect animal habitats
- Conservationists wanted to protect but still use natural resources
- John Muir and the preservationists wanted the wilderness to remain untouched
- Muir founded the Sierra Club

- Differences were greater when the problem crossed the international border
- The United States and Canada shared the resources of the Great Lakes
- Overfishing in the 1890s caused an 84 percent drop in the sturgeon catch
- No agreement because each side valued profit over protection
- Fishing practices regulated in the Inland Fisheries Treaty of 1908
- A powerful conservation movement developed around the bird
- Migrating birds crossed borders every year
- They were killed for sport, for food, and to decorate ladies' accessories
- The Lacey Act of 1900 stopped the illegal bird trade within the US
- Theodore Roosevelt established the first national bird sanctuary in 1903
- Migratory Bird Act of 1918 protected birds across US-Canada boundary
- This Act still forms the basis for all US environmental treaties
- Americans were not as concerned about the environment overseas
- 262 million cubic yards of earth were displaced to create the Panama Canal
- Gifford Pinchot convinced Roosevelt that the international environment had to be protected
- Roosevelt called a World Conservation Congress for 1909, but his successor cancelled it

THE 20TH CENTURY AND THE ULTIMATE BORDER

- America's borders changed just once during the 20th century
- The launch of Sputnik by the USSR in 1957 shocked America and raised a new threat
- Americans were determined to reach the moon by 1969
- Rachel Carson alerted Americans to another danger
- Her book *Silent Spring* argued that pesticides like DDT damaged the environment
- In 1968, Apollo 8 sent back pictures of the whole world and changed attitudes
- Politicians worked to improve air and water quality
- Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed the first Earth Day for April 1970
- More than 22 million Americans participated in Earth Day
- The environmental movement spread around the globe
- In 1972 the UN held its first environmental conference in Sweden
- American diplomats used treaties to protect the environment
- Progress seemed to stop suddenly, and people were concerned with other problems
- Environmental action had a much lower priority for the next 20 years
- In 1992 the UN held an Earth Summit in Brazil
- Diplomats still find it hard to reach agreement on international environmental issues
- The 2009 UN climate conference in Denmark did not reach agreement
- Diplomats will continue to work on the issues
- The most difficult environmental issues of the 21st century will be those that cross international borders
- Continuous diplomacy will be the key to their solution ■

