

GEOGRAPHY LECTURE – FEBRUARY 1, 2006
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We are trying to control the world? Argentina President. Cesar Chavez two years ago?

Why do we have troops fighting in Columbia in their civil war for over 30 years? Most Americans don't even know that. Over 30 years America has had soldiers fighting in Columbia for their civil war.

Why are we fumigating coca crops in Bolivia and Peru if we're not trying to control other parts of the world? Who buys cocaine? Not Bolivians or Peruvians. Who buys cocaine? Americans. Why are we destroying the farmers' lives when we're the ones who buy that good?

Can you imagine the world's #1 single cause of death by a drug? What drug is responsible for the most deaths in the world? (inaudible answer) No. Tobacco. Who is the world's largest producer of cigarettes and tobacco? The United States. What part of our country grows our tobacco? Mostly North Carolina. That's where all the cigarette capitols are.

If we have the right to fly into Bolivia and Peru and drop chemical weapons on farmers' fields because we are afraid they might be growing coca, or cocaine, and selling it to us. Then don't the Peruvians and the Iranians and the Chinese have the right to invade America and drop chemical weapons over North Carolina to destroy the tobacco plants that are killing millions and millions of people in their country every year and causing them billions of dollars in health care costs.

CAPITALISM

If you don't understand the economic system of capitalism, then you don't understand the world in which we live. Economic systems in which all or most means of production, etc. are owned privately and operated in a somewhat competitive environment for the purpose of producing profit.

Of course you could shorten this definition down. Just want to make sure you get the gist of it.

You see how when you were looking at this definition, where in this definition does it say anything about capitalism as an economic system that will provide everybody in the world with the basic things that they need. Is that part of the system? You see how this economic system is at odds with humanity, at odds with caring and compassion, at odds with human rights. Anytime you have a system that is designed to secure profit. When profit is the bottom motive, money. That means money is going to become more important than safety, human lives, etc.

Why are we invading Iraq? How do we know that the invasion of Iraq was for weapons of mass destruction, even if weapons of mass destruction had been found, how would you have known, how would you prove that that was not the real reason for us to go there? There are dozens upon dozens of countries that have weapons of mass destruction. Iraq is one of dozens. There are plenty of countries that are controlled by dictators, where people have no freedom, where they have weapons that could be threatening to America. We're not invading any of those countries.

Couple more minutes. Agree with Joel. Try to condense these a little bit. I took them straight out of the dictionary.

Did anyone in here watch any of Mr. Bush's speech last night? I'm going to talk a little bit about some of the things he had to say. One of the things I'll bring up right now. Condoleezza Rice brought this up some weeks ago and George Bush reiterated it last night. And the implication was that the solution to the violence in the middle east is democratization. And the implication through his language was that democracies don't go to war, democracies aren't violent, democracies don't want weapons of mass destruction. This is what's called blind, naïve faith in democracy. Who is the probably the single most violent nation on earth? United States. We're a democracy. Quote unquote. Who has the most weapons of mass destruction? United States. Who is continuing to develop new weapons of mass destruction as we speak? United States. So, why would Mr. Bush think that other countries of democracy won't want to be like us? Why does he think that they will just want to be at peace with each other? What makes him think that when the Palestinians get their own state that they won't want to preemptingly invade Israel to eliminate a potential threat to their security just like we supposedly did in Iraq? Do you see the dangerous precedent that we have set by illegally invading another country and violating their sovereignty in the name of protecting against a potential future attack?

Why doesn't Mexico invade Guatemala? Maybe they're scared of being attacked. Why doesn't North Korea invade South Korea? They might be afraid of being attacked. Or maybe Iran and North Korea and Saudi Arabia, who else did he add to the list last night, Zimbabwe maybe they're all going to team up and try to invade us because they are afraid we might invade them. Where does this cycle of violence end? This whole do as I say, not as I do thing, that doesn't work. What's important about President Bush's speech last night, it doesn't matter if it was President Clinton still, it would have still been important. It's not just a speech to America; it's a speech to who? The whole world. It's very obvious, if you listen to his language and listen to his body language, and you paid attention to what he was saying, he wasn't only just talking to us. He's talking to the whole planet. He's threatening the whole planet. He started off his speech with talking about how America should be the country that dominates the world. That we have been blessed essentially by God to have the most civilized, the most advanced, best system and that it is our duty as Americans to use the military to go out into the world and make the world like us. Sounds a lot like the things that Adolph Hitler used to say. We're the only ones who are right, everyone else is backwards and our

job is to conquer the world and make sure that they all live just like we want them to. Now, I'm not saying that Bush and Hitler are exactly the same, obviously they are not, but there are some eerie similarities to the tones that they use. Very, very ethnocentric. Right? We're right, you're all wrong.

I just keep waiting; I think that America and Mexico might go to war again. Anytime Mexico plays the United States in a soccer match what can be heard chanting all game long. (inaudible answer) Do all Mexicans dislike the United States? No. Do all Americans dislike Mexicans? No. But there is a lot of resentment, not between Mexico but across the whole world as far as America right now.

Condoleezza Rice said that now that Hamas got elected to lead Palestinians that they have to renounce their desire to eliminate Israel. Condoleezza Rice also went on to say that you can't be for peace and support arms struggle at the same time. You can't do that. You are either for war or peace, but you can't be for both. What is the problem with her saying this? That is the same thing that we say. That is exactly the same thing that this current administration says. We're gonna make the world safe by invading, killing and making war. If we can be for peace and war, why can't the Palestinians be for peace and war?

Student #1: Isn't there a difference of having Hamas being like we want to attack Israelis because they are Israelis and having us saying we want to attack people who are known terrorists. Isn't there a difference between saying we're going to attack innocence and we're going to attack people who are not innocent.

Good Point. But you have to remember, who is doing the defining of a terrorist. What is a terrorist?

Student #1: When people are attacking us on our own soil and are actually attempting to take American lives and taking American lives. Whereas Israelis in this situation aren't saying we want to blow up Palestine.

How did Israel and the modern Israeli state come into existence in the first place?

Student #1: We gave it to them.

Sort of. Why? After the Israeli Zionist movement they did what? Terrorist acts. They assassinated the British Prime Minister in Palestine. They blew up buildings; they stole buildings, assassinated hundreds of people. Car bombings. You name it. That's how the modern state of Israel was made was through violence and terrorism. Eventually we did allow them to have the land. Why? Not cause we really care, but because we wanted a strategic ally. We saw a way for us to get a foot into the Middle East. If we created a modern nation of Israel, and we make them dependent on us for military aid and financial aid, then we can control a part of the Middle East. We'll have a country in the Middle East that will be indebted to us.

Student #1: But it is just to say that it is okay to attack Israel if it's okay to attack known terrorists is it okay to attack Israel?

It is if your Palestinians. Who are the real terrorists? The Israelis who fired missiles that it purchased from the United States government into Palestinian neighborhoods of refugees and maybe killed a terrorist but also kill innocent women and children. And when we shoot a missile into Pakistan to kill a known terrorist and we just killed 75 people that have nothing to do with Al Qaeda. As far as their concerned, we're the terrorists. We have attacked them on their soil with the intention of killing their innocent people.

Student #1: We did not have the intention of killing their innocent people; we had the intention of killing a known terrorist.

Do you know that?

Student #2: That's what we say.

Student #1: So we're saying that the US has intentions to kill innocent people?

I don't know the answer to that question.

Student #1: What gain do we get from killing innocent people in the Middle East? What gain does that get us?

Let me ask you this? During the 1980's, Iran and Iraq were involved in an 8-year long war. The United States sold missiles, tanks, guns, planes to which side? Both. The answer is both. Why would we send armaments to two sides that are fighting each other? That seems to be self defeating. Don't we want one side to win? Not always. Sometimes we just want there to be conflict. The British. This is one of the grand strategies of the British imperial system was to play local animosities off each other. To prevent that is to divide and conquer. Do we really want the Middle East to unite as one cohesive, political and cultural body? No. Because they could what? Threaten our supremacy. We want to keep the world divided. Now do we really want to kill innocent people? I don't know. I don't know the answer to that. I know that there are some Americans that do. People that work in the CIA, people who have to think like that, those kinds of dirty minds, dirty tricks, that's how the intelligence mind works. Sometimes you do want to kill people just for the sake of killing them. Alright? Listen between the years 1960 and 1962; the US through their CIA conducted over 7000 terrorist sabotage attacks against the small island nation of Cuba. Over 7000 terrorist attacks were waged against one little country called Cuba in a two year period. Intentionally blowing up medical supplies, intentionally burning down crops that feed their country thereby creating starvation, intentionally trying to make that system collapse. And we were willing to expend however many thousands of people who died just to get rid of Castro.

And the sad reality is that there are some policy planners who are willing to let people die in order to meet their objectives.

Now, do I think that President Bush says I'd like to go kill some innocent Palestinians? I don't think he thinks like that, but I also know that he is not the only one making the decisions. I also know that after September 11, President Bush got on TV and he said you will feel our wrath. You will feel the full force of the United States military. There will be paybacks. He said it again last night. We have killed a lot of top-ranking Al Qaeda members and for those of you we haven't killed yet, you're day will come. That kind of language to me is very obvious. And when you go trying to kill one particular type of person, you know that you are going to kill other people too. Let me ask you this.

Student #1: He stated he's trying to kill innocence.

Hold on. You need to understand something. That when Al Qaeda attacked America on September 11, they were not attacking innocence. The CIA has an office in the World Trade Center. The Pentagon is a military target, the white house is a military target, the Congress is a military target. The World Trade Center is the economic center of our entire economy. The FBI who tracks down terrorists worldwide has an office in the World Trade Center. Some of the companies that work in the world trade center are these huge multinational corporation that are directly involved in the military industrial complex in supporting corrupt dictatorships in the Middle East. So in the minds of Al Qaeda, they are not attacking innocent people, they are attacking legitimate targets. People that have blood on their hands as far as they are concerned. We portrayed them as innocent because they are our friends and neighbors, family and loved ones. One of my best friends from high school and elementary school. Burt lives in lower Manhattan, he was right there, he was four blocks away from it. So anytime it comes close to home, you begin to see things differently. Now in no way am I implying you have to figure this stuff out for yourself. But I want you to think about these things. Think about this right here. Here is the real homeland security. Fighting terrorism since 1492. I mean to many Native Americans. That flag is no different than the Nazi flag or the confederate flag. It represents the people who came and stole their land, lied, brought disease, rape, pillage, destruction, etc. So it all depends on other people's perspectives. And of course we're going to see ourselves as being in the right, at least the majority of us, because that's us.

Student #1: But we were the ones that were attacked first. On September 11, 2001 we were the ones that were attacked. We were not attacking anybody until that point. Then we said, okay we're going to go into Afghanistan, okay the Iraqi government has ties with Al Qaeda, we're going to go into Iraq. We were the ones that were attacked.

Student 2: That's only what they tell you.

In actuality, If you remember back to my first day, the September 11 attacks were according to Bin Laden a direct response to our:

1. Support of the nation of Israel, which they consider to be a terrorist regime, which does not have the right to control the land that the Palestine lived on for over 1500 years
2. Because of George Clinton, Bill Clinton when he launched the missile attacks into Afghanistan and Sudan and killed thousand of innocent Africans and Afghanis that had nothing to do with Al Qaeda. In fact in Sudan we blew up the country's largest pharmaceutical plant which was producing medicines. In their eyes, that was retaliation for those attacks.

And so this whole idea of who attacked who first, how far back in time do you want to go? This is the whole thing with the Arab – Israeli conflicts. Who was there first? Well, if you believe the Bible, you would say well God gave the land of Canaan to the Israelites. But who was in that land when they got there? Canaanites, who some archeologists would argue were the ancient descendants of the Palestinians. So then it's like, other archeologists. Say well actually the Hebrews didn't actually come from Egypt. They actually were just a group of Canaanites who decided they didn't like the other Canaanites and they developed the story afterwards to justify how they killed all their neighbors and took over the land. So this becomes very, very muddled. I am not implying in any way that you should agree with me. I'm not even sure I'm taking a position. What I'm trying to do is to get you to do is to think about these issues more in depth. And not to just take things from the surface. I'm glad you asked all your questions because they're good legitimate questions. And I hope they have allowed other people to think about those things too.

GLOBALIZATION

We will do a whole unit on globalization eventually. The most important thing, essentially globalization is talking about how the world shrinks over time. How the world is shrinking over time. Not shrinking literally, but shrinking metaphorically.