ANTHROPOLOGY

AND CONTEMPORARY HUMAN PROBLEMS
ONE WORLD CULTURE

• “global village” “Modern World System”
  – social system encompassing the entire world
  – single division of labor
  – based on technological innovations
DEVELOPMENT

• Improvement in the quality of life

• achieving adequate levels of economic consumption

• assuring suitable physical surroundings
DEVELOPMENT

• Developing social, political and economic systems which allow

  • individual potentiality
  • self-esteem
UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

• Underdeveloped countries
  – severe shortage of land and capital
  – owned by a small, elite
  – cash crops as opposed to subsistence farming
UNDERDEVELOPMENT

- A new phenomena
- A new kind of poverty
- Denied access to resources and material wealth available in the modern world system
UNDERDEVELOPMENT

• Linked with Dependency on outside powers

• Economic Pressures to maintain status quo

• Multi-national corporations
  – global adaptive strategy
PLIGHT OF INDIGNEOUS PEOPLE

- Lost their Land
- Lost their Self-sufficiency
- Lost their sense of being (Culture)
- Often lost their lives
GENOCIDE

• Deliberate and systematic destruction of a political or cultural group
ETHNOCIDE

- Deliberate and systematic destruction of a people’s culture

- Ethnocentric beliefs of inferiority
ETHNOCIDE

• How?
  – Distant Schools
  – Material Rewards for Converts
  – Bans on traditional practices
COLONIALSIM

- Industrialism opened door for colonial powers
- Peasant labor
- Cheap extraction of natural resources
COLONIALISM

- Benefit to colonial administration and homeland

- Destroyed cultural pattern of economic production
WHY DO THESE PEOPLE RESIST?

• Desire to have the right to their own culture

• Economic motive
  – lowest level of division of labor
  – deeper into poverty
ANTHROPOLOGY

• Responsibilities to give something back

• Can people be brought into the modern world with loss of culture, land, lives?
Important Lessons in the Study of the cultural other

• Learn about Ourselves

• Learn about our past

• How humans adapt to environments
• Notion that humans are highly adaptive