

ANTH/SOCI 398-B, (De)Globalization & the Nation
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Reading Questions for Session 5

William I. Robinson and Jerry Harris, "Towards a Global Ruling Class? Globalization and the Transnational Capitalist Class"

1. Why is the period since the 1970s so important to the formation of a transnational capitalist class (TCC)?
2. What makes the TCC a global ruling class? The TCC is composed of which sort of members?
3. Note the increasing recognition among scholars, since the 1960s, of the emergence of an international/multinational/world capitalist class.
4. Is there much difference between the "old view" of national capitalists connecting with each other, and the "new view" of dominant classes being fused into a single class in transnational space? (Hint: look at the authors' distinction between "international" and "transnational".)
5. Do the authors address any familiar problems of globalization studies? (For example, on the role of states.)
6. What provides the material basis for the existence of the TCC?
7. Is every capitalist in the world a member of the TCC?
8. Make a note of the relationships between the TCC and states, since the 1970s.
9. What is the Transnational State (TNS) apparatus? Why does it matter?
10. Make note of the G7, IMF, Trilateral Commission, and especially the World Economic Forum.
11. Make a note of the growth of transnational corporations (TNCs).
12. Make a note of "neoliberalism" and the "Washington Consensus," and the policies these entail.
13. Has there been a fracturing of the TCC?

Peter Phillips, "Transnational Capitalist Class Power Elite: A Seventy-Year History"

1. How is the Transnational Capitalist Class (TCC) and specifically what the author calls the "Global Power Elites" similar to a *colonial planter class*? Having made that comparison, what are its implications for how we understand "globalization"?
2. What are the ways by which these elites form a *club*?
3. Make a note of the factions that exist in the TCC.
4. How is the TCC linked to US empire, according to the author?
5. What kind of understanding of capitalism is at work in this chapter?
6. What are "shadow elites"?
7. Why would the *over*-accumulation of capital pose any problem?
8. What is important about Davos?
9. How is *humanitarianism* linked to regime change? What explains wars that aim at regime change?
10. What are the ways in which *land* figures in this chapter?
11. How is "climate emergency" an "opportunity" for the TCC?