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Research & Writing Assignment Week 8

Nowadays our entire world is a huge network where everything is very close connected to each other, but that wasn't always the case. A question which leaves a lot of room to interpret is what would my world look like without a pervasive global network?

If the pervasive global network wouldn't exist the way it does today, our lives would be very different. Our communication for example would be very slow and limited in comparison to how it is nowadays. We wouldn't be able to communicate if everyone that easily anymore, things would take a lot longer and it would be a lot more difficult to maintain certain relationships. Another aspect which would be an issue is the access to information, which would be a lot more limited and harder. We would have to rely on newspapers and books, instead of the internet, which would make it more difficult to stay informed about all the things happening around the world.

The last aspect and the one I want to look into more detailed is our ability to purchase goods and services. Without a pervasive global network we would have to rely on local goods and services and it would be a lot more challenging to access certain products. To show this more detailed, here are some examples of products listed and an explanation how these are impacted.

The first product which is affected a lot is clothing items, people today order so many of their clothes online instead of going to stores and let them get delivered right to the doorstep. I looked more detailed into one of my favorite hoodies I have where it was produced and all that. This hoodie is from the brand Super dry which is a Japanese brand and when I looked on the tag inside it said "Made in Turkey", "British Design". When I think back I bought this product when I was in London and to think now about everything that happened

before I was able to purchase this is interesting. Super dry doesn't produce local as seen on the tag and instead produces in Turkey because this is cheaper and more convenient for them. So after being produced the products get shipped around the whole world for us to be able to buy them in stores or order them online.

Another clothing item I looked at was a hat from me. The hat is a New York Yankees hat which I bought in Germany actually. When I looked on the tag it said "Made in China" and also something about a company in the United Kingdom. So this hat was produced in China, got then shipped to a company in the UK where some last touches were made and got then shipped to a store in Germany so I was able to buy it there and now wear it while walking around New York. If you think about that, it's actually very crazy to think about how everything is connected nowadays.

The next product with an interesting journey is my phone. I have an iPhone 10 if I'm not mistaking and apple produces most of its products in Zhengzhou, China. To get all components together apple uses over 200 suppliers around the world, which means the network they use is huge. After producing the product, apple then ships everything across the world from there to stores or online stores so the customers can get their Phone, Mac book, etc.

A very similar journey as my iPhone was made by my Laptop. Since this is also an apple product it has the same background going into it as my Phone and got also produced in China and then shipped around the world from there.

The next product I wanted to have a look at was a few pieces of furniture which I have back home in Austria. My family and I have a few products made by IKEA in our house and I wanted to look a bit behind the scenes where the Swedish company produces most of its products. What I found out was very surprising because despite the fact that most products are made in China which is not surprising, the second biggest manufacturing country is Poland. Those two are the main suppliers but also other countries like Vietnam, Malaysia, Romania

and many more are working for IKEA. So for us to have a piece of IKEA furniture in our home it might have done some far traveling around the world before ending up in our houses and apartments.

The last thing I wanted to look at was Food which is the most important out of all. Since we are on spring break and some people like me stayed in the dorms in Jersey City our cafeteria provided us with some food and water. I wanted to have a look at the bottled water we got which is made by a company called Niagara. The water is from springs in White Haven, PA and other places around that area. So it would make sense to bottle it also around that area but this is not the case because it gets bottled in California, which means the water which is not that far away from us get shipped across the country to get bottled there and then comes back here to get sold.

Overall a world without a pervasive global network would be very different and would require a lot more effort to stay connected. While some aspects might be simpler for us or more localized, the lack of a global network and community could also limit our chances for growth and exploration.

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