

Research and reading assignment week 12

Throughout history, change has been a constant force that has shaped societies in various ways. However, when major disruptions occur, individuals and communities are often forced to adapt to new circumstances. This process of adaptation can be challenging, particularly when we have become accustomed to our daily routines. Nevertheless, major disruptions have set societies on new pathways leading to the modern world. In this chapter, we witnessed how entire nations were turned upside down during the Mongol conquests, and the horrors of the Black Death as it ravaged communities. Different societies dealt with these circumstances based on their religious, social, cultural, and political frameworks. In this essay, two modern disruptions of society will be analyzed, focusing on the disruption itself, how people responded through screen images, and whether there was national unity or division. The essay will also explore how the reaction to these events reflects the values of America or another nation, if a foreign event is being used.

The first modern disruption that will be analyzed is the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, also known as 9/11. This event shook the United States and the world at large, resulting in significant political, social, and economic consequences. The disruption itself involved four coordinated attacks by the Islamic extremist group Al-Qaeda, resulting in the deaths of nearly 3,000 people. The attacks targeted iconic symbols of American power and influence, including the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

In response to the attacks, people across the country and around the world shared images and messages of solidarity and unity, with the phrase "United We Stand" becoming a common

refrain. However, in the aftermath of the attacks, there were also reports of hate crimes against Muslims and individuals perceived to be Muslim, reflecting a deeper division in American society. The reaction to 9/11 can be seen as reflecting the values of America, including a commitment to freedom and democracy, as well as a willingness to come together in the face of adversity. However, the event also highlighted issues of prejudice and discrimination, which continue to be relevant in contemporary American society.

The second modern disruption that will be analyzed is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This global crisis has had significant health, economic, and social consequences, with over 180 million confirmed cases and 3.9 million deaths worldwide as of July 2021. The disruption itself involves the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, resulting in significant illness and death, as well as lockdowns, travel restrictions, and economic turmoil.

In response to the pandemic, people have utilized screen images to share information about prevention and mitigation strategies, including social distancing and wearing masks. However, there has also been significant controversy and division over issues such as vaccine distribution and the role of government in managing the crisis. The reaction to the pandemic can be seen as reflecting the values of America, including a commitment to science and public health, as well as a willingness to debate and challenge authority. However, the event has also highlighted issues of inequality and disparities, particularly in terms of access to healthcare and economic resources.

In conclusion, major disruptions have played a significant role in shaping societies throughout history, including the modern world. The analysis of two modern disruptions, 9/11 and the

COVID-19 pandemic, highlights the complex ways in which people respond to such events through screen images and the role of national unity or division. Furthermore, the reactions to these events reflect the values of America, including a commitment to freedom, democracy, science, and public health, as well as issues of prejudice, inequality, and disparities. By understanding these responses and values, we can better prepare for and adapt to future disruptions, as well as work towards and be more resilient.