

Culture and Globalization

Space & Place I
Cities and Globalization

September 26, 2012



Life and Debt

1. Why did the film include footage and narration about tourism? How is this related to the other topics covered in the film? What is the significance of tourism for globalization?

2. How does the film link contemporary issues in Jamaica to colonialism and imperialism?



3. What does autarky mean and what does it have to do with Jamaica?

David Harvey: Flexible Accumulation through Urbanization

I. Review basics of Marxist theory of capitalism

II. Think about the changes in the economy since 1972

III. Analyze the role of the city in contemporary globalization

I. Marxism 101

- surplus value
- accumulation
- mass production
- role of labor
- falling profit rate
- competition
- crisis
- consumption & social reproduction



II. U.S. Economy post-1972

- Shift away from Keynesianism (aka social welfare state policies)
- Shift away from Fordist production model
- Development of global production models and outsourcing (multinationals)
- Rise of domestic knowledge/service economies

Harvey puts these changes together and calls it "flexible accumulation"

III. Cities in Flexible Accumulation

What roles do cities play, according to Harvey?

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What roles do cities play, according to Harvey?

- inter-urban competition
- consumption
- spectacle

Saskia Sassen: Cities, Politics, War

- What are the impacts of globalization on the nation-state?
- Why and how does the scale of the city become important?
- What is the difference between substantive and formal equality? And what is the city's role in this?
- What does it mean for the city to be a technology of war, and how does this fit with Sassen's larger arguments about cities and globalization?
- How do Sassen's arguments connect to the grid of spatial practices in Harvey?