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for Tobin Beck

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# PS111 American Government Final Exam -- Spring 2011/ Prof. Beck

*Please write answers in complete sentences.*

1. Explain how separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism work in the American political system.

Separation of powers is the separation of responsibilities btw. the legislative, executive, + judicial branches of government. Each branch has some sort of power over the others, this is called checks + balances. The States and Federal government have different powers, but they also work together.

2. How were the Articles of Confederation different from the Constitution?

The Articles of Confederation did not have a president or executive power. Most of the power of the federal government was given to the Congress. The states had a lot of power and the federal government did not. The power of the federal government was weak.

3. How did the framers of the Constitution account for human nature?

The framers thought that human nature was self-interested. They thought the government needed to control the effects of factions.

4. How did the Founding Fathers balance minority rights with majority rule?

They balanced it with plurality. There are many different opinions and parties. This leads to many different beliefs, so not everyone believes the same things.

5. How does the Constitution balance the rights of small and large states?

The framers came up with the Great Compromise. Government is broken up into two houses. The Senate has an equal amount of representation for every state and the House of Representatives which has representation based on population.

6. Explain the roles of state and federal governments in terms of federalism.

The state + federal governments have different powers and responsibilities. The states are in charge of things like education, while the federal government has power to make war and such. However, state and federal government do have some concurrent powers.

7. How do the Constitution's full faith and credit clause, and the privileges and immunities clause, relate to states?

The full faith and credit clause states that each state must acknowledge + respect other states laws.

The privileges + immunities clause says that each state must treat non-state residents within their borders the same as they would with their own residents.

8. How would you describe the era we are currently in regarding the relationship between the state and federal governments?

The Supreme Court has protected states' freedom by resurrecting the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment. It also has limited Congress' power to use the Commerce clause and 14<sup>th</sup> amendment to protect the states.

9. Explain how civil liberties are different from civil rights.

Civil liberties are the freedoms we have as citizens of the United States. Civil rights are rights each individual has to be free from discrimination.

10. What are the five freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment?

Freedom of Speech, Petition, Assembly, Religion and Press.

11. Explain the concept of due process rights.

Due process rights give citizens the right to have a fair legal proceeding. For example it gives us the right to know the crime we are being charged with and the right to have a lawyer.

12. Explain the concept of privacy rights.

Privacy rights are rights we have to protect us from government interference in our lives. For example, we are protected from unreasonable searches and seizures.

13. How are political opinions based on considerations?

Considerations are the values and ideas we have that shape our political opinions. For example if someone is a Christian, he/she might vote more conservative than liberal.

14. Why is random sampling important in conducting opinion surveys?

Random sampling makes the data more accurate. It gives everyone a chance to participate within a population. There are more opinions and differences rather than having only one.

15. How do the news media influence audiences in their views about politics?

Most people get their information about politics from the media. What the media reports is usually what people believe.

16. What role do political parties play in modern American national politics?

Political parties allow there to be more than one way to view public policy or politics. Since different parties have different opinions we have debates and arguments and compromise.

17. What are political action committees?

Political action committees are groups of people usually with the same political interests who raise money for campaigns of certain candidates or to support a candidate.

18. What role do primary elections and caucuses play in selection of presidential candidates?

Primary elections are ballot vote elections by the citizens who vote for a parties nominee.

Caucuses are when party members choose who the parties nominee will be.

19. Explain the difference between plurality and majority voting and how it relates to the concept of a runoff election.

Plurality voting is when a Candidate wins the most votes in a geographical area. That Candidate wins.

Majority voting is when a Candidate needs to win over 50% of the votes to win. Runoff elections happen when, after a majority vote, Neither Candidate wins.

20. What is the role of the Electoral College and how does it work? Runoff elections are a

Second election. The Electoral College is a body who elects the president. Each State has so many electoral votes. When a Candidate wins the most votes in a State, those electoral votes from that State go to him/her.

21. Explain one way in which a political interest group can solve a collective action problem.

(ersion) is one way a political interest group can solve a collective action problem. This is to eliminate free riders by making the people participate.

22. What is gerrymandering and how does it affect redistricting?

Redistricting is when district <sup>boundaries</sup> ~~boards~~ are redrawn for legislative purposes. Gerrymandering is when redistricting happens to benefit a political party or a Candidate.

23. Why does incumbency help members of the House of Representatives more than members of the Senate when they run for re-election?

Representatives represent a smaller area and smaller amount of people. They are more available and closer to their constituents than Senators are. Senators represent a whole state and are not as familiar to their constituents.

24. What is the job of the Speaker of the House? (Extra credit: Who is it?)

+1 John Boehner is the Speaker of the House. He is in charge of the legislative agenda, committee appointments, and is in charge of his party among other things.

25. What is a filibuster and how can it be stopped?

A filibuster is an attempt to freeze a bill by holding the floor for an extended period of time. The only way it can be stopped is thru a cloture. A cloture needs 60 senators to agree to stop a filibuster before it can be stopped.

26. Briefly outline the president's job description.

The President has many jobs. He is the head of the executive branch, he is the commander in chief, he appoints Supreme Court justices and other positions. He makes treaties and gives executive orders.

27. Explain how the federal bureaucracy is like a principal-agent game.

The President and Congress are like the principal and the bureaucracies are like the agents. The principal tries to get the bureaucracies to do what they want, but sometimes the agents know more information than the principal does.

28. Explain the significance of the Supreme Court decision Marbury v. Madison.

It gave the Supreme Court judicial review.

29. On what basis would the U.S. Supreme Court hear an appeal from a state court?

✓ On the basis of writ of certification, or writ of certiorari.

30. Briefly explain the significance of these three Supreme Court decisions: Dred Scott v. Sandford, Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education.

Dred Scott v. Sandford - The Supreme Court ruled that the states cannot be denied the right to have slavery.

Plessy v. Ferguson - The Supreme Court made the separate but equal doctrine.

Brown v. Board of Education - The Supreme Court rejected separate but equal doctrine and demanded desegregation among schools.

31. Explain the key concepts of the federal budget: What are the key numbers? What's the difference between discretionary and mandatory spending? How does debt relate to deficit? The President's proposal for FY 2012 is \$3.7 trillion dollars. The debt is currently at \$14.2 trillion. mandatory spending is spending that funds programs that do not require an annual appropriation bill. Discretionary spending is spending that does. Deficit is when spending exceeds income and debt is the sum of the deficits.
32. Regarding Iraq and Afghanistan, how many troops does the U.S. have in each country? What are the key issues to be resolved before U.S. troops leave those countries? 47,000 troops are in Iraq and 90,000 troops are in Afghanistan. The U.S. must provide security, promote civil liberties, and build the government. They also must try to eliminate Al-Qaida.
33. In the Immigration issue, how many legal and how many illegal immigrants are in the U.S.? How does federalism relate to this issue? 28 million legal immigrants are in the U.S. and 11 million illegal immigrants are in the U.S. As seen with the Arizona bill, the federal government can overstep the states powers.
34. In the Health Care issue, what are the key pros and cons of the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act? The pros are that it provides protection for almost everyone and that prices will go down. The cons are that the government is overstepping its boundaries and is interfering with our freedoms and freedoms to make choices. It will also raise taxes.
35. What do you think is the most useful thing you learned from class? I learned a lot about the current issues happening in our government. I learned about what they meant and how they will affect me.

*Thanks for a great semester - have a terrific summer!*

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Please write answers in complete sentences.

1. Explain how separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism work in the American political system.

It all works so not one part of government is more powerful than the other. For something to go through, it has to pass through each branch so everyone can agree on it.

2. How were the Articles of Confederation different from the Constitution? Not necessarily in the case of the courts

The Articles did not have rights for its citizens, it was only rules to live by.

It was a weak association without strong rules.

3. How did the framers of the Constitution account for human nature?

They made sure that people will be treated like people, and have fair trials.

4. How did the Founding Fathers balance minority rights with majority rule?

That 2/3 or 60% has to agree for something to pass.

5. How does the Constitution balance the rights of small and large states?

It makes sure all the states have even power, regardless of size and population, and each state gets 2 senators.

6. Explain the roles of state and federal governments in terms of federalism.

The state has laws and taxes within itself for its own people, but it has to follow the laws and taxes the federal government's rule.



7. How do the Constitution's full faith and credit clause, and the privileges and immunities clause, relate to states?

-3 The states can't have any rules that might affect how people live.

8. How would you describe the era we are currently in regarding the relationship between the state and federal governments?

Each state is trying different ways to save the federal Gov. money.

9. Explain how civil liberties are different from civil rights.

Civil Liberties are given to people under the Constitution that protects people from government. Civil Rights are given by the government to protect people from segregation.

10. What are the five freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment?

-1 Five freedoms are life, liberty, speech, idea, & religion.  
religion, assembly, petition, press, speech

11. Explain the concept of due process rights.

It protects people from the government.

12. Explain the concept of privacy rights.

No one can enter property or search someone and get them in trouble unless they have a warrant & looking for something specific.

13. How are political opinions based on considerations?

When people talk about how someone is doing their job given the circumstances they are in.

14. Why is random sampling important in conducting opinion surveys?

If you survey just a group of people, your results are going to be about just that group, instead of a range of different people.

15. How do the news media influence audiences in their views about politics?

every news paper or station has their own opinion on stories, and will try to get their audience to follow their stories instead of just reporting ~~the~~ the whole story from all aspects.

16. What role do political parties play in modern American national politics?

each party ~~is~~ has their own ideas and beliefs and they try to get peoples support.

17. What are political action committees?

-3 They show whats going on in the government

18. What role do primary elections and caucuses play in selection of presidential candidates?

They select who they ~~think~~ think is most fit and who has the best chance.

19. Explain the difference between plurality and majority voting and how it relates to the concept of a runoff election.

A plurality is when there is more than one for a party. Majority is who gets the most.

20. What is the role of the Electoral College and how does it work?

-1 The electoral college is made up by the house ~~states~~, so for whoever that state votes for, that person gets whatever number that state has.

21. Explain one way in which a political interest group can solve a collective action problem.

-2 Interest groups will try to get people to follow what they are fighting for.

22. What is gerrymandering and how does it affect redistricting?

-1 gerrymandering is when someone from a different district changes it so where he represents is in the district.

23. Why does incumbency help members of the House of Representatives more than members of the Senate when they run for re-election?

Reps. are re-elected every two years, unlike the senators who are re-elected every six years.

24. What is the job of the Speaker of the House? (Extra credit: Who is it?) +1

The speaker, who is John Boehner, ~~is~~ leads the house to make sure rules are carried out.

25. What is a filibuster and how can it be stopped?

It is where a group tries to stop a bill from going through, to make sure the minority party is heard. It can be stopped by cloture.

26. Briefly outline the president's job description.

The President is the executive branch, helping to pass or reject bills, and is also Commander in chief.

27. Explain how the federal bureaucracy is like a principal-agent game.

✓ The ~~agents~~ agents each have to follow the principals.

28. Explain the significance of the Supreme Court decision Marbury v. Madison.

3 It protected states from abolishing slavery.

29. On what basis would the U.S. Supreme Court hear an appeal from a state court?

If there is question about something being constitutional or not.

30. Briefly explain the significance of these three Supreme Court decisions: Dred Scott v. Sandford, Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education.

In Dred Scott v. Sandford, the Supreme Court ruled that it protected states from abolishing slavery.

In Plessy v. Ferguson, it ruled that public places will be segregated, but there will be facilities and things for both races.

In Brown v. Board of Education, they ruled that they have to let Blacks into the school.

31. Explain the key concepts of the federal budget: What are the key numbers? What's the difference between discretionary and mandatory spending? How does debt relate to deficit?

2 We are in about a debt of \$3 trillion. discretionary is spending on things we think will be useful and mandatory we have to spend. Debt is what we owe to others & deficit is how much we are in a hole.

32. Regarding Iraq and Afghanistan, how many troops does the U.S. have in each country? What are the key issues to be resolved before U.S. troops leave those countries?

3 There are about ten-thousand in each country, and they will be there until we think the countries can control it themselves.

33. In the Immigration issue, how many legal and how many illegal immigrants are in the U.S.? How does federalism relate to this issue?

There are about 20 million immigrants in the U.S. About 11 million of them are illegal.

34. In the Health Care issue, what are the key pros and cons of the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act?

They would help people who can't afford care on their own, but it would take a huge chunk out of the budget.

35. What do you think is the most useful thing you learned from class?

I understand how the government works more in-depth.

Thanks for a great semester - have a terrific summer!

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Please write answers in complete sentences.

1. Explain how separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism work in the American political system.

Separation of powers ensure that the government is divided in what they can do at each level, checks and balances prevent each branch power, and Federalism allows for division of power btw state, Federal, and local governments. Each allow for a minority to not be destroyed by majority.

2. How were the Articles of Confederation different from the Constitution?

The articles of confederation enabled the states to band together, but not in a functional way. Too many things did not work, small states had too much power and sway over large states. The constitution addressed these issues.

3. How did the framers of the Constitution account for human nature?

The framers pitted people with special interests against each other, hoping to balance the playing field and ultimately creating political parties. This way, even minorities get heard and their issues are considered.

4. How did the Founding Fathers balance minority rights with majority rule?

With They did this with the house and senate division, which allows for states to be equally represented (senate) and represented by population (House).

5. How does the Constitution balance the rights of small and large states?

The electoral college ensures that even small state minorities are heard and represented, because it prevents 4 large states from controlling an election.

6. Explain the roles of state and federal governments in terms of federalism.

State gov's are responsible for managing their own affairs, but Federal Gov't can give incentives (such as denying highway funds if they do not agree to drinking age), to do what they desire.

7. How do the Constitution's full faith and credit clause, and the privileges and immunities clause, relate to states?

-3

8. How would you describe the era we are currently in regarding the relationship between the state and federal governments?

I would say, currently, the Federal gov't is growing larger and larger, and ultimately diminishing state power (though not depleting it).

9. Explain how civil liberties are different from civil rights.

The civil liberties are life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness and cannot be taken without due process. Civil rights mean a protection from discrimination.

10. What are the five freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment?

The five freedoms are Religion, assembly, petition, Press, and speech.

11. Explain the concept of due process rights.

Due process rights mean having a fair trial and legal system, including a speedy trial, Miranda rights, and a jury of peers.

12. Explain the concept of privacy rights.

Privacy rights are a Constitutional allowance for protection from unwarranted gov't searches of home and intrusion into lives. However, under circumstances, like the controversial Patriot Act, an Average guy like me can be put on a suspected terrorist list for trying to wish a friend a happy birthday.

13. How are political opinions based on considerations?

A political opinion can have no merit at all. Many are ill-informed and their view only reflects the latest thing they heard about a topic.

14. Why is random sampling important in conducting opinion surveys?

If you conducted a survey on CUNE campus to represent the U.S.; you may find things too conservatively biased to represent the whole. Taking a non-random sample proves nothing.

15. How do the news media influence audiences in their views about politics?

News Media tend to have biases of their own, such as MSNBC leaning toward Democrats and FOX leaning toward republicans. They influence audiences by not giving just news, but the news with their personal political twist (most people pick news based on what they WANT to hear).

16. What role do political parties play in modern American national politics?

Political parties balance each other out, allowing for compromise in debated issues, making both sides explore the other.

17. What are political action committees?

Groups set out to carry out a specific task or goal.

-1

18. What role do primary elections and caucuses play in selection of presidential candidates?

Primary elections choose who will run for candidacy; and caucuses are meetings of the party in which a candidate is chosen.



19. Explain the difference between plurality and majority voting and how it relates to the concept of a runoff election:

Plurality is an election in which no one has a clear majority, such as with six or seven candidates. In a majority vote, there is a clear-cut winner (usually). If a plurality election results in more than one candidate with a high number of votes, a run-off election might take place.

20. What is the role of the Electoral College and how does it work?

The electoral college works by each state having a number of votes and instead of direct votes, a representative casts the vote for whom they represent. Most are winner-take-all, but a few (like NE) are not. This protects smaller states ~~from~~ by preventing ~~small~~ large states from controlling an election.

21. Explain one way in which a political interest group can solve a collective action problem.

A political interest group can lobby for something such as environmental concerns and get enough support to pass legislation.

22. What is gerrymandering and how does it affect redistricting?

Gerrymandering is a redrawing of district lines to include or not include a group of people. It affects ~~votes~~ <sup>votes</sup> ~~ten~~, by including or not including voters demographics of an area. This helps the ~~sen~~ House, who are affected by district lines.

23. Why does incumbency help members of the House of Representatives more than members of the Senate when they run for re-election?

Incumbency helps House members more, because they get to interact with constituents much more frequently, have a 2 year term (as opposed to the senate's six) and can use gerrymandering to redraw lines and redistrict.

24. What is the job of the Speaker of the House? (Extra credit: Who is it?)

The Speaker of the house presides over it, that person is the Majority leader in the House, John Boehner.

25. What is a filibuster and how can it be stopped?

A filibuster is when the minority takes the house floor and keeps on talking, making the majority hear them and allows for compromise and protection of minority. It can only be stopped by cloture, or a vote of 60.

26. Briefly outline the president's job description.

He (or she... maybe in the future) is the figure head of the nation, the leader of their party, and the commander-in-chief of military. They set domestic & foreign policy through influence on House & senate. They also appoint supreme court justices.

27. Explain how the federal bureaucracy is like a principal-agent game.

(principle)  
Congress uses an agent (a smaller agency like the IRS) to do something. The agent ~~can choose~~ is an expert, but the principle cannot be a master of all things. The agent can screw over the principle, because if the agent does something wrong, the principle is blamed.

28. Explain the significance of the Supreme Court decision Marbury v. Madison.

Marbury v. Madison was the Court decision giving the Supreme Court rights to determine what was Constitutional & what was not.

29. On what basis would the U.S. Supreme Court hear an appeal from a state court?

They could appeal to Supreme Court on grounds of state ruling being unconstitutional.

30. Briefly explain the significance of these three Supreme Court decisions: Dred Scott v. Sandford, Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education.

Dred v. Scott decided that slaves were property.

Plessy v. ~~Scott~~ Ferguson created separate but equal.

Brown v. Board of Ed overturned Plessy v. Ferguson, stating separate inherently destroys equal.

31. Explain the key concepts of the federal budget: What are the key numbers? What's the difference between discretionary and mandatory spending? How does debt relate to deficit?

The debt (sum of all deficit) is \$14.2 trillion.  
The budget is \$3.72 trillion. Discretionary spending requires an appropriation bill annually, Mandatory does not. Debt is the sum of deficit, deficit is ~~over~~ when spending surpasses income.

32. Regarding Iraq and Afghanistan, how many troops does the U.S. have in each country? What are the key issues to be resolved before U.S. troops leave those countries?

Iraq has 47 thousand U.S. troops, Afghanistan has 90 thousand.  
The issues needing to be resolved relate to stability for the countries' government like security and infrastructure.

33. In the Immigration issue, how many legal and how many illegal immigrants are in the U.S.? How does federalism relate to this issue?

There are 28 million legal immigrants and 11 million illegal. Federalism relates because it is a core issue certain states (AZ, for example) have passed legislation on that were deemed unconstitutional. Because it is hard to decide who has the authority to make a decision, one ~~has~~ a decision is more difficult to reach.

34. In the Health Care issue, what are the key pros and cons of the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act?

The pros are that some 46 million people would get health insurance and that costs would go down with more coverage. The main problem is that taxes would rise significantly.

35. What do you think is the most useful thing you learned from class?

A better understanding of how the media works in reporting news.

Thanks for a great semester - have a terrific summer!

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## **PS211 Group Project**

**April 15, 2011**

### **What is your issue?**

The issue our group chose to investigate is the government censorship of the internet in the People's Republic of China. Currently, out of the top 100 Global websites, China has placed bans on 12 websites. Some of these websites include Facebook.com, YouTube.com, and Twitter.com (GreatFirewall.biz). These regulations were first passed on January 23, 1996 by the State Council of China. This first regulation was designed to restrict any citizen of mainland China from connecting to the internet without going through a government approved service provider. Since then more regulations have been enacted, and around \$800 million U.S. has been used to restrict the content of the internet in the majority of China. Not only is the government restricting the websites that the majority of the Chinese population is viewing, but the government is actually monitoring the amount of internet activities individuals are engaging in. The government has hired almost 30,000 "cyber police," who view various blogs and forums and delete comments that slander the government. There have even been arrests of journalists who were accused of calling for reforms and creating online petitions. The internet restriction is considered the most advanced of any other country in the world (Global Internet Freedom Consortium). These restrictions however do not apply to the entire country. There is no monitoring in Hong Kong or Macua because these cities are seen as special cases by the State Council.

### **What are the positions of the sides affected by the issue?**

The positions of the sides affected by this issue can be categorized into two main groups of people - the government and the general public of China. The government, and those people hired to police the internet in China, believe that by restricting the websites they allow the majority of their citizens to view, the people are less likely to organize together to oppose the government and possibly begin a revolution such as what is going on in Egypt and Libya currently. In June of 2010, the Chinese government issued a report defending the censorship of the internet. They stated that an estimated 30 percent of the population has internet and many cultures have different concerns about internet security and as a global population "we should seek common ground" (Stemple). On the other side are the citizens of China who these regulations affect on a daily basis. While the majority of the country does not have internet access, the population of China is so great that this issue still affects millions of

people. As American citizens, we believe that if these restrictions were ever placed on us, we would not stand for it. However, for the majority of the Chinese population who have internet access, this is something they have gotten used to. While there are some radical cases where people have been arrested for posting anti-government ideas on the internet repeatedly, this is not the case for the majority of the people. Overall the reaction toward these restrictions is one of indifference.

### **Who are the key people or leaders on each side?**

The key people who have the most control over the regulations on the internet are all government officials. In late 2002, Hu Jintao replaced Jiang Zemin as the Communist leader of China (Luard). He was re-elected by the People's Congress in 2008 to a second five year term. As the highest ranking position in China, Chairman Hu has the ultimate decision in all matters that concern the government actions. As China is a Communist country, Chairman Hu has control over almost every aspect of Chinese activity. Another key official who has a lot of power in the restrictions that are set up by the government is the leader of the State Council of China, Wen Jiabao. The State Council is the government organization that first drafted and put into effect the regulations over the Internet, as well as set up the Internet police who constantly monitor the content of various websites. On the other side, there have been a few Chinese activists who have been arrested in an attempt to protest the Internet censorship. Those who have the biggest impact for the opposition have been larger organizations, such as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the U.S. State Department, who have been speaking out on Internet freedom and began funding for efforts that would restrict censorship of the Internet (Activist Post). Another key person who has an impact for this side is co-founder of Google, Sergey Brin. Not only has Google asked the U.S. to act against the Internet censorship in China, but they have also stated that unless a deal is met where China limits the amount of website restrictions, they will no longer provide services to China.

### **How does history affect the issue?**

History plays a crucial role in the government monitoring of the Chinese media. One event in particular is the Tiananmen Square Massacre in 1989 in which the Chinese army opened fire on democratic demonstrations, killing hundreds of their own citizens. It was in late May, early June that marked the start of the student lead demonstration against the government and for democracy. The event began as a memorial march for a former party leader Hu Yaobang who had died a week beforehand. As the masses gathered a common anger swelled due to the corruption of the communist Chinese government at the time. The military called in tanks to "clamp down on what it described as 'social chaos.'" Throughout the bloody mess, the student protesters persisted in their chanting of "fascists stop killing," and "down with the government!" These protest have been deemed the greatest challenge to the communist state in China since the 1949 revolution, this is the underlying factor to why the Chinese practice government monitoring of the media. To be frank, the government filters such things as Tiananmen Square from Google searches in hopes of keeping what happened at Tiananmen

Square from the people of today's China. They fear that history will repeat itself and the citizens will wise up and rise up against communism.

### **How does the regional economic system affect the issue?**

One economic effect on the government is China's increasing standard of living. A couple decades ago a common greeting for Chinese people was, "you look fat today." This was not an insult, in fact this was a compliment meaning that you are doing well for yourself economically speaking. With China's economy booming, you rarely hear this greeting anymore. Back when this phrase was popular to be considered wealthy was to be making \$1,200 a year. With globalization and US companies outsourcing many manufacturing jobs to China, the standard of living has increased by an enormous rate. More and more people are managing to crawl out of poverty in China, resulting in minimum wages going up. The Chinese workforce has seen around a 20% increase of their minimum wage. This means more people are able to afford college. There are more job opportunity in the cities, and more spending money which allows the people access to the internet. This is how it effects the government's decision to monitor the media. With the growing ease of access to the plethora of knowledge on the internet, the government is scared that if the people are able to read about such incidents as Tiananmen Square and American freedoms, they will become likely to revolt against the communist Chinese government. The last thing a communist government wants is for its people to become wise to the fact that some of their freedom is being oppressed.

### **How does the system of government affect the issue?**

How does the system of government affect the issue of government monitoring? The government doesn't affect the issue the government is the issue, in this case. The Chinese government deserves a little credit, one of the reasons they feel the need to use media monitoring is because they are a communist government which allows many freedoms for their citizens. This little bit of freedom causes the people enough thinking room to wonder why they're media is filtered, but then not enough answers which angers the people again. Another reason the government affects this issue is back to history again. The government has gone through so much change in the recent past, and although they are well established there is always unrest about what has happened in throughout history. The current less communist, communist party that is in power now has Mao Zedong and his crazy communist ways to thank for some of their worries. Mao was very communist in the sense that he was basically a dictator and was very oppressive. Now that a new "communist" party has taken over, they are becoming less and less communist which causes an uncertain future for the government. There is still corruption like it is a Maoist government, but it has become more capitalist, this causes some confusion among the citizens and is the main reason the government feels the need to monitor the media in hopes to keep the people from revolting, again.

### **How are people affected by the issue responding to it? How much power do they have in responding?**

Citizens in the Peoples Republic of China are under almost constant monitoring by several government agencies set up by the Communist Party of China. If caught trying to organize protests or simply saying certain phrases can get you sent to jail or re-education by labor facilities. These measures

and threats make it very hard and dangerous for the people of China to oppose the government and its policies. However, there still are people who stand up to the government in China, trying to raise awareness about the injustices of the government and its censorship of the people. Tiananmen Square in 1989 was the site of a major student led protest. Over 100,000 people gathered to encourage continued to economic reform and liberalization. Unfortunately on June 4 the government broke up the protests using force and killing hundreds if not thousands of protesters. The last notable protest in China happened on April 25, 1999. Followers of the religion Falun Gong mobilized around 10,000 people in front of the Zhongnanhai compound. This protest was also broken up with physical violence and many were imprisoned and beaten. Liu Xiaobo is a Chinese literary critic, writer and human rights activist who called for political reforms and recently won the Nobel Prize while incarcerated as a political prisoner ([www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)). His literary works have been banned in China, yet there are a reported 4,000 illegal printing presses supplying the people of China with literacy free of government censorship ([www.cecc.gov](http://www.cecc.gov)). The government holds book burnings for these black listed books, yet that only seems to increase their popularity ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)).

#### **How is the rest of the world responding to the issue?**

There are several agencies throughout the world which have been fighting for basic human rights in China for many years. These organizations work to raise awareness in the international community about what is going on in the Peoples Republic of China. Some of these include Reporters Without Borders and Freedom House (Esarey, 2006). Recently the U.S. based company Google put an end to censorship via the Chinese version of its search engine, [google.cn](http://google.cn). Now users are redirected to [Google.com.hk](http://Google.com.hk), where there is uncensored content ([en.rsf.org](http://en.rsf.org)). Other online companies are following suit by not offering domain names ending in .cn, because of the harsh censorship applied to the websites. The United Nations sends in investigators to evaluate the situation in China. The most recent investigators, all from developing countries, said they had reports of over 20 arrests or detentions of human rights defenders and other actions including house arrests, travel restrictions, intimidation and blocking of communications ([af.reuters.com](http://af.reuters.com)). They are calling for the right to exercise the freedom of expression and the ability of Chinese human rights defenders to carry out their peaceful and legitimate activities calls into question China's commitments to promote and protect universal human rights. However, these pleas for basic human rights are ignored by the Chinese government with the main interest to maintain power, even at the expense of its people. The international community has had little success negotiating with China on civil rights issues.

#### **What does your group recommend as a response to the issue?**

We believe the international community needs to make a greater effort in trying to establish basic human in the Peoples Republic of China. China can't be exempt from international law concerning human rights. If they don't comply with these laws, they need to be held accountable and punished accordingly. The international community needs to come together as a whole, and not try to fight this injustice on a scattered and broken front of policies. International companies need to follow Google's lead and stand up to China censorship and not bend over backwards just to do business with them. Companies like Microsoft need to discontinue the supplying the government with equipment and

software that is being used to create an ever increasingly strict internet censorship program. On a grassroots level people can stop buying products produced in China as a protest against the government and what it stands for. Companies need to stop outsourcing work and products to China and invest in local solutions. Nations can band together and impose trade tariffs against China and put pressure on their economic system. As hard as it is, the people of China need to continue their diligent fight for their human rights and hopefully that plus international pressure will finally make progress towards an international standard for human and civil rights.

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PS211 Global Issues  
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## Tuberculosis

### 1) What is your Issue?

Tuberculosis or TB is caused by an infection with the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The infection affects the lungs and various other parts of the body, such as the central nervous system, kidneys, joints, spine and skin. TB was first identified in 1882 by German bacteriologist, Robert Koch, but tuberculosis is an ancient disease. There were particles of the diseases thought to be tuberculosis found in an Egyptian mummy almost 3,000 years old. Greek physician Hippocrates called what he found in the mummy phthisis, which means, “to waste away.” Most scientists believe this was a very early form of the TB disease because the physicians in recent times called TB the consumption disease because of the physical effects on your body (Tuberculosis pg. 1).

An infected person who coughs or sneezes, spreads tuberculosis. The particles that are released into the air then travel into someone else lungs and in result infect them. This usually happens with family members, or co-workers. In the United States, this disease is no longer a threat. We have stronger immune systems, so our bodies can fight off the infection. In third world countries, they are not quite as lucky. Most people who are at risk for the infection live in dirty communities and their immune systems are very weak. Also those who have HIV/AIDS are at an even higher risk for becoming infected. There are drugs that will heal the body of the infection, but because the TB mutates so often it is difficult to stop the virus all together. Most drugs only work for one strand of the infection (Nobelprize pg. 1)

## 2) What are the positions of the sides affected by the Issues?

The World Health Organization estimates that 2 billion people are infected with TB, that is one-third of the total population of the earth. Also 9 million new TB cases are reported each year, and about 30 million people die from it each year. Although this number is extremely high it is likely to be higher due to that fact that many deaths in affected countries go undocumented (WHO pg. 1). Infants, young children and the elderly are more likely to become infected by the disease, because their immune systems are weaker and they cannot fight it off. This disease has hit South Africa the hardest; there are more new cases each year in Sub-Saharan Africa than in anywhere else. This is because of the extremely poor living conditions and lack of appropriate health care. The disease attacks the lungs first, and then it moves to other parts of the body. Once infected by TB the body becomes very weak and slowly starts to wither away. The immune system becomes weaker and weaker leaving the body open for attacks from other diseases (Tuberculosis pg. 1).

Drugs are a valuable and usually free, but most people who are affected live outside of the city and out of walking distance of a hospital or clinic. Making the drugs free is great but if they have no money to travel to the clinic they have no way to receive the drug. Also many adults are infected and then later pass it on to their children, most mothers wish they had known sooner and could have prevented their children from being infected by the disease (Effects of Tuberculosis on Children pg. 1).

## 3) Who are the key people or leaders on each side?

Tuberculosis is a wide spread disease and affects so many people in so many parts of the world. The World Health organization has been a huge part of getting the word out about TB.

Right now WHO is endorsing a fast-acting test for TB. While it normally takes 3 months to find out if you are positive for TB, this new test will take just hours. WHO working to supply testing materials to clinics and hospitals all over the world. WHO is also working with drug manufacturers to reduce the price of this drug by 75%. WHO also partners with an organization called the Stop TB Partnership (WHO Endorses pg. 1)

Stop TB is working to eradicate TB by 2015. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at the 20<sup>th</sup> Stop TB Partnership Board meeting the administrator of the US Agency for International Development and other global health leaders spoke at the opening ceremonies. With much discussion and input from those leaders STOP TB had decided to “renew the Memorandum of Understanding between the Stop TB Partnership and UNAIDS; improving technical assistance to countries through TB TEAM; and decentralizing and regionalizing the activities of the Green Light Committee (which assists countries in procuring and properly treating patients with second-line TB drugs).” This means that Stop TB will continue to partner with large organization to continue the growth of their organization and will work together with government officials and other organizations to wipe out TB forever (Mandelbaum-Schmid pg. 1)

#### 4) How do history and culture affect the issue?

Tuberculosis has been around throughout human history with Egyptian mummies from as far back as 2,400 BC showing signs of Tuberculosis infection (TB History). The ancient Greeks knew tuberculosis as phthisis, a condition which almost always resulted in the death of those suffering from it (TB History).

In western medicine, Tuberculosis was not classified as a distinct condition with defined symptoms until the 1600s, when Franciscus Sylvius published a description of its effects on the

lungs of infected patients (TB History). Tuberculosis was first linked to bacteria in 1720 by Benjamin Marten, an English doctor who noted that prolonged exposure to an infected person could lead to infection (TB History).

The first means of treating the disease was to isolate the patients in a healthy climate and allow them to rest (TB History). This treatment was discovered by Hermann Brehmer, an Italian botanist who was cured while on an expedition to the Himalayas in the mid 1800s (TB History). The development of a truly effective cure began in 1939 with the discovery of a certain fungus which inhibited bacterial growth (TB History). By 1940, the fungus was developed into an antibiotic that was effective against Tuberculosis; however, it was too toxic for use on humans (TB History). It wasn't until 1944 that a successful drug was developed and tested which was able to successfully cure Tuberculosis (TB History).

Culturally, Tuberculosis continues to be a source of stigma. In many of the countries where the disease is prevalent, people are often ill informed on the causes of Tuberculosis and how it is spread (Soma). In Sub-Saharan Africa, Tuberculosis is also associated with HIV and Aids and as a result victims there suffer additional stigma (Soma). Those suffering from Tuberculosis are often ostracized and are frequently discriminated against in marriage and employment (Soma). The stigma has harmed efforts to eradicate the disease because people fear to seek treatment for fear that their condition will be exposed (Soma).

##### 5) How does the regional economic system affect the issue?

One of the major aspects of the problem of Tuberculosis is that of economics. Many of the countries where it is prevalent are less developed and have high poverty rates, exacerbating the problems caused by the disease (Ahn). According to the World Health Organization (WHO),

Tuberculosis is most prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, areas which contain some of the world's poorest nations (WHO Factsheet). WHO reports that the incidence of Tuberculosis is 20 times higher in low income countries than it high income ones (WHO Factsheet). According to data from the CIA World Factbook and WHO, the average GDP per capita of countries considered to have a high burden of Tuberculosis is \$3,900, well below the global average of \$11,000 (CIA).

Those in poverty face an increased vulnerability to Tuberculosis and other diseases compared to the population as whole, due to unsanitary living conditions, overcrowding, lack of good nutrition, poor working conditions as well as infections of other diseases such as HIV and Aids (Ahn). A WHO study in the Philippines found that Tuberculosis rates among the urban poor were four times higher than those not living in poverty, and in San Francisco and London the Tuberculosis rate was ten times higher among the homeless population (Ahn).

Those living in poverty are frequently unable to gain access to adequate treatment (Ahn). Often affected people are unable to afford treatment because of low wages and an inability to work due to the Tuberculosis (Ahn). Another barrier that exists preventing the poor from seeking treatment is that often those living in rural areas are forced to travel over long distances in order to obtain treatment which is often difficult or impossible for them to do (Ahn).

#### 6) How does the system of government affect the issue?

One area of concern in the effort to combat Tuberculosis is that of the governments of countries where the disease is prevalent. These governments are often too poor to be able to fund Tuberculosis treatments and are frequently rife with corruption.

Many countries with a high incidence of Tuberculosis are unable to afford funding for

Tuberculosis treatment and as result they are dependent on external sources of funding (Global Tuberculosis Control). Fifteen of the twenty-two countries considered by the World Health Organization to have a high burden of Tuberculosis cases derive at least 40% of their Tuberculosis control funding from external sources (Global Tuberculosis Control).

The reliance on external sources in affected countries creates opportunities for government officials to steal aid money. Many of the high-burden countries also have problems with corruption, according to the 2010 Corruption Percentage Index published by Transparency International (Corruption Percentage Index). The index examines data from 178 countries and assigns each a score from between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt) (Corruption Percentage Index). The average score of the 22 high-burden countries listed by the World Health Organization is 2.6 with none scoring higher than 4.5 (Corruption Percentage Index).

Because of the high amount of corruption in these countries, money meant to treat Tuberculosis is often stolen. In 2008 the World Bank uncovered “serious incidents of fraud and corruption” in several projects it was funding in India to treat Tuberculosis and other diseases (BBC). In 2011 it was revealed that two thirds of the \$21 billion Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria had ended up stolen, with donated drugs often being sold on the black market (Heilprin).

7) How are the people affected by the issue responding to it?

According to the World Health Organization in 2005, nearly one-third of the world’s population is infected with TB. In regions such as Southeast Asia and Pacific, nearly one million deaths occur. TB kills almost four people worldwide every minute and 1,000 people every day, and 100 of those deaths are children under the age of eight. The most populated countries that

report TB are Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand; in all of these countries, TB causes the most deaths. In these regions, TB sends many self-sustaining families into poverty. (Asia. 2005) If the person who supports the family is infected with TB, he or she will lose their job automatically.

TB accounts for almost one-third of AIDS deaths worldwide. If you are infected with TB you are most likely to infect another fifteen people around you in just one year. Most people who are affected by this disease cannot afford medical help. (Asia. 2005) There are organizations that are trying to provide the right drugs and vaccines countries that can not afford them, but that can only do so much. Since TB has so many forms that some drugs can not treat; families that have more than one person affected may not be able to use the same drugs as another person affected with TB.

8) How is the rest of the world responding to your issue?

Stoptb.org has become an active member in trying to cancel out TB. Their plan is to educate people on TB and then give out new drugs and vaccines to those who have it. Most people in third-world countries do not know how TB is spread, and what they can do to treat it. Even if they do know how to diagnose TB, it is hard to get the right drugs to treat it because they are either too expensive or cannot get them in their region. Stoptb.org has been working on this project since 2006, and has a new plan out this year that will run through 2015. (stoptb.org)

The 2011 World TB Day campaign is focused on individuals around the world who have who have found new ways of stopping TB and can serve as an inspiration to others. (worldtbday.org.) It recognizes people who have research aimed at developing new diagnostics for drugs or vaccines, operational research that is aimed at making TB care more effective and



efficient, new approaches to helping people gain access to TB diagnosis and treatment, novel partnerships between actors in the fight against TB advances in integrating TB care into health systems, new approaches to providing support from members of the community to people affected by TB, and innovative ways of raising awareness about TB. ([worldtbday.org](http://worldtbday.org).)

9) What does your group recommend as a response to the issue?

Our group supports the efforts in stopping TB. We can help eliminate this disease by helping educate the people it affects, their families, communities, and the world. Supplying more clinics in areas of the world that are more affected than others. Transpiration is another way we can provide treatment in lower income areas. Also making drugs more accessible and cheaper can help stop TB. This disease affects many people, and if we eliminate TB, then we can go on to bigger and better things. If we can figure out how to defeat TB, then can we stop other major diseases and infections like malaria, polio, AIDS, and many others.

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**Water Issues and Cholera in Haiti:  
A Working Example in Thomassique, Haiti**

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PS 211 Group Briefing Paper  
Prof. Beck  
April 14, 2011

### ***What is the issue?***

Haiti's sanitation and water issues existed before the January 2010 earthquake rocked the nation. In 2008, Haiti had the world's 11<sup>th</sup> worst sanitation facilities and has been chronically under-developed. Prior to the earthquake, only 20% of the population even had access to a toilet. Access to safe water, at this same time, was available to less than 70% of the individuals living in cities or less than half of the total Haitian population. In Thomassique, Haiti, less than 40% of the homes have access to water and in the outlying villages it is less than 15%; even fewer have access to sanitation facilities.

The current sanitation issues have caused wide-spread epidemics of water-borne diseases, especially cholera. As of February 1, 2011, about 172,000 cases of cholera had been confirmed, with more than half requiring the hospitalization of the patient. The death toll from cholera in Haiti since the major outbreak began last fall had reached 3650 individuals. Information regarding the cholera epidemic in Thomassique, Haiti, the example community used throughout this briefing, reported that as of November 27, 2010, over 150 people had been infected and 14 individuals had died. The population of Thomassique and the surrounding area is about 65,000 people.

Cholera is caused by the ingestion of the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae* which only results from ingestion of contaminated water or food sources. Food and water sources become contaminated with human feces which are infected with the cholera bacterium. This can occur as the bacteria lies dormant for long periods in water which might be used for drinking; uncomposted fertilizer manures and irrigation practices can also spread this to crops.

***What are the positions of the sides affected by this issue?***

The people of Haiti, and especially of Thomassique, who are suffering from a lack of water or from unclean water sources want to have clean water, however they are unable to afford it because of the severe poverty. The people value the water that is available; they will share and give away water during times of crisis, such as when the pipeline has been shut down.

The individuals who are in control of the pipeline often shut down the pipeline for no reason except for their own political ambitions. They use this to control the people to a certain extent and/or to spread fear among the population.

The government of Haiti, who should be providing clean water to the people, has not taken a major role in the matter. The government does not view making clean water sources a priority. Also, the cost of clean water is more than the Haitian government can really afford.

***Who are the key people and/or leaders on each side?***

In the case of action being taken on the water issue in Haiti, it has been largely a local effort led by local officials, such as the local priest instead of the national government. In Thomassique, over 35 years ago Father Mark installed the water pipeline from another town over 17 miles away. After his death the locals and new priest took over control and they have often shut down the water supply at times, especially during the cholera season. It is largely the work of missionaries and other aid organizations in trying to make an impact on the issue.

There is no real national establishment that deals with water and sanitation issues in Haiti, which has largely resulted in the inactivity of the national government, and is the reason why there is no real leader in addressing the water crisis.

### ***How do history and culture affect the issue?***

The history of Haiti has been formed by foreign nations and plagued with political instability. Since gaining independence in 1804, the nation of Haiti has been plagued by dictatorial rulers; mainly the generals of the slave armies who led the early regimes and kept the education, wealth, and power to themselves. But with power comes greed; between 1888 and 1915, no Haitian president completed his constitutional seven-year term. Ten were killed or overthrown, seven alone in the four years of United States occupation starting in 1915.

One of the worst regimes in Haiti's history was under the rule of Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his son Jean-Claude. Francois, a doctor who served as a rural administrator of a United States funded program, was elected president in 1957. Instead of helping the black majority, he made changes to the constitution to keep himself in power, created an elite Presidential Guard loyal only to him, and created a militia whose brutality terrified the population. Duvalier's regime was marked by terror, corruption, and extremes of wealth and poverty. Duvalier's son, Jean-Claude, took over his father's regime following his death in 1971 and continued his father's oppressive rule via arbitrary imprisonment and torture. But opposition from young Haitians and church followers angered by the poverty and suffering forced Jean-Claude to flee in 1986.

The water situation troubling Haiti has not been solved as fast because of the corrupt nature of Haiti's past leaders. They have left Haiti in a state of poverty with no one to lead the people in improving in the situation. Many of Haiti's ruler's were corrupt and greedy and constantly ignored the people's needs and never solved the poverty issue that could have possibly solved this water issue by now.

***How does the regional economic system affect the issue?***

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, two-thirds of Haitians are dependent on agriculture, and they are vulnerable to damage from natural disasters. Haiti's main trading partner is the United States, eighty-four percent of their exports go to the U.S., and fifty-two percent of their imports come from the U.S. Two reasons that Haitian citizens struggle to have enough water are that they cannot afford it and the country of Haiti is not wealthy enough to build a desalination plant

Since Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world, they have a major need for fresh water to drink, which is not contaminated. Many people cannot afford to buy bottled water, or put in a well. It costs about US\$5,000 or more to buy and install a well in Haiti. About 78% of Haitians live on less than US\$2 per day which makes safe water too costly to purchase; therefore they are forced to continue gathering water from whatever sources they can find, often being "garbage-filled."

Another way Haiti could be able to have plenty of fresh water is to pump water from the ocean, but Haiti being the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere cannot even come close to funding a desalination plant. The cost of building a plant to complete this task is around US\$300 million.

Haiti's poor economical state is a major reason why they do not have much drinkable water and cannot purify the contaminated water that they do have. Not very many people are able to afford wells, and the government is not wealthy enough to construct a desalination plant or install massive amounts of wells. Economics are a large reason why Haiti is in a desperate need of fresh water that is not contaminated.



### ***How does the system of government affect the issue?***

Officially, Haiti is a semi-presidential republic but many of Haiti's rulers have often practiced authoritarian power in their rule.

The government of Haiti, much like the United States, consists of three branches of government: the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branch. The Executive Branch is made of two parts: the President and the Prime Minister. The current president is Rene Preval but this is likely to change in April of 2011, if election results are validated for Michel Joseph Martelly who won the presidential elections on April 4, 2011. The Prime Minister, Jean-Max Bellerive, elected in 2009, is appointed by the President and ratified by the National Assembly. The Prime Minister appoints lower ministers and goes to the National Assembly to obtain votes for his declaration of general policy. Both the President and the Prime Minister are responsible for national defense.

The Legislative branch consists of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The Judicial branch consists of a Supreme Court and assisted by local and civil courts. The Administration of Judges (also known as the AOJ) program, with help from the United States, has trained new judges and prosecutors and during its period of tenure provided free legal assistance for thousands of impoverished Haitians and helped obtain the release of hundreds of people detained without trial.

Although the country's constitution is modeled off of the United States', corruption has often plagued Haiti's rulers. Between 1986 and 1988, five governments succeeded each other, a period plagued with repeated massacres of citizens exercising their rights. And despite the successful efforts of the AOJ, Haiti's judicial system remains severely troubled with a lack of

modern facilities, properly trained officials, and resources. The current water issue plaguing Haiti could be solved easily, but a history of corrupt leaders has left little trust and cooperation between the Executive branch and the people of Haiti.

Government involvement is limited, but where some involvement is being seen primarily occurs on the local level, such as in Thomassique, Haiti. In this case, local leaders have come together to form a cholera commission in order to try and control the cholera outbreak and response. However, the government is playing a limited role; it is largely the efforts of the leaders in service roles such as health, education, and religion combining somewhat with the water leaders and police.

***How are the people affected responding? How much power do they have in responding?***

In 2009, the government began to try to address the issue of water and sanitation with the creation of a new regulatory authority, DINEPA (acronym translated into English title: The National Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation), but this program was just beginning to get underway at the time of the earthquake. With the new circumstances created by the earthquake, the Red Cross and other aid organizations are working hand-in-hand with DINEPA to deliver a three-year water strategy with more and more transfer of power to DINEPA, although limited involvement has been seen from DINEPA.

Unfortunately, there is not much that an individual can do to protect themselves from contracting cholera except by the presence of clean and safe water for drinking and also appropriate sanitation facilities and good hygiene. The high poverty levels, examined in earlier sections of this document, prevent most Haitians from being able to access safe water and sanitation facilities.

For a case study look into the village of Thomassique, Haiti, the information provided by medical missionaries on the ground, through their blog, is insightful. The Dansereau's report on the breakage of the water pipe which brings water into their village and what it means for the people who live there. They express their concern over the poverty which does not allow the people to be able to afford bottled water, but instead forces them to the local river, which is the same river used for bathing, washing motorcycles, and has many animals in and around it. Also, the water that comes into the community through the pipe is not safe for drinking itself; it still needs to be purified to ensure safety. They also share the frustration of not being able to count on issues being resolved and fixed as fast as anyone claims they will be and they cite the inadequacy of what is provided.

### ***How is the rest of the world responding?***

Although some charity and non-governmental organizations were working on water and sanitation projects in Haiti prior to the earthquake there has been a new wave of outpouring and attention since the earthquake hit in January 2010. Organizations such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent have stepped in to help as well as UNICEF (also known as the United Nation's Children's Fund) helping to co-chair the effort with the Haitian government.

Even though there is a strong presence of organizations working in Haiti currently, this does not relate to overall effectiveness and achievement. An article printed in Global Issues highlights the "failures" or struggles of differing organizations. One such organization is the Catholic Relief Services which had just spent \$30 million out of \$140 million raised as of October 2010. This article also speaks of the struggle in effectively working on water projects at current by these larger organizational attempts. Many of the struggles deal with larger

overarching issues such as still housing individuals in essentially tent cities, where poor sanitation is only magnified and lack of governmental structure.

Other donors are taking an individualized, localized approach which seems to be working with success. One such case is in Thomassique, where a group of college students from Concordia University Nebraska, and church congregational members from Seward, Nebraska and surrounding areas have adopted this local project with overarching support from the LCMS World Missions and Human Care agency. They have been working closely with local Haitian leaders to ensure the project's success and that gains have been made. They have been able to purchase ground and begin to dig a well, which will serve as a source of clean water. There are also plans to build more wells in the future in this community as well as other developmental work. Their work is continuous, for example, a group of students from Concordia is heading to Thomassique the second week of May 2011 to do more work and one of their project will be to test the water.

***The recommendations of the authors in response to the water and cholera issue in Haiti...***

The recommendations of the authors are to first and foremost begin work on developing sources of clean, safe water for use in hygiene, consumption, and bathing. After this becomes established work can be made on proper sanitation facilities. While working on these projects personal hygiene and safe cooking practices should be taught hand-in-hand. These three items will significantly lower the cholera issue as well as providing a safe, long-term solution to the water crisis.

As far as the best way to accomplish this goal, it seems a localized, multi-faceted, committed approach is the best method. Although it may sound nice for a government or

organization to come swooping in, the limited success and lack of working with the local government and leaders seem to negate the effectiveness and financial costs. Therefore, it is the opinion of the authors that individuals find a way to be personally involved with their aid or that they work with someone who is personally involved which helps create a sense of commitment and accountability, such as what has been done in Thomassique, Haiti. The work that has already been done in digging wells in Thomassique through the local approach that has been taken has actively involved the local citizens. Also, important to this strategy is the education that takes place in teaching the people about how to maintain the well as well as sanitation practices around the well area. In his email to the board members residing in the states, Lunice (one of the two school board members who reside in Thomassique), states that the second community well committee went very well and they cannot wait to see how proactive the community will be in maintaining that project. Thomassique can serve as a great working example of what an effective implementation of a water project in Haiti can and should look like. It is the hope of the authors that success stories like Thomassique will soon be heard across Haiti.

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