Global Security Issues

BEFORE YOU READ
In the last section, you read about the growth of the global economy.
In this section, you will read about challenges to global security.

AS YOU READ
Use the web below to take notes on threats to global security.

**TERMS AND NAMES**
- proliferation
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 1948 United Nations statement of specific rights that all people should have
- political dissent
- Difference of opinion over political issues
- gender inequality
- Difference between men and women in terms of wealth and status
- AIDS
- Acquired immune deficiency syndrome, a disease that attacks the immune system, leaving sufferers open to deadly infections
- refugees
- People who leave their country to move to another to find safety

**Issues of War and Peace**
(pages 1082–1083)

**How have nations worked together for global security?**

After World War II, nations joined together to pursue global security. The United Nations (UN) was formed at the end of World War II to promote world peace. It now has more than 180 member nations. The UN provides a place for countries—or groups within countries—to share their views.

The UN can also send troops as a peacekeeping force. These soldiers—who come from member nations—try to stop violence from breaking out. UN peacekeepers have served in regions such as Asia and Africa.

Another approach to world peace has been to limit weapons of mass destruction. These include nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, and biological weapons. In 1968, many nations signed a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The nations that signed the treaty agreed to prevent the proliferation, or spread, of nuclear weapons. In the 1990s, the United States and Russia agreed to destroy many of their nuclear weapons. In another treaty, many nations promised not to develop chemical or biological weapons.
Ethnic and religious differences are the sources of many world conflicts. Some of these conflicts have roots that reach back decades or, in a few cases, centuries. Governments and many international organizations, including the UN, are trying to find peaceful solutions to these conflicts.

1. Name two specific approaches toward collective security.

**Human Rights Issues** (page 1084)

What efforts have been made to ensure human rights?

In 1948, the UN approved the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. This declaration gives a list of rights that all people should have. In 1975, many nations signed the Helsinki Accords that also support human rights. Many groups around the world watch to see how well nations do in protecting these rights for their people.

Despite the efforts of human rights organizations, violations of fundamental rights continue to occur around the world. One type of violation occurs when governments try to stamp out political dissent. In many countries, individuals and groups have been persecuted for holding political views that differ from those of the government.

In the past, women suffered considerable discrimination. However, a heightened awareness of human rights encouraged women to work to improve their lives. They pushed for new laws that gave them greater equality. Since the 1970s, women have made notable gains, especially in the areas of education and work. Even so, gender inequality still is an issue.

2. Name two events that have been important in the worldwide struggle for human rights.

**Health Issues** (page 1085)

What is the greatest challenge to global health?

Recently, the enjoyment of a decent standard of health has become recognized as a basic human right. However, for many people across the world, poor health is still the norm. Perhaps the greatest global challenge to the attainment of good health is AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome. AIDS is a worldwide problem. However, Sub-Saharan Africa has suffered most from the epidemic. The disease has had devastating impact on the populations and economies of many countries in this region.

3. Which area of the world has been hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic?

**Population Movement** (page 1086)

What are some of the causes of the global movement of people?

In recent years, millions of people have moved from one country to another. Some people are refugees, who leave to escape natural disasters or harsh treatment at home. Others leave for more positive reasons—the chance of a better life for themselves and their children, for example.

While people have a right to leave, every country does not have to accept them. Sometimes these people have to live in crowded refugee camps. They suffer hunger and disease. They can also cause political problems for the country where they are held. However, immigrants also can bring many benefits to their new home.

4. What problems can result from the global movement of people?