

Technological Innovations and the Global Marketplace
(Dluhy, PLS 202)

Assumptions:

There are technological innovations which are new to the field. This is creative and driven by science. However there is also the diffusion of innovation or how rapidly the innovation is spread in the society. Thus, some cultures are better at developing the inventions while other cultures are better at implementation and utilization of the innovation. Americans are largely responsible for many innovations in the computer field but other countries are much better at integrating computers into their society and economy.

For example, Japan has not been known historically as an innovator but it has been known as an implementer. Other countries known for developing new innovations historically are: France, Italy, Scandinavian countries, Scotland, and U.S. Countries known for their utilization of innovations: Germany, Japan, England, and Hong Kong (now part of China) but under British rule for a century.

Countries that master science and its use are destined to be the most powerful countries in the world. Research and development is the most essential component of a modern and prosperous society. Look at the small country of Switzerland, no land, few natural resources, small population but they have always been leaps and bounds ahead of every one else in banking, clock making, fine crystal, precision machinery, etc.

Where do the Innovations come from?

How about yellow stick ems, VCRs, Xerox machines, Chem-Lawn, 200,000 mile auto engine, CDs ? Answer in class.

Some new innovations new to the market—Digital Camera, On line courses, newspapers and magazines on line, retail and the internet, GPS (geographic mapping systems), home health testing kits (allergies, pregnancy, blood pressure, etc.)

Patterns of innovation and its diffusion:

Some states, some governments, some organizations are “pioneers” in that they are the most likely to adopt new innovations.

In the U.S., the following states are usually the most innovative: NY, Mass., Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Georgia, California, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington.