

Assignment: *Mississippi Masala*

When you watch it: Begin to think comparatively. Contrast the impact of cultural displacement on the parents in the film and in “Gogol” ...how does the experience in the country of origin make it easier or harder to assimilate to the U.S.A.?

Assignment: Patrick Chamoiseau, *School Days*

Discussion questions:

1. Survival for Chamoiseau’s “little black boy” in Martinique requires mastery of French and of classical French culture. Yet as a writer, Chamoiseau creates a unique personal style that captures the orality of his native Creole. What techniques does he use to do this?
2. What did you learn about Martinique culture through Chamoiseau’s descriptions? Is his technique effective?
3. What role does “Big-Bellybutton” play in our understanding of the consequences of resistance to French?
4. Is Chamoiseau successful in conveying this cultural dislocation through language, imagery, and character, or, does Chamoiseau’s style make his writing inaccessible to a broad audience? Be able to cite specific examples from the text to support your argument.

Assignment: Chanda, Ch. 6-7

Chapter 6

1. How did Hong Kong come to be part of the British Empire? What happened in 1997? What were some of the concerns about Hong Kong’s future?
2. On p. 177 Chanda talks about Pax Americana: what does that mean?
3. What are some of the justifications states have offered for dominating other nations? Be sure to think about some of the American rhetoric on this theme.
4. Explain the phrase “white man’s burden.” What are some similar phrases? Who used that phrase first—has its use changed?
5. Explain the relationship of America’s mission of “saving the world from totalitarianism” to “white man’s burden.”
6. What does Chanda mean by “claims to universalism?” Can you name some?
7. On p. 183 Chanda says “the warfare of the first imperialist ruler, Sargon of Akkad...was driven by a search for booty and tribute.” Figure out who Sargon

- of Akkad was (great cocktail conversation starter.) Did the motivation for modern imperialism change? Give some examples.
8. Chanda attributes the development of the Spanish and British empires to greed and envy. Do you agree? Why?
 9. Why does Chanda characterize empires as history's most effective genetic blender? Give some examples.
 10. What is reverse migration in empires? Can you think of some examples?
 11. How does Lord Maccaulay's quote on the bottom of p. 193—"We must at present do our best to form a class who may be interpreters between us and the millions whom we govern: a class of person, Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect" fit with what you learned from reading Lewis? What kinds of problems might such an interpreter have?
 12. What does Braudel's "space, the enemy number one" (206) mean in an imperial context?

Chapter 7

(211-214)

1. What are some of the differences between the slave trade in the 17th Century and the global trading of human beings today?
2. What were some of the factors that led to an increase in human trade?
3. What are some additional human catastrophes brought by globalization?

(216-222)

4. Think about the history of slavery. What different roles did slaves play in the Roman Empire? Early Modern Europe? The Middle East?
5. Were you surprised that the Abbasid's imported Ethiopian slaves? Why? What were some of the roles slaves played in the Abbasid Empire?
6. How did the sugar trade change and expand slavery? Does slavery exist today?

(222-224)

7. What are some ways in which slavery changed the scale of production?
8. Think about the extent of African slavery: to what parts of the world were African slaves brought?
9. What is the relationship between slave trade and mass consumption?
10. What countries profited most from the slave trade?

(225-227)

11. In what ways did slaves in Asian towns differ from those in European ones
12. What were some of the consequences of the slave trade in Africa?
13. How did the slave trade promote globalization in Africa itself
14. How is Brazilian culture shaped by the slave trade?

(228-236)

15. What were some of the earliest diseases transmitted by globalization?
16. What were some of the consequences of the Black Death on groups such as Jews?
17. What medical advances were spurred on by the quick spread of disease in globalized setting?
18. What are some of the more recent global medical plagues?

(236-243)

19. How have computer viruses "mutated"?
20. How have computer viruses changed the way we communicate?
21. How are viruses used by criminals?

Is globalization synonymous with slavery?

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