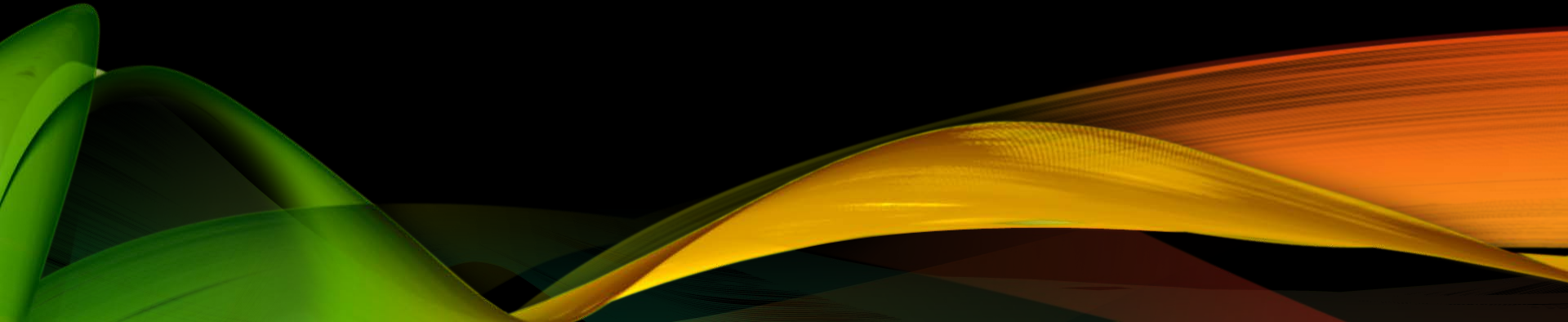


*Postmodern City Films & Global Flows,
2018 Fall*

TIME-SPACE COMPRESSION



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Define Time-Space Compression. How is it related to and different from “Time-Space Distantiation”? What causes Time-Space Compression?
- 2. What are the effects of Time-Space compression? How is it critiqued? Give examples.
- 3. How would you describe “internet time” and “internet space”? Are they always compressed into one?
- 4. How is *What Time is it There?* related to this concept?

POSTMODERNITY

- Flows (Manuel Castells and Arjun Appadurai)
- Time-Space Compression (David Harvey)
- [next wk] Time-Space Distanciation, Dis-Embeddedness, Reflexivity (Anthony Giddens) pp. 14-
- [wk after next] Postmodernism & Postmodernity & Mediated Communication (Fredric Jameson & David Harvey)

TIME & SPACE

Com-pression	↔	Traditional Inter-relations	
Placelessness mediated/mobile communication In the “Now” -immediacy-of mediapolis	Space shrunk ←	Exists in time, changes through time, measured in time length	Symbolic Meanings → Place Experienced as History or Memories
	Time shortened	Measurement depends on space (clock time, time zones, mph, speed of light)	

Simulation,
Crisis of identity

Disembedding,
re-embedding

- Time-Space **Compression**: The world is flattening, shrinking --into a global village
- Time-Space **Distantiation**: Time separated from Space (local context), social relations stretching across different spaces while our sense of **time and space**, multiplied.

TIME-SPACE COMPRESSION: DEFINITION & CAUSES

- “An increase in the **speed** of social life and a diminution in the constraining effects of **distance** on human activities” (757)=time shorted, space shrunk
- **CAUSES:** PRINTING TECH., CAPITALISM (Flexible Accumulation & Expansion), TELECOMMUNICATION & TRANSPORTATION

TIME-SPACE COMPRESSION: DEFINITION & CAUSES

- HARVEY'S FOCUS—CONSEQUENCES
- 1) speed-up in our pace of life;
- 2) compression – in the image of “maelstrom” leading to crises in capitalism, in representation and identity. (more later)

Time-Space Compression (1) : (Tele)communication and Transportation → Capitalist Production



- Train, Car, Jet

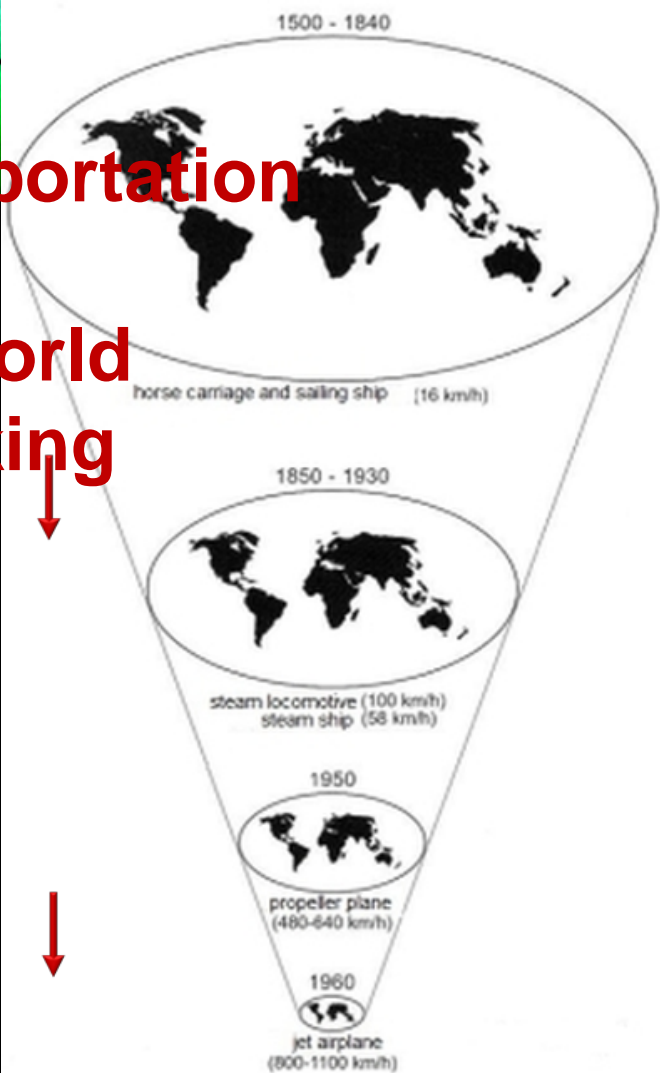
open up new markets, speed up production cycles, and reduce the turn-over time of capital.



- **Printing**
- **Morse code**
- Telegram, telephone, Computer, Internet, **Cellphone**

1) Transportation

The world
shrinking



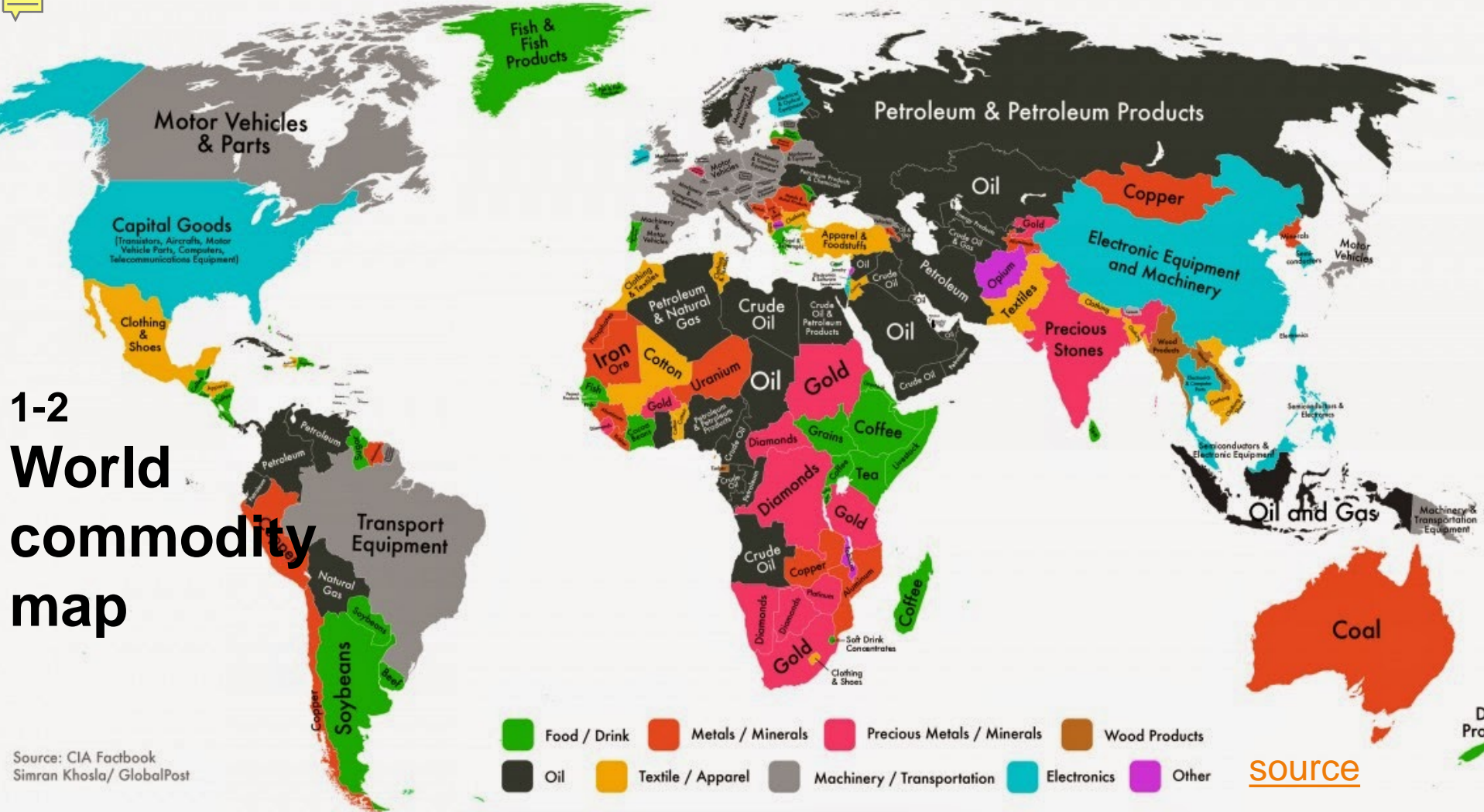
1500-1840 horse carriage and sailing ship
馬車和乘船 (16 km/h)

1850-1930 steam locomotive and ship
蒸汽火車(100 km/h)和蒸汽船 (58 km/h)

1950 propeller plane
螺旋槳飛機 (480-640 km/h)

1960 → jet airplane
噴射客機 (800-1100 km/h)

1-2 World commodity map



- Food / Drink
- Metals / Minerals
- Precious Metals / Minerals
- Wood Products
- Oil
- Textile / Apparel
- Machinery / Transportation
- Electronics
- Other

source

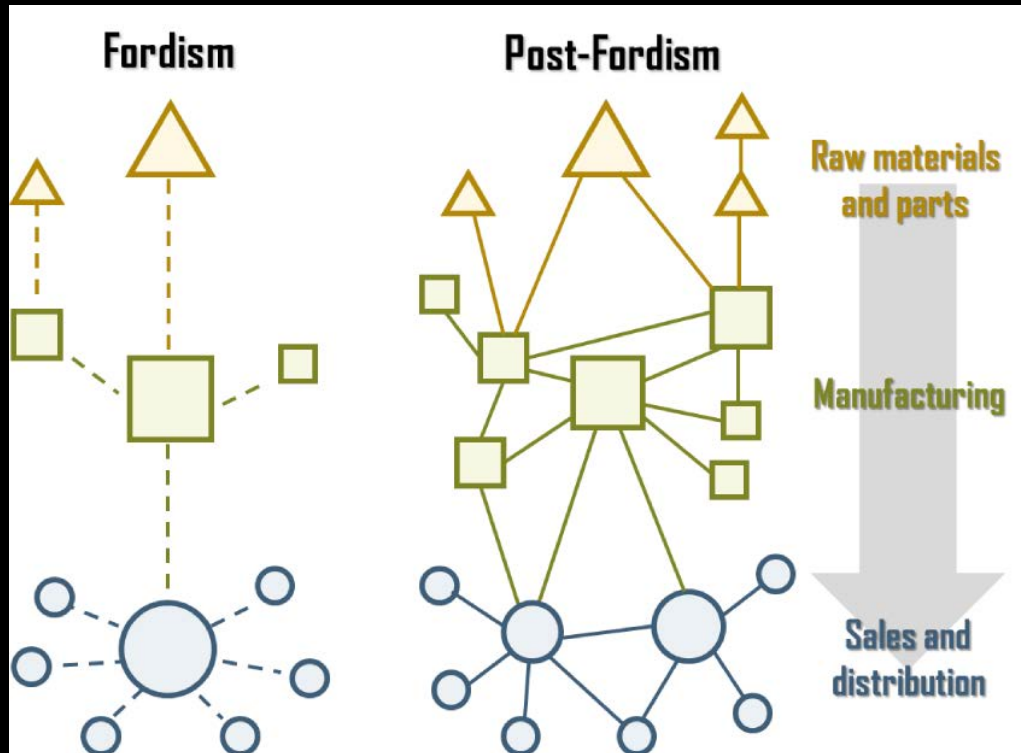
Source: CIA Factbook
Simran Khosla/ GlobalPost



Time-Space Compression(2) : Changes and Crises

- 1) Collapse of temporal and spatial **boundaries**
- 2) **Abstraction & fragmentation of time and space** (e.g. clock time, daylight saving time, computer real time)
 - **Time and Space dis-embedded, becoming empty, fluid and relativized**
 - **Subjectivity: Empty signs and nomads** (David Harvey) video examples (2 schizophrenia; a different concept: space-time)

CRISIS IN CAPITALISM: flexible accumulation and its worldwide influence



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IHDrFLrRB8>

Other types of crises: e.g. loss of “locality”

CHANGES IN REPRESENTATION

- different forms of fragmentation and order in **Modern Arts** (e.g. cubism, surrealism)
“between spatial fragmentation and construction of a highly ordered and rationalized world” (e.g. Kandinsky 280; next two slides)
- novel: **spatial form**
- film: montage

WASSILY KANDINSKY BLUE RIDER PERIOD (1911–1914)



Landscape With Two Poplars 1912



Squares with Concentric Circles,
1913



1913



Composition 6, 1913



Aquarell 6

WASSILY KANDINSKY BAUHAUS (1922–1933)



Small worlds I, 1922



Circles in a Circle, 1923



On White II, 1923



Several Circles, 1926



Soft Hard, 1927

DOREEN MASSEY

- Doreen Massey maintains this idea about time-space compression in her discussion of globalization and its effect on our society. Similar to Virilio, she states that because our world is "speeding up" and "spreading out", time-space compression is more prevalent than ever as internationalization takes place. Cultures and communities are merged during time-space compression due to rapid growth and change, as "layers upon layers" of histories fuse together to shift our ideas of what the identity of a "place" should be. (Wikipedia)

IDENTITY IN CONSUMER SPEED SOCIETY

- 1) volatility and ephemerality of fashions, products, production techniques,(285-
- 2) the 'throwaway' society (286) --transience and sensory overload
- 3) short-term planning --> schizophrenic mentality, addiction to work, etc.
- 4) manipulation of taste and opinion: "**Advertising** ...is increasingly geared to **manipulating desires and tastes through images** that may or may not have anything to do with the product to be sold."

Time-Space Compression

OUR experience of
time/space and identity

Cultural Representation

Capitalist Production and
Circulation



MAIN THEMES

- Postmodern City & Globalization
- Urban Flows & Dis/Connections
 - 【Urbanism as a Way of Life】
 - vs. 【History】 in Spaces and Places
 - 【Time-Space Compression & Family】 in Flows
- Global Flows &
 - 【Flâneurism】
 - 【Risk Society, Global Strangers & Connectivity】

【*Photo-Project due—1st draft 11/8*】

GLOSSARY

- Postmodern City: 3 G's and 1 P
- Globalization: 3 Theses
- Urbanism: A way of life caused by **the density, size and heterogeneity** of the population of a place.
- How these three terms are intensified by **flows and turned into multiple layers of network, multiple time-spaces, and multiple webs of relations**
- **Anomie**: a breakdown of standards and values or from a lack of purpose or ideals.
- Flow: A name for movements between relatively fixed nodes in networks, **flows can be of commodities, money, people, energy or even ideas.**
- Space of Flows vs. Space of Place
- Cities as sites of proximity and co-presence; with stretched connections and incessant flows; as nodes of incessant flows on local, regional, national and global levels

WORKS CITED

- David Harvey *The Condition of Postmodernity*.
- Gregory, Derek, et al, eds. *The Dictionary of Human Geography*. 5th Revised edition edition. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009. (T2)

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- 10. [Time Space Compression](#)
- 11. [World Commodity Map](#) Global Post.
- 13. 民80-90 台北都會人口變動陳郁芝。《工作—居住空間區位均衡性之研究 ~以台北都會區為例》。碩士論文。國立政治大學，2002: 46.
- 18. [Communication](#)
- 19. [Mediated Communication](#)