Part III

(Question 35)

ENDURING ISSUES ESSAY

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document. Keep in mind that the language and images used in a document may reflect the historical context of the time in which it was created.

***Directions*:** Read and analyze each of the five documents and write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details based on your knowledge of social studies and evidence from the documents.

An enduring issue is a challenge or problem that has been debated or discussed across time. An enduring issue is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success.

Task:

- Identify ***and*** explain an enduring issue raised by this set of documents
- Argue why the issue you selected is significant ***and*** how it has endured across time

In your essay, be sure to

- Identify the enduring issue based on a historically accurate interpretation of *at least* ***three*** documents
- Explain the issue using relevant evidence from *at least* ***three*** documents
- Argue that this is a significant issue that has endured by showing:
  - How the issue has affected people or has been affected by people
  - How the issue has continued to be an issue or has changed over time
- Include relevant outside information from your knowledge of social studies

In developing your answer to Part III, be sure to keep these explanations in mind:

Identify—means to put a name to or to name.

Explain—means to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show logical development or relationship of something.

Argue—means to provide a series of statements that provide evidence and reasons to support a conclusion.

Document 1

During the mid nineteenth century, defeating cholera [a waterborne illness] was of paramount importance to those responsible for the metropolis. Between 1831 and 1866, four separate epidemics took over forty thousand Londoners lives. Little was known about the cause of the disease at the time, as it was generally considered to be linked to London's foul air or miasma. The miasmatists* held sway until the truth about the cause of cholera, was conclusively proven by Robert Koch with his discovery of the cholera bacillus. This further scientific proof reinforced the theory put forward by Dr. John Snow that the disease was spread through ingesting soiled water, rather than inhaling foul air. Although the cause of cholera was a subject of debate, it was agreed that the polluted River Thames, where the people of London drew their drinking water from, was to blame. It was clear that something had to be done to address this issue, however, the disorganized state of local government within London prevented many schemes [plans] from coming to fruition [completion]. Local government was based around church parishes and the vested interests that held sway were rarely wise enough to see beyond the narrow interests of their local parish to the wider interests of London as a city itself. The Metropolitan Commission of Sewers Act 1848, pushed through by the health reformer Edwin Chadwick, tried in a limited way to instigate a London wide system of waste management. However it was never powerful or decisive enough to implement the changes that were necessary for a London wide programme of reform.

By 1850, population growth and the inception of the water closet [indoor toilet], popularized by the Great Exhibition in 1851, resulted in ineffective and overflowing household cesspools. Water closets were responsible for households producing nearly one hundred additional gallons of waste per day on average. In 1848, in order to eliminate this problem, the Metropolis Sewers Commission mandated cesspools and house drains be connected to sewers, which emptied, unfiltered, in to the River Thames. This worsened the problem and affectively turned London's main waterway in to an open sewer. . . .

Source: Chad Hansen, "The Big Thames Clean Up," Westminster City Archives online

* miasmatists: people who believed disease was spread through foul air

Document 2

. . . Nothing, however, has precipitated [caused] the water crisis more than three decades of breakneck industrial growth. China's economic boom has, in a ruthless symmetry, fueled an equal and opposite environmental collapse. In its race to become the world's next superpower, China is not only draining its rivers and aquifers [underground water sources] with abandon; it is also polluting what's left so irreversibly that the World Bank warns of "catastrophic consequences for future generations.". . .

The Yellow River's epic journey across northern China is a prism through which to see the country's unfolding water crisis. From the Tibetan nomads leaving their ancestral lands near the river's source to the "cancer villages" languishing [suffering] in silence near the delta, the Mother River puts a human face on the costs of environmental destruction. But it also shows how this emergency is shocking the government—and a small cadre of environmental activists—into action. The fate of the Yellow River still hangs in the balance. . . .

As an employee of Green Camel Bell, an environmental group in the western city of Lanzhou, Jiang [Lin, mother of the founder] is following up on a tip that the [paper] mill is dumping untreated chemical waste into a tributary of the Yellow River. There are hundreds of such factories around Lanzhou, a former Silk Road trading post that has morphed [changed] into a petrochemical hub. In 2006 three industrial spills here made the Yellow River run red. Another turned it white. This one is tainting the tributary a toxic shade of maroon. When Jiang gets back to the office, the GPS data will be emailed to Beijing and uploaded onto a Web-based "pollution map" for the whole world to see. . . .

Source: Brook Larmer, "Bitter Waters: Can China save the Yellow–its Mother River?" *National Geographic Magazine* online, May 2008

Document 3

Lyrics and Latrines

Feliciano dos Santos, lead singer of the band Massuko, is an influential environmentalist who worked to provide clean water to the village of Niassa, Mozambique.

. . . In 2000, Santos founded a nonprofit organization called Estamos, with the mission of providing clean water throughout Niassa by installing water pumps plus low-cost, sustainable sanitation facilities.

The project is succeeding. Villagers have installed thousands of "EcoSan" portable bathrooms. These facilities are brick-lined to keep bacteria from infiltrating the groundwater supply. After six months of composting, the contents become fertilizer that farmers can safely use in their fields. For the first time, Niassa has a rudimentary [basic] sanitation system.

In addition, Santos is using music to teach people better hygiene, or the practice of keeping clean to prevent disease. One of Massukos's greatest hits is called "Tissambe Manja," meaning "Wash Our Hands." "Clean water is a basic human right, yet so many people don't have it," says Santos. "I'm using my music to be the voice of people who have no voice."

Source: Andrew J. Milson, *Global Issues: Health*, National Geographic Learning, Cengage Learning, 2014

Document 4

Grabbing Water From Future Generations

Suresh Ponnusami sat back on his porch by the road south of the Indian textile town of Tirupur. He was not rich, but for the owner of a two-acre farm in the backwoods of a developing country he was doing rather well. He had a TV, a car, and a maid to bring him drinks and ensure his traditional white Indian robes were freshly laundered every morning.

The source of his wealth, he said, was a large water reservoir beside his house. And as we chatted, a tanker drew up on the road. The driver dropped a large pipe from his vehicle into the reservoir and began sucking up the contents.

Ponnusami explained: "I no longer grow crops, I farm water. The tankers come about ten times a day. I don't have to do anything except keep my reservoir full." To do that, he had drilled boreholes deep into the rocks beneath his fields, and inserted pumps that brought water to the surface 24 hours a day. He sold every tanker load for about four dollars. "It's a good living, and it's risk-free," he said. "While the water lasts.". . .

We are emptying these giant natural reservoirs far faster than the rains can refill them. The water tables are falling, the wells have to be dug ever deeper, and the pumps must be ever bigger. We are mining water now that should be the birthright of future generations.

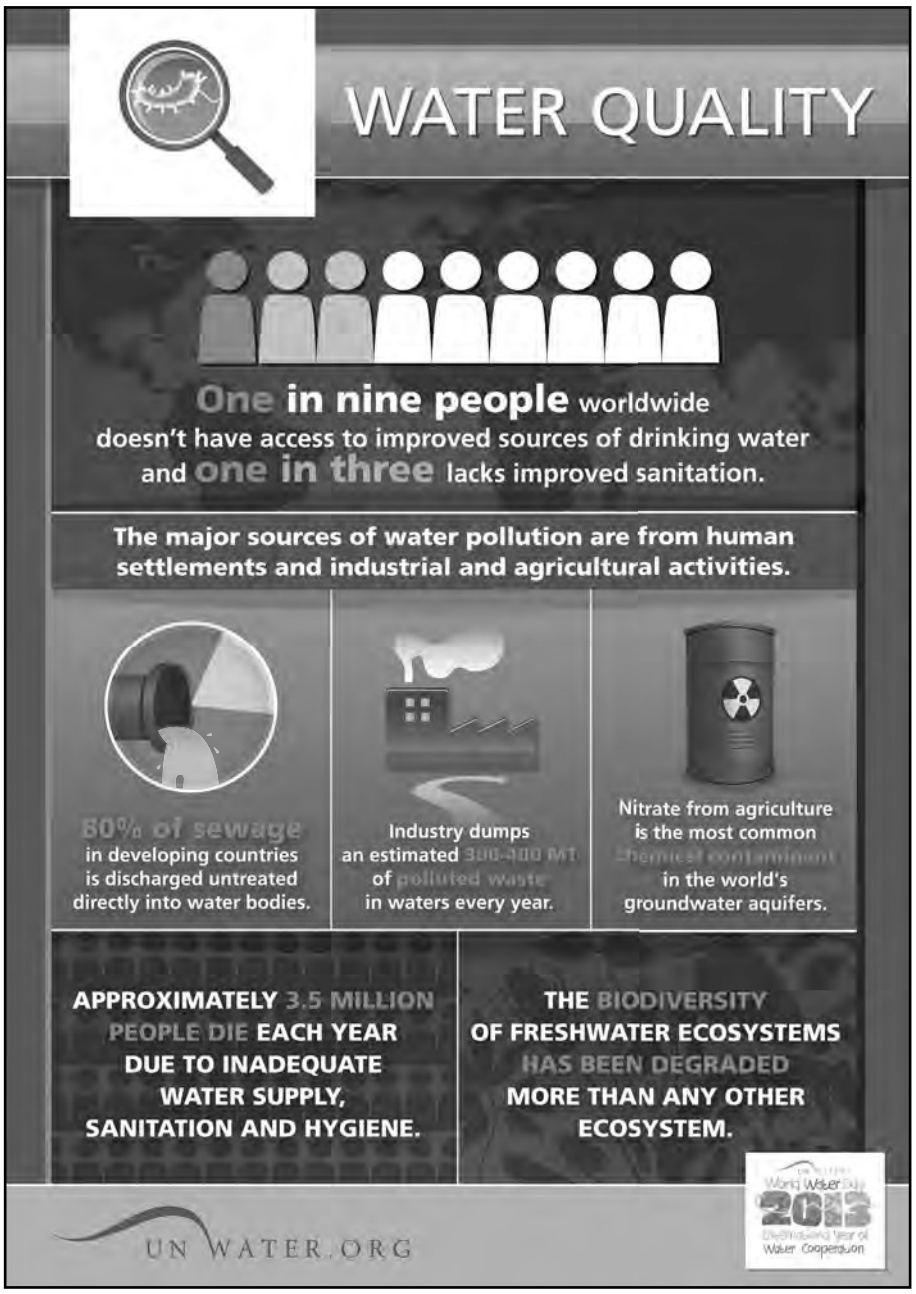
In India, the water is being taken for industry, for cities, and especially for agriculture. Once a country of widespread famine, India has seen an agricultural revolution in the past half century. India now produces enough food to feed all its people; the fact that many Indians still go hungry today is an economic and political puzzle, because the country exports rice.

But that may not last. Researchers estimate that a quarter of India's food is irrigated with underground water that nature is not replacing. The revolution is living on borrowed water and borrowed time. Who will feed India when the water runs out?

Nobody knows how much water is buried beneath our feet. But we do know that the reserves are being emptied. The crisis is global and growing, but remains largely out of sight and out of mind. . . .

Source: Fred Pearce, "Grabbing Water From Future Generations," *When the Rivers Run Dry*, Beacon Press December, 2006

Document 5



Source: UN Water Day 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation, *United Nations Water* online (adapted)

* MT is metric tons