

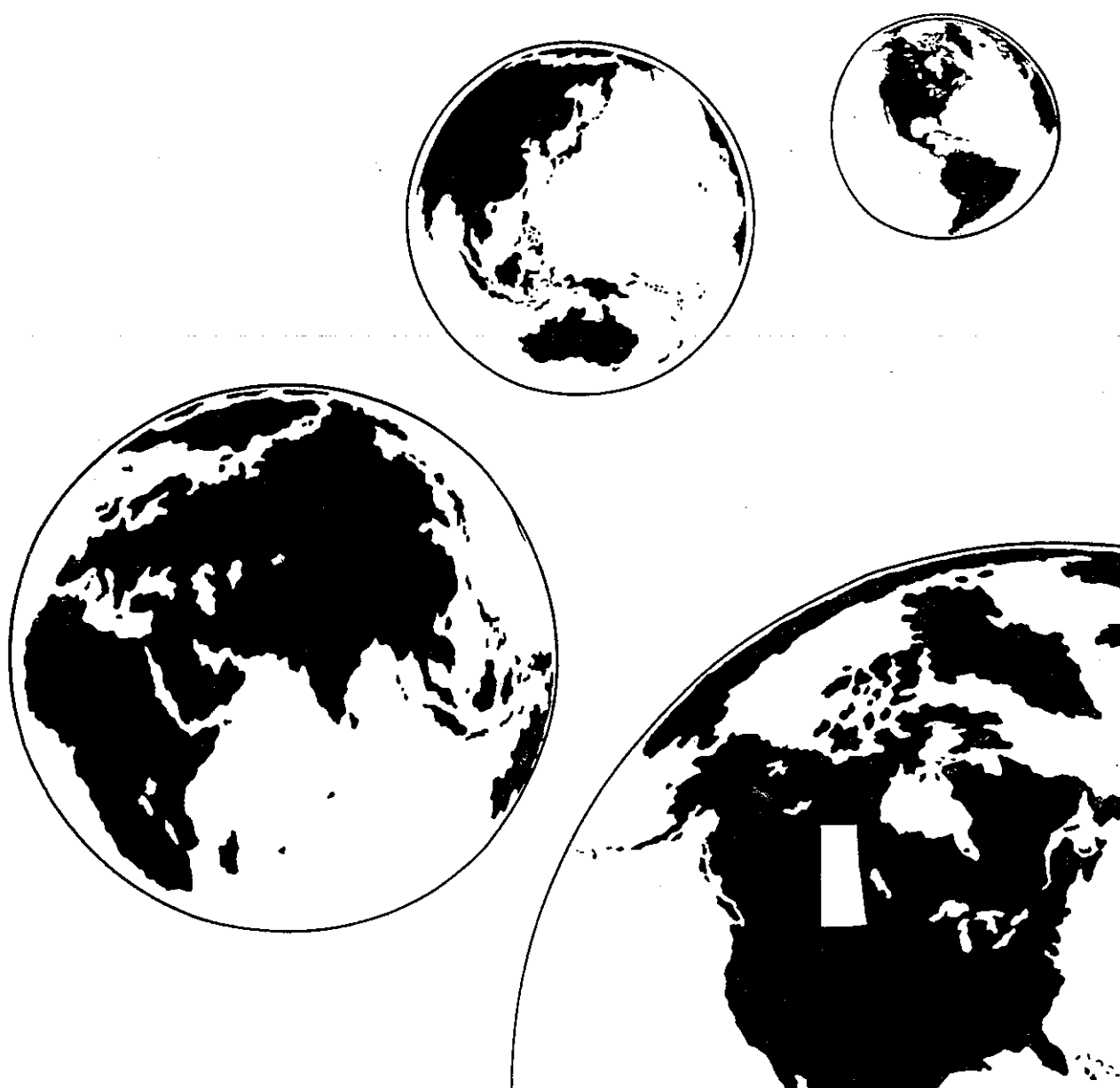


Saskatchewan  
Education

# **Social Studies 20**

## **World Issues**

### **A Curriculum Guide**



September 1994

**Social Studies 20**  
**World Issues**  
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**Saskatchewan Education,  
Training and Employment  
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# A Summary of World Issues From the Social Studies Perspective and From the History Perspective

## Unit One

**Social Studies:** The central concept of this unit is human rights. The objective is to give students an opportunity to consider which obligations, in the form of human rights, individuals and groups should collectively assume for each other.

**History:** In this, unit students will investigate the consequences of World War I and the political responses to the destruction of traditional order and values. The rise of totalitarian regimes exemplified this disillusionment.

## Unit Two

**Social Studies:** The central concept of this unit is population. This unit is a study of the conflict between population size and its burden on the environment. Students are introduced to the problems of population growth. They will examine the situation facing the world today and the forces which contribute to the rate of growth of a population in order to consider the social ramifications of population size.

**History:** After World War I, no nation wanted to experience another world war and all sought to achieve national security and international peace. The forces of nationalism, ideology, and economics all made the achievement of those goals unattainable resulting in World War II.

## Unit Three

**Social Studies:** The central concept of this unit is the environment. Students will examine the conflict between protecting the habitat and satisfying human needs. The implications of the various alternative approaches to the environment will be analyzed.

**History:** The decline of the European powers combined with a growing desire for self-determination resulted in the end of colonial empires. The desire for self-determination by distinct populations continues to affect both national and international politics.

## Unit Four

**Social Studies:** The central concepts of this unit are production and distribution. Students will consider the conflict between the rights of those who produce wealth and those who have great need for it.

**History:** The emergence of two superpowers, during and after World War II, each representing a competing ideology, is the central focus of this unit. The global implications of this rivalry are also investigated.

## Unit Five

**Social Studies:** The central concept of this unit is conflict. The dialectic in this unit is between the need for security found in some kind of international organization and the need for sovereignty and the power to defend it. The issue is how to find collective security without sacrificing individual and national autonomy.

**History:** This unit addresses a number of the issues which dominate contemporary affairs. The dialectical reasoning approach is used to address such issues as the environment, population growth, human rights, and conflict.