



China Globalization 2015

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Abstract

In this paper I will discuss my newfound knowledge of the world's diverse cultures, environments, practices, and values. I will evaluate my experiences with global systems, institutions, and worldwide businesses. I will demonstrate how my experiences abroad have affected me and my outlook on life. I will describe how my home community impacted my experience abroad and how the community abroad has affected me.

For the first time in my life, I was the minority. I was so accustomed to being in the United States where the majority people look like me, speak like me, and act like me. Being in China really challenged so many of my preconceptions and opened my eyes to worldwide diversity. When I left for China, I didn't know what to expect. Researching and learning about a country is monumentally different than physically being there. No amount of research could have prepared me for the extreme cultural differences. From the moment I stepped off the plane in Hong Kong, I knew I was in for the adventure of my life.

The tours, business visits, and lectures really taught me about the culture and environment in China. Getting to learn about China firsthand was mind blowing to me. I really enjoyed all of the different locations we were able to visit. Such as, Hong Kong, Zhuhai, Macau, Guangdong, and Beijing. Each different place we went showed me different aspects of culture in China. It was nice to be able to experience different locations and areas. Walking through the street markets, touring the Great Wall of China, tasting all of the food, and taking classes all really made my trip incredible. I was able to develop such a better understanding because each different place we went offered traditional and modern twists of Chinese culture.

In so many ways, China is so different but yet similar to the United States. I have learned that no matter where you are in the world, humans as a whole have the same core values in life. All of these values drive culture, environments, and practices. Depending on your location and experiences in life, variations in values begin to shape the way you live. Getting to know the students, I was surprised to learn that they are not much different than you and I. Their beliefs and practices might be different than ours here in the United States, but deep down, they hold the same values, dreams, and aspirations.

Interacting with the students in China really gave me a strong grasp on the similarities and differences in their values. They taught me so much about their beliefs, practices, families, and everyday lives. I learned that not many of them practice or claim a religion. I learned that they place very high values on family and love that are much higher than ours. I learned that their culture and values are altogether more conservative than ours. They place high values on dressing modestly, despite the scorching temperatures outside. They act very polite and respectful to others and especially in public. Spending with the students, made me wish that the United States could adopt the kindness of the Chinese culture.

The students did everything they possibly could to ensure that we were happy, safe, and enjoying every experience. To me, the Chinese culture seems much more selfless than the United States culture. During my trip in China, I unfortunately developed a very bad upper respiratory infection. Although being sick there was the last thing I wanted, I was able to experience the deep kindheartedness of our buddies' values that not everyone got to understand. Every one of the Chinese buddies took the time to check on me and make sure that I was okay. They would bring me food and medicine and some

offered to stay back with me while the rest of the group engaged in their activities for the day. They would constantly WeChat me to make sure I didn't need anything and to check to make sure I was doing well. After a few days of being sick, my buddy Yolanda convinced me to go to the emergency room. They wanted to help me as much as they possibly could and they made me feel so safe and comfortable. To me, this really demonstrated how kindhearted and selfless they are.

In a sense, I was lucky to get to experience the healthcare system in China because it really demonstrated to me the differences in global systems, institutions, and relationships of power between China and the United States. When I arrived at the hospital in China, I instantly knew that it would be an experience I would never forget. As soon as I walked in I was appalled. There were hundreds of ill people walking and laying around. We had to buy face masks because it wasn't safe to be there without them. As we continued to get further into the hospital the images increasingly got more disturbing. We walked past a room filled with beds and sick people all sharing the same space. Everywhere I looked, I saw people throwing up, coughing, sneezing, and crying. I saw babies with IVs and broken limbs. They were desperate for medical attention. It was absolutely horrifying.

After I got to see the doctor, I was ordered a blood test. I had to stand in line outside a window while the Nurse drew everyone's blood. When I finally got to the front of the line, I had to just put my arm into the window and get my blood drawn around hundreds of other people. It was so shockingly different than the way blood is drawn in America.

As shocking as my experience in the hospital was, I have grown to understand that because of the system, I was helped quickly and efficiently. I understood the essentiality of hospital organization there. If they had the same organization as hospitals in America, the quantity of patients would be so much lower and many parents would go unhealed. Having rooms that fit a mass quantity of people ensured that as many patients as possible would be helped. Because the number of people in China is much higher than in America, Chinese institutions need to find a way to adapt and accommodate the enormous quantities. It is easy to point fingers and take pride in the way we do things in America. It is easy to look at ourselves as a model for the way the rest of the world should operate but the truth is, many of our systems would never work in other countries.

The most obvious way that the decisions made in the United States affects China is through trade, exports, and imports. I would like to point out something that I noticed that is less obvious. When I was in Beijing at the Donghuamen Night Market, I noticed a large number of people rummaging through the garbage cans and begging people for food. It was not a huge surprise to me because many places in Beijing were like that. As I began to try different foods and walk around, something happened that absolutely saddened and shocked me. A blind disabled man and a woman approached me and asked me if they could have a little bit of my water from my bottle. They pulled out a dirty

broken bowl that looked like it came from the trash. My eyes instantly filled with tears and in that moment, I learned the true meaning of poverty. I realized that the pollution in the water made it so unsafe to drink, that being poor in China was literally life threatening. That moment truthfully changed so many of my opinions and thoughts. I started to pay more attention to the aspects of poverty in China.

Whether it was walking down the streets, riding the subway, or taking boat tours; instances poverty were everywhere. I have never seen poverty the way I did when I was in China. So many times during the trip, I experienced the shocking uneven distribution of wealth. Unlike the United States, there seemed to be no middle class in China, few were very rich and many were very poor. Living in poverty in the United States is much less harsh than in China because the U.S. government aids a large portion of the country. In China, the government offers some subsidization to assist people, however; the massive quantity of people makes it close to impossible to aid everyone. I believe that the lack of employment opportunities, has a large impact on the number of people in poverty.

I started to realize how ignorant I was to the economic impact on the world. I thought I understood the meaning of poverty and what it looked like but I was wrong. All of my assumptions were incorrect. I never really realized how much environment, culture, and government impacted living standards in the world. These experiences in China, demonstrated how much the decisions we all make widely impact the world. Before this trip, I took a lot of things for granted. Now, I realize how much we waste. Even the small things we do can have such a monumental impact. When I watch the water drain down the sink, I stop and think about how many people could have used that water, how many people die because they don't have access to clean water, and we just waste it. We watch it go down the drain, and we don't think about conserving because we don't need to. This is just one of the millions of examples of how every single decision we make can impact someone else in the world.



This picture is important to me because it was the day I met my three amazing buddies. Jerol, Yolanda, and Sophie. They were all so extremely excited to meet me. They told me how honored they were to have the chance to be my buddies. Out of the entire trip, being able to have them as my buddies was the most significant part. They may not know this, but they taught me so much about the culture, history, and all around how to be a better a better person. They were altogether the kindest people I have ever met in my life. They went out of their way to make sure I was happy and comfortable the entire trip. These three girls made such a huge impact on my life and I will never forget them.



This picture is so significant to me because it demonstrates new friendships and adventures. This was the day my new friends and I went to the Great Wall of China. Before I went to China, I was very afraid of heights but if I would have let my fear get in the way, I would have missed out on so many amazing things. This day, we had to take a bus, the subway, and a train along with countless miles of walking to get to the Great Wall. Once we got to the Great Wall, we explored the entire North side. We walked to the tallest tower on the Great Wall and the farthest tower. That day we walked over twenty miles.