

Student Worksheet 2.4

Activity 2.4 The Nation State and Global Linkages of Citizenship

As you read through the readings suggested by your instructor, take notes that will help you prepare for an in-class discussion. (See Activity 1.2 for suggestions on taking good notes.) The following is a list of questions that will be part of the in-class discussion on the nation-state (a community to which you belong), free trade, and the linkages between a nation and supranational entities.

- What is the nature of "community?"
- Is the nation-state really a community?
- Is there such a thing as global community?
- How are you aware in your daily life that you belong to this community called "the nation" (alternatively: your nation of origin)?
- What do you know about free trade?
- Is free trade good or bad in your opinion, and why?
- According to Greider, what are the dangers of free trade and economic globalization? Who wins and who loses? How could it harm people's standard of living? How could it undermine democracy? What alternative vision of global community does Greider suggest?

After the in-class discussion, you will write a 2-3 page, reflective paper as a homework assignment. Choose one of the questions below as the focus of your paper:

(1) Kennedy points out a number of "international" trends that challenge the power of the nation-state; Greider also challenges the nation-state, but in a very different way. Drawing on the readings, identify and describe concrete examples for each of these assertions.

(2) Drawing on the readings and the class discussions and activities, form your own opinion on the isolationism vs. free trade debate. What do you think are the benefits, for a nation-state of being part of the global community? What are the drawbacks?