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Capitalism is part of the foundation of the United States. As its dominance spread around the world, challenges to the system abated. But recent historical events, including the economic crash of 2008, have resurrected criticisms of capitalism. During the 2016 and 2020 presidential campaigns, the democratic socialist senator Bernie Sanders gained a surprising amount of support. The viewpoints in this resource address important arguments surrounding capitalism, such as whether capitalism is currently in crisis, potential alternatives to replace it, and whether capitalism is inherently unfair.

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What factors lead a people to commit the unthinkable against an entire population? What constitutes genocide? Can it happen in a democracy? Perhaps surprisingly, genocide continues to occur in the present day in places around the world. Why can't it be stopped? The enlightening viewpoints in this resource debate the finer points of genocide, including the murkier areas of mass brutality, ethnic cleansing, and war crimes. Students will gain a deep understanding of the topic through analysis of genocides throughout history.

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The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, was established by several western nations after World War II to create a collective security defense against Soviet aggression. Continuing long after the breakup of the Soviet Union, this peacetime military alliance has grown since its inception, now counting 30 member states from North America and Europe. Providing historical context and current examples, the viewpoints in this resource explore and debate NATO's relevance and effectiveness in a world vastly different than the one the organization was conceived in.

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Nuclear tension seemed a thing of the past, but recent events have brought the nuclear threat to a point of crisis. Though the subject is not regularly at the top of the daily news, the truth is that more countries than ever before have access to nuclear weapons. Some, such as Russia and North Korea, are led by volatile and unpredictable men, so the threat is real. Should anyone, including the United States, possess nuclear weapons? Can these weapons ever be eliminated? Is there a significant chance of nuclear war?

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# Discussion guestions to foster critical thinking

- Annotated list of organizations to contact
- Periodical bibliography for each chapter
- Bibliography of books
- Subject index

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It used to be that climate issues remained the domain of scientists, but such boundaries have been eliminated. Like other branches of science, climate science has turned political. Hard facts are ignored, and warnings from experts are shrugged off as opinion. Meanwhile the planet suffers. Rising temperatures, low water supply, and extreme weather events threaten the lives of Earth's inhabitants. The viewpoints in this resource address many aspects of this topic, including how well our political systems are equipped to deal with climate change, other options for solving climate-related problems, and how climate relates to social justice.

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In recent years, high-profile whistleblowers like the NSA's Edward Snowden and Facebook's Frances Haugen have stirred up plenty of controversy, forcing Americans to judge whether these people are heroes or traitors. What causes some people to make the difficult step of blowing the whistle, and should they be rewarded or punished? Should they be protected from the repercussions of powerful corporations, police forces, and governments? The diverse viewpoints in this resource use a wide array of contemporary examples to examine this complex issue.

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