

Forces Influencing Globalization and Diffusion

- Space-time Compression
- Distance Decay/ Friction of Distance

Space- Time Compression

- Technology that reduces the time it takes for something to reach another place
 - Communication (telegraph, telephones, fax machines, Internet)
 - Travel (rail, cars, trains, jets)
- Reduces the perceived distance- the real distance remains the same.

FALLING COSTS OF COMMUNICATIONS

1500-1840



Best average speed of horse-drawn coaches and sailing ships was 10 mph

1850-1930



Steam trains averaged 65 mph
Steam ships averaged 36 mph

1950s



Propeller aircraft
300-400 mph

1960s



Jet passenger aircraft
500-700 mph

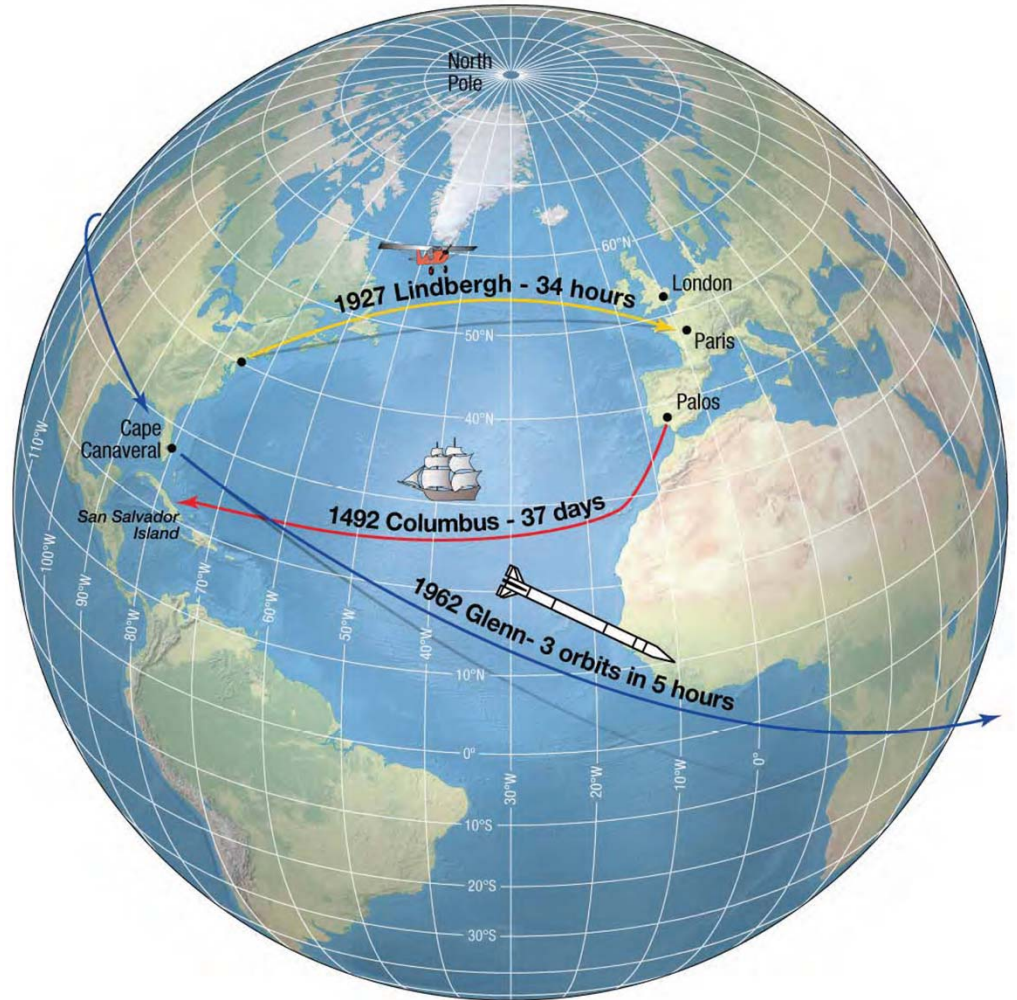
1990s

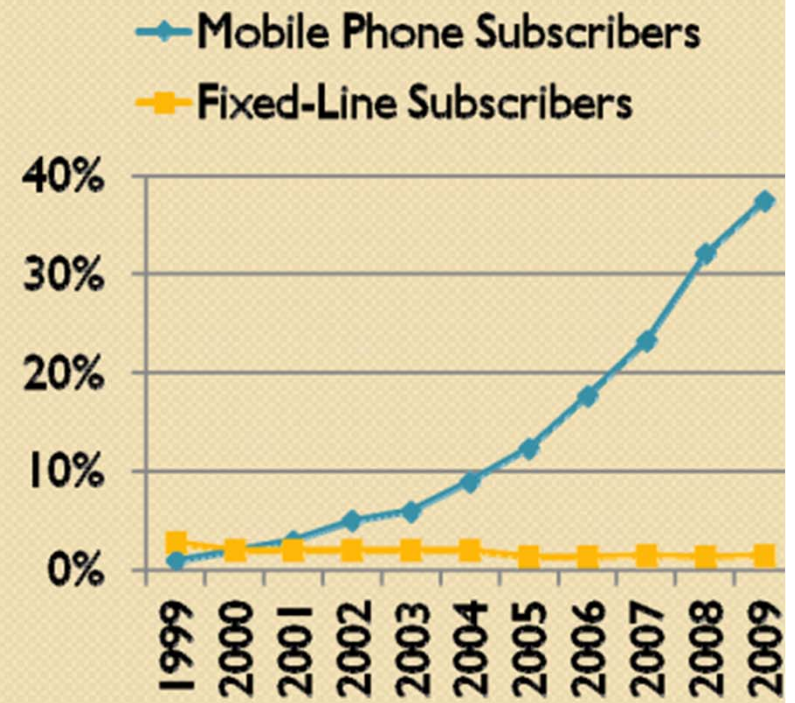
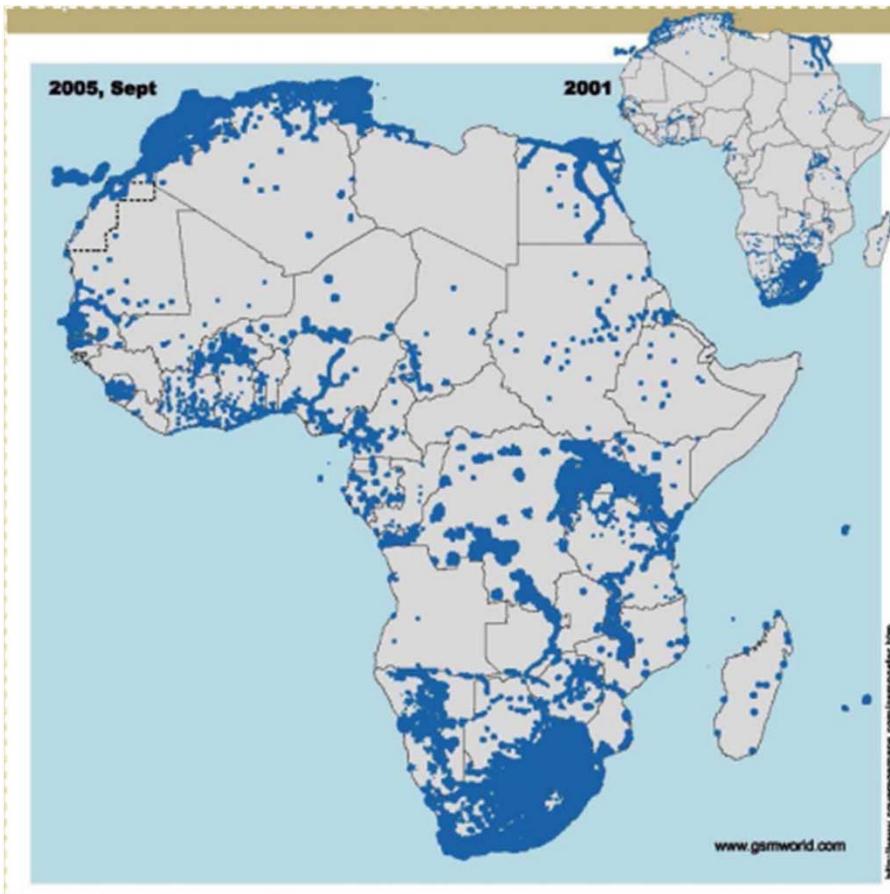
Cyberspace
information in seconds

Time/space convergence affects some places more than others. It depends on the connections

Morse code
to telephone
to satellite
to fibre optics/
internet
and
broadband

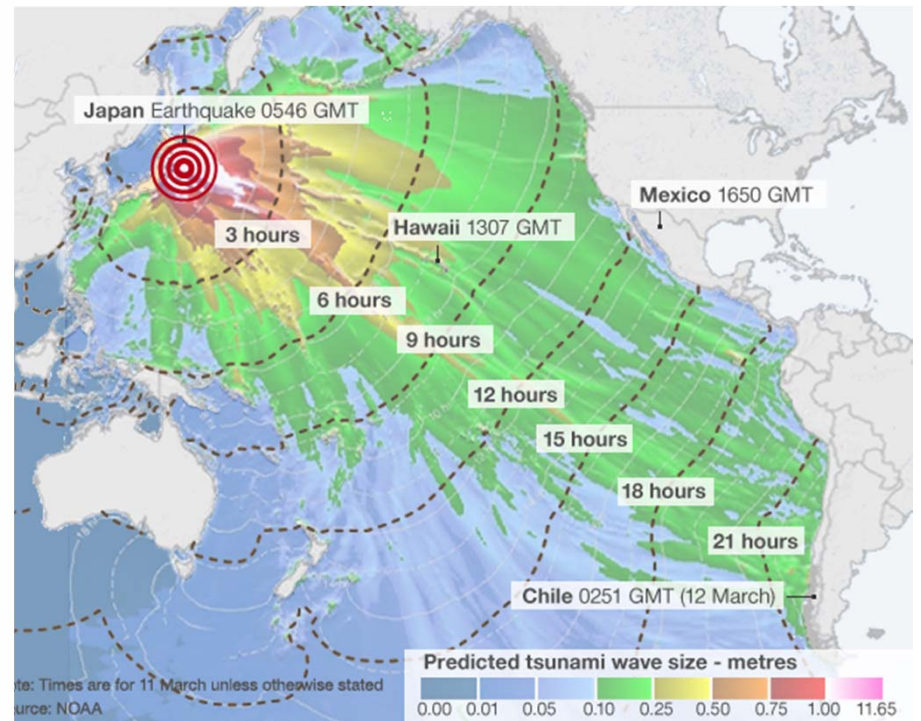
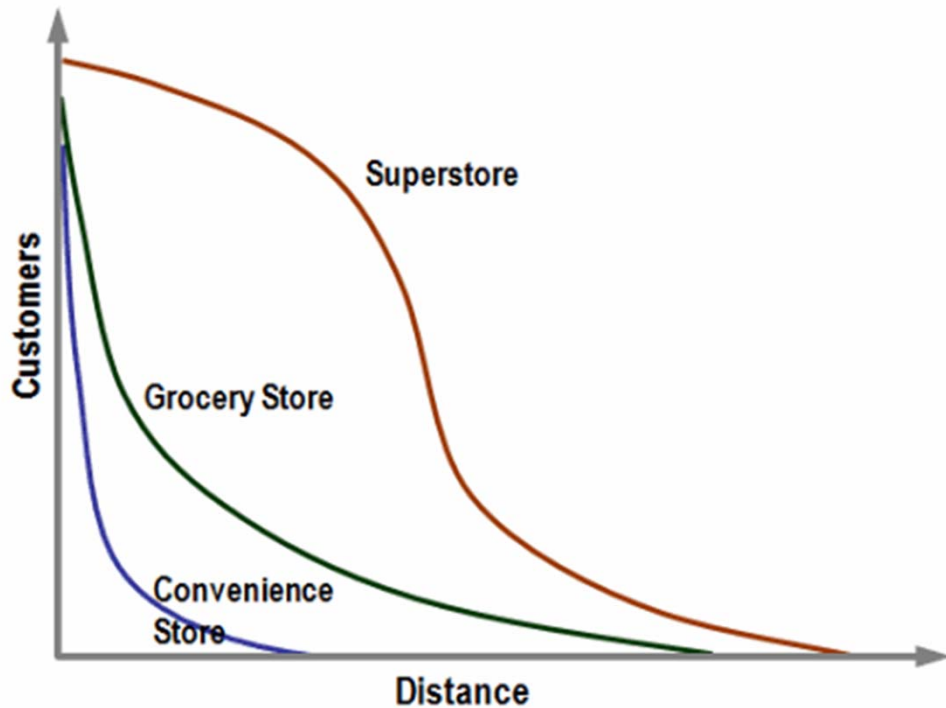
REDUCING TIME LAPSE OF INFORMATION TRANSMISSION





Distance Decay

- The farther away someone is from you, the less likely you two are to interact.
 - Contact diminishes with the increase in distance
 - Friction of Distance



Time Zones and Longitude

- 1878 standardization was crucial for train schedules
 - Canadian Sir Sanford Fleming proposed a system of 24 worldwide time zones- each spaced 15 deg. of longitude apart
- 1884 Prime Meridian created in Greenwich, England
 - Established the 24 time zones based on the Prime Meridian.
 - Not all countries switched immediately- U.S. in 1918
- Modern day variations:
 - China should have 5 time zones, but only uses one
 - Australia, Nova Scotia, and several SW Asian and South Asia countries utilize half-hour time zones.
 - Alaska has it's own time zone.

Time Zones and Longitude

