POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION – SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Definition: Schools, arts, medical, and religious organizations need to be reestablished after a conflict. The social groups most affected by the conflict need help to reestablish their social and cultural institutions, and the means of bringing about a reconciliation among competing groups will be important to achieving a lasting peace.

1. What are the major groups in Afghanistan, and what are their determining characteristics (language, religion, etc.)? What would each group want in their schools, religious organizations, medical care, and artistic expression?

2. How would you balance the need for individual expression in each group with the need to create a greater understanding among groups? For example, how would you balance the need to have children learn in their own language and the right of people to attend their own place of worship with the need for people of different groups to live together and understand one another?

3. Why is the formation of schools for girls such an important issue in Afghanistan? How is women's education related to economic growth and political development?

4. What has the international community done in reestablishing social and cultural institutions (schools, arts, religious organizations) in your country? What countries/organizations have been involved?

5. How successful do you think reconstruction efforts have been in this area (social and cultural institutions)? What factors contribute to or limit their success?

6. If you could suggest **THREE** changes or courses of action, what would you do and how would you do it? What kind of support (political, financial, organizational) would you need to be successful?

Some websites that may help you:
- cultural heritage: http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/2/
- schools: http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/afghanistan/schools.html
- attacks on schools: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-18118818
- religious schools: http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=82963
- libraries: http://www.ri.org/story.php?ID=81   and   http://uanews.org/node/19718