SOCIAL CHANGE (PRACTICE)

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

ACTIVITIES. READ THE FOLLOWING TEXT. DISCUSS WITH YOUR PARTNERS (WORK IN GROUP) AND REPLY THE QUESTIONS AT THE END.

The *Jyllands-Posten* **Muhammad cartoons controversy** began after editorial cartoons depicting the Islamic prophet Muhammad were published in the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* on September 30, 2005. Danish Muslim organizations staged protests in response. As the controversy has grown, some or all of the cartoons have been reprinted in newspapers in more than fifty other countries, leading to violent protests, particularly in the Islamic world.

Critics claim that the cartoons are culturally insulting, Islamophobic, blasphemous, and intended to humiliate a marginalized Danish minority. Supporters of the cartoons claim they illustrate an important issue and their publication exercises the right of free speech. They also claim that there are similar cartoons about other religions, arguing that Islam and its followers have not been targeted in a discriminatory way.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen has described the controversy as Denmark's worst international crisis since World War II.

Wikipedia encyclopedia: "Jyllands-Posten Muhammad cartoons controversy". In http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jyllands-Posten_Muhammad_cartoons_controversy

QUESTIONS FOR THE DISCUSSION:
1. How was before the Cartoons the "Western context"? Any events interrelated to the "cartoons controversy"?
2. What is the "new thing" included in the "cartoon controversy"?
3. Where are the changes taking place? Economy, culture, policies, society…?
4. What kind of change is? Type?
5. What kind of "agents" are participating in the change?