GLOBALIZATION: THE FACTS*

CORPORATE POWER

Transnational corporations (TNCs) have almost total control over the process of 'globalization' - their grip is tighter here than at a national or local level.

- 2/3 of international trade is accounted for by just 500 corporations.
- 40% of the trade they control is between different parts of the same TNC.
- Of the world’s 100 largest economies, 50 are TNCs.
- The 10 largest TNCs have a total income greater than that of 100 of the world’s poorest countries.
- Many TNCs have larger corporate sales than some developed countries.

DRIVING GROWTH

International trade is expanding faster than the world’s economy - at the moment. This means that trade is argued to be one of the main ‘engines’ of economic growth.

- International trade has grown 12-fold in the post-War period and is expected to grow 6% annually for the next 10 years.
- In 1947 the average trade tariff on manufactured imports was 47%; by 1980 it was only 6%; it is set to fall to just 3%.

BUT……

- Since 1973 growth has slowed as trade has accelerated. Both the absolute importance of international trade and its novelty are often exaggerated.
- The total value of foreign trade was little more than a quarter of total output (GDP) in the Western hemisphere between 1980 and 1989.
- In 17 countries for which there are data, exports as a share of GDP were 14.5% in 1993, not much above the level (12.9%) 80 years earlier in 1913.

*source The New Internationalist magazine, volume 296,
Corporate Control of global commerce and policy is accelerating at an unprecedented rate. Laws that protect the environment and human dignity are being undermined by the role of undemocratic World Trade Organization (WTO) and other corporate controlled bodies.

So far, response to the rise of corporate power has consisted of reacting to meetings and decisions once they’ve set. A global coalition of unprecedented diversity, size, and cohesion is needed to challenge the corporate rule.

Conference Goals

1. To provide an experience where people can come together to achieve a deeper understanding of how they are involved in and influence the process of corporate globalization. This will unite and empower people to demand their rights and those of their brothers and sisters all over an increasingly corporate world.

2. To build the youth movement and promote intergenerational solidarity.

3. To understand and share in the experiences of people working in their communities to overcome the international effects of corporate globalization.

4. To provide trainings, strategy sessions, discussions, and networking opportunities for people to help build a lasting movement, in addition to speakers and panel discussions.

5. To provide a forum for the training, planning, and networking of groups mobilizing for mass convergences, including planning for the FTAA “Summit of the Americas” to be held in Quebec City, Canada, April 20-22,2001.

What is Happening?

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Why Gather?

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Featured Speakers/Panelists

Chol Soon Rhie
Director of the Korean Women Workers Associations United since 1995. Prior to being director, she was a coordinator for the Committee for Asian Women.

Kevin Danaher
Co-founder and Director of Public Education for Global Exchange. Global Exchange is a non-profit research, education, and action center dedicated to promoting people-to-people ties around the world.

Ignacio Ibarra
Sin Fronteras and Border Agricultural Workers Project (BWAP). Sin Fronteras is a non-profit organization founded in 1983 to help farmworkers organize for economic justice.

Njoki Njoroge Njehû
Director of 50 Years Is Enough: US Network for Global Economic Justice. This organization’s goals are to reduce the power and influence of the IMF and the World Bank in the lives of peoples, communities, and countries of the Global South.

Raquel Sancho
Program Director, Santa Clara Center for Occupational Safety and Health, a non-profit, community-based organization helping workers to empower themselves and to organize for economic justice & humane working conditions.

Amy Goodman
Co-host of Pacifica Radio’s daily news magazine, Democracy Now! She has reported from Israel and the Occupied territories, Cuba, Mexico, Haiti and this year became the first journalist ever to interview US citizen Lori Berenson, imprisoned in Peru.

Dr. Vandana Shiva
Physicist, ecologist, activist, editor, and author. In India she has established Navdanya, a movement for biodiversity conservation and farmers’ rights.

Tom Hansen
Mexico Solidarity Network, a coalition of over 80 organizations struggling for human rights, economic justice and democracy in the United States and Mexico.

Willie Begay
Helping with the resistance to forced relocation of the elders and families of the Sovereign Dineh Nation by the U.S. Government.

The Coalition for Economic Justice

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Registration

Name (Individual or Group)

Address

City

State

Phone

Fax

Email

How many people will be attending?

Which days do you plan to attend?

Thursday, March 8th

Friday, March 9th

Saturday, March 10th

Sunday, March 11th

Will you be needing lodging?

Yes

No

If you need lodging, for how many people?

You can also get more information and register over the internet at:
http://powerful.as/people
or at
http://www.colorado.edu/StudentGroups/summit