Global Power Structure

MNCs (Multi National Corporations)

Goal: Environment for Profit

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G(8) or 20

Governments of largest industrial countries

Function: support goals of MNCs

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International Organizations

World Bank, International Monetary:

Function: “developmental” loans

World Trade Organization (WTO) NAFTA Tribunal

Function: created profitable environment

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International Agreements

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) General Agreement on

Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

Function: rules of global system “free trade,” “financial liberalization”

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Third World Elites

Leaders of third world countries that have been “approved”

Function: support interests of MNCs and First World

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US Military/National Militaries

Function: enforcement

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First World Corporate Media

Function: distraction and stupification

I. Power structure = Neo-Colonialism aka Economic Imperialism

A. Goal: create social conditions for maximum profit taking for MNCs

1. cheap natural resources

2. cheap labor

3. open markets: no domestic protection

4. unregulated investment opportunities

B. Ideology

1. free market capitalism

2. global free trade

C. Means

1. Breakdown of colonialism and “friendly” TW elites

a. economic aid

b. military aid

c. interventions: covert and overt

d. historically these elites are dictators

e. example: Chile, Indonesia, Congo, Iran

2. Put country in debt

a. “developmental” loans

i. countries have been exploited

ii. decolonization

politically independent

economically dependent

economic crisis 1970s

iii. governments accept loans

b. beneficiaries

i. elite

ii. military

ii. export infrastructure (roads, dams, bridges, harbors)

3. Demand “structural adjustment plans”

a. privatize profitable industries

i. eliminate protectionist laws: ownership, investment, profit

ii. ownership to MNCs

b. privatize government services

i. water

ii. transportation

iii. fire, police, education

iv. media

v. ownership to MNCs

c. deregulation

i. limit government regulatory function

ii. health and safety, environment

iii. self-regulating market

d. export crops

i. “cash” crops

ii. pesticides

iii. fertilizer

iv. machinery

e. no subsidies, price controls, tariffs, non-tariff barriers

f. accept intellectual property rights

g. user fees: education and health

4. Create environment for sweatshops

a. no unions or labor organizers

b. no OSHA

c. no environmental laws

d. low wages

e. export processing zones

5. Accept decisions of WTO and NAFTA Tribunals

a. decisions regarding “trade” disputes (incl “non-tariff barriers”)

i. environmental regulations

ii. OSHA

iii. professional standards

iv. minimum wage

b. secret hearings

c. no conflict of interest rules

d. no appeal

<http://fair.org/extra-online-articles/tpp-the-largest-corporate-power-grab-youve-never-heard-of/>

6. Military

1. largest institution
2. control population
3. US military and national militaries

i. training

ii. weapons

iii. direct interventions

E. Consequences: Growing Inequality

1. inequality

1. poverty
2. hunger
3. disease

5. environmental destruction

6. Planet of Slums

7. conflict

F. Resistance

1. Popular rejection of trade agreements
2. Election of populist anti-neoliberal leaders
3. Latin America: nations cooperating with each other

4. Peasant movements: Brazil

5. Worker movements: The Take Argentina

6. “Maoist Rebels/Terrorists” India