I. Neoliberalism

A. Dominant ideology, policies and practices shaping global and American society.

It has become “hegemonic”

1. world is process of natural and inevitable transformation: globalization

a. an integrated global system

b. global village

2. process is natural and inevitable: social evolution

a. end point: utopian capitalist world system

b. model: U.S.

***1.”Social Evolution” emerged as a theory with the Great Transformation.***

***a. it involves a misunderstanding of evolution***

***b. ideologically biased understanding of social change***

***c. it is ethnocentric***

***2. Utopian capitalist world system modeled on the U.S. is contradicted by the***

***model, the U.S., increasing inequality, and throughout the world.***

***3. “natural process” ignores the reality that the “world” has been shaped by powerful actors, during colonialism, the colonial empires, and presently, large mncs, first world governments, and their global institutions, IMF, World, Bank and WTO.***

3. social evolution =progress

***1. “progress” tied to the theory of social evolution There is such a thing as social change, but no evidence that society’s evolve.***

***2. Progress is a concept that emerged in modernity and it is based on modernity’s definition of what progress is which is primarily scientific and technological discoveries and consumerism.***

***3. Progress is comparative and it is compared to early capitalism, not other cultures and societies.***

***4. Science***

***a.is a social institution integrated into and influenced by the structure of***

***all other social institutions.***

***b. Dominant social and economic forces determine to a large extent what science does and how it does it.***

***c. Those dominant forces have the power to appropriate from science the ideas that serve their interests.***

***e. Science also functions as an institution of legitimation: its ideas which have been shaped and used by powerful economic forces are further used to justify social realities like inequality.***

a. acceptance and embrace of capitalism by all countries exposed to it

b .technology: development and its dissemination

i. communication

ii. information

iii. production

iv. entertainment

***1. Technology allows for greater centralization of the dominate global actors therefore greater control, especially the economy.***

***2. Technology transfer has historically undermined the values and beliefs and practices and institutions of indigenous cultures. See consumerism.***

***3. Technology allows greater surveillance and control of population.***

***4. Technologies employed in relation to food production have reinforced the power of first world control over food production and distribution.***

***5. Technologies in relation to health care have defined illness and disease as inevitable and in need of cure. We now have a health cure industry.***

4. Theoretical components:

a. free market theory

i. all human beings are greedy by nature (self-interested)

***1.“Individual” is socially constructed. It is tthe alienated, isolated person created by the destruction of the feudal world order. The person forced off the land of his family by acts of enclosure and into the newly emerging urban areas to work in factores or be put in prison or sold as indentured servants.***

***2. It is also a philosophical, religious and legal construction.***

***3. For the bourgeoisie is an idealization and a justification for poverty and hunger which leads to Social Darwinism and Neoliberalism.***

***ii. all human beings want to be free (to pursue self interest)***

***iii. free market is best system because market creates conditions for i. and ii.***

iv. laws of the market place

***The market system was created by legal, political and coercive means. It involved the forced destruction of the feudal economy, the introduction of the idea of private ownership of property, forced removal of peasants, government support and funding of infrastructure for the market system, the forceful colonization of the world, the ideological justification for it. The market system depends upon the government in multiple ways.***

v. Milton Friedman

people are so used to government help they need “shock therapy”

shock to country and people and then therapy

shock originally was violence

shock as liberation from colonialism

since 1970s shock is economic, political, natural disaster

“wonderful opportunity”

Function of government: to create and maintain environment for the market system to function

b. political philosophy

i. no society just individuals

ii. individual is ultimate value

iii. freedom in necessary condition for the realization of

humans as having ultimate value

iv. market system is natural and logical and universal outcome of individuals interacting

v. creates the realm of freedom but distorted by government

vi. freedom is freedom to compete in marketplace and

freedom to consume

vii. only role of state is to create and maintain market system

***1.This is a political philosophy that ignores history and reality. See above. And concepts the idea of freedom to mean “freedom from” and only “freedom to” act in the marketplace.***

***2. Also there are many ideas in western society and other cultures which view “what it means to be human” in a much different way. In fact the modern view in the beginning included a political (freedom as freedom to collective determine social goals) and moral component (the responsibility to treat other moral beings as “ends” not “means”***

4. TINA

a. all nations must adapt to capitalist world system

b. all individuals must adapt

c. resistance (anti-globalization movements, theories, nations) is irrational and/or a failure to understand (ignorance) history.

***1.This is based on the social construction of the Other.***

***2.This is no more than biological determinism today. Other peoples and cultures are still uncivilized, children, irrational.***

d. every country and every people and every individual will eventually benefit

***1. There is no evidence that every country and every person will benefit that is why it is being fought.***

***2.And that is why the military is the largest institution in many societies. And police are becoming more militarized***

B. Neoliberalism is also a set of policies, practices and institutions

1. need to eliminate all rules and regulations and organizations standing in the way of the accumulation of profit and incentive.

a. eliminate government regulation of economic activity

i. wages and hours

ii. workplace safety

iii. environment

iv. financial speculation

b. eliminate labor organizations

e. financial liberalization

f. intellectual property rights

g. open markets

h. production for export

2. privatization

a. goods, services, ideas, technologies should be commoditized to be

exchanged in the market place

b. state should create and maintain the environment for this.

c. examples

3. eliminate social services

1. government social services, and government supported social

b eliminated

b. they distort the market place

4. free trade agreements

a. examples: NAFTA, GATT, FTAA, CAFTA

b. eliminate trade barriers (tariffs, subsidies, price controls, non-tariff, investment regulations)

c. establish global regulatory system

i. World Trade Organization

ii. NAFTA Ch 11 Tribunal

5. developmental loans to poor countries

***First world has exploited the resources and labor of the third world for 500 years and now they are going to help it with loans and SAPs which meanS that their resources will be exported and sold in a global market place dominated by mncs located in the FW.***

a. resources and infrastructure to develop and become competitive

b. IMF (International Monetary Fund) and World Bank

c. Structural Adjustment Plans (SAPs)

i. privatization

ii. deregulation

iii. cutbacks in social services

iv. export-driven economy (cash crops)

6.. “austerity” measures for rich countries

a. neoliberalism applied to first world

1. cuts in government spending

i. social welfare

ii. education

iii. entitlements

c. cut taxes on rich

d. cut taxes on corporations

e. militarize the social environment

7. military/police aid and loans/ weapons, training, and propaganda.

8. mass media

a. consumerism is freedom

b. spread the joys of consumer culture globally

C. Proof

1. economic measurements: GNP, PCI, increasing middle class, consumption patterns, technology transfer and progress.

2. miracles: Brazil, Indonesia, Chile, South Korea, Taiwan, China, India

D. Resistance

1. anti-globalization

Latin America

India

2. anti-austerity