I. Neoliberalism

A. World is in the process of becoming a completely integrated system, politically, economically, socially, and culturally, a global village.

B. Process

1. historical/evolutionary

a. natural

b. inevitable

c. linear (unidirectional)

d. progressive

e. telos: utopia

e. model: U.S.

2. historical forces

a. free market capitalism

i. all countries when exposed to it

recognize its superiority as economic system

recognize it as necessary and embrace it

ii. superiority and necessity of capitalism

universal truth about human nature: individual self-interest (greed)

creates the conditions for human freedom (individual pursuit of profit)

marketplace and its laws

supply and demand

good for workers

laissez faire

b. technological development

i. communication

ii. information

iii. production

iv. entertainment

3. TINA

a. all nations must adapt

b. all individuals must adapt

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

d. all countries will increase standard of living

i. middle class

ii. enjoy global consumerism in global marketplace

e. all countries will eventually experience political freedom

C. Policies and Institutions of “Global Village”

1. need to eliminate all domestic (national) 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. finance

b. eliminate labor organizations

c. privatization

d eliminate social programs

e. financial liberalization

f. guarantee intellectual property rights

g. open markets

2. creating the global free market: 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

3 developmental loans to poor countries

a. resources and infrastructure to develop their resources so and become competitive

b. IMF (International Monetary Fund) and World Bank

c. Structural Adjustment Plans (SAPs)

i. deregulation

ii. privatization

iii. cutbacks in government spending

iv. liberalize financial institutions

v. open all areas of the economy

vi. intellectual property rights

4. Resistance is futile but inevitable so strong police and military

D. Evidence of Success

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

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

II. Globalization as Neocolonialism

A. World is site of global power struggle, economic, political and cultural, which has been and is now dominated by a powerful minority whose goal is to create a globally integrated system to serve its interests, a “global class village”.

1. goal: global world system that maximizes profit taking for MNCs

2. village: domination and subordination

3. “process” is not natural, inevitable, or progressive

4. telos: “Maldevelopment” for most

B. Criticism of Neoliberalism

1. “historical forces”

a. “free market capitalism”

i. ignores systemic violence of colonialism which was necessary in spread of capitalism and its ideology

ii. examples: Haiti, Bolivia, Brazil, Congo, Indonesia, India

iii. conceals coercive (violence, economic, political) means after

colonialism

state violence

corporate violence

economic coercion (SAPs)

ideological control

legal control (WTO, NAFTA Ch 11)

b. “technology”

i. accepts an instrumental view of technology

ii. ignores critical dimension of technology

technology and power

technology and workers

iii. ignores negative impact of technology on other cultures and societies

1. “universality” is really ethnocentrism

i. western society as model

ii. western idea of human nature

iii. western ideas: progress, individualism, environment

iv. consumerism/consumer subjectivity

2. “Policies and Institutions of the global village”: economic imperialism

a. economic subordination

i. put country in debt

ii. “developmental loans”

elite

infrastructure

military

iii. crises

debt bombs

natural disasters

man-made disasters

iv. join and submit to rules and regulations of global institutions

b. “Structural Adjustment Plans” (aka “shock doctrine”)

i. privatize profitable industries at below market value

ii. privatize government services to MNCs

water

transportation

fire, police

. education (or user fees)

health care (or user fees)

iii. deregulation

no subsidies to agriculture

no tariffs

no prices supports

financial deregulation and liberalization

open markets

iv. environment for sweatshops

no unions or labor organizers

no occupational safety and health regulations

no environmental laws

low wages: below subsistence

“export processing zones”

v. cash crops (export crops)

3. Maldevelopment and increased dependency

a. inequality (+ debt)

b. poverty

c. hunger

d. increased debt burden

e. slavery

f. Planet of Slums

C. Organizing Principle globally should be: Social Justice

1. global truth and reconciliation

a. accept responsibility for “social construction of poverty”

b. debt forgiveness

c. reparations

2. right of people to decide their own interests and goals separate from coercion by undemocratic institutions (MNCs, WTO, IMF, corporate media, G8, G20)

3. right of people to decide how they want to use their own resources.

4. rights of indigenous peoples

a. economic rights: land guarantees

b. political rights

c. cultural rights

5. environmental rights

6. rights of workers, women, traditional occupations (farmers)

E. Resistance as Protest

1. Economic:

a. Reject Free Trade Agreements

b. establish regional areas of self-help

2. Political: elect Populist/Socialist Governments

3. Social movements: Landless Peoples Movement, Anti-dam Movement, Indigenous Rights Movements

4. Legal: Law Suits

5. The Take