I. Global Social Movements

A. Grassroots movements

1. “Tree Huggers”
2. India: Anti-dam Movement
   1. India policy

i. embrace neo-liberalism

ii. large dams for infrastructure

iii. no plans for relocations

* 1. Science and large dams

1. displace millions

ii. ecologically destructive

iii. economically unviable

iv. reinforces inequality

* 1. popular resistance

1. refuse to leave

ii. mass hunger strikes

iii. non-violent direct action: sit-ins and demonstrations

3. Brazil

a. legacy of colonialism in Brazil

i. 3% owns over 2/3rds of arable land

ii. agribusiness

iii. 40% to 60% of arable land lies fallow

iv. largest farm -- export and cattle -- 88% fallow

v.100 million hungry, shantytowns

b. MST (Brazil's Landless People’s Movement)

i. goal: identify and occupy unused land

ii. justification: 1988 Constitution

iii. means: land seizure

identify idle farm land

occupy it

cultivate until legal ownership is granted

iv. right now 70,000 families involved in occupations

v. Success:

establish basic social services

medical centers and training for health care workers

1200 schools employ 3,800 teachers and serve 150,000 and 25,000 adults

established their own university

agricultural coops

clothing factory

sell to international market

$50 million most back into movement

4. Thailand: apparel workers

1. Argentina: factory workers
2. Nigeria: Ogoni People’s Movement

B. Political

1. elect leaders who reject
   1. international agreements

b. loans from international institutions

2. popular rejection of treaties

3. nationalization of resources: eviction of U.S. corporations

4. eviction of U.S. military bases

5. examples: Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Brazil

C. Legal

1. Lawsuits against MNCs

2. Alien Torts Claims Act

3. Ecuador v Texaco

4. Unocal and Myanmar

D. Class Action Law Suit : 30,000 Ecuadorans, incl several indigenous tribes.

"They accuse Texaco of causing vast destruction to the Oriente, a spectacular stretch of rainforest that dips beneath the Andes Mountains to form the eastern half of Ecuador.

A. What is the Oriente ?

1. tropical biologist: "the richest biotic zone on earth . . .

a kind of global epicenter of biodiversity"

2. 10,000 varieties of plants, fishes, and birds many endangered

B. Texaco's acts

1. oil spills totaling 16.8 million gallons

2. discharged 4.3 million gallons of highly toxic 'produced

water" per day

3. dumped heavy metals into unlined pits

4. when pits got too full, T burned them over

resulting in "black rain"

5. Vegetation turned black and creeks line with

petroleum

6. indigenous people forced off the land and locals that remain have a 400% cancer rate

C. law suit

1. Alien Tort Claims Act or "law of nations"

a. 1789 to show good faith in prosecuting individuals who

violated international law

b. can a MNC be tried under the law?

i. similar suits against Unocal

ii. apparel companies in Saipan

c. unique: environment

"the first law suit to claim that a company's environmental practices so depart from acceptable international standards that they constitute a violation of the law of nations"

D. International Agreements

1. 1972 Stockholm Declaration
2. 1992 Rio Declaration-

a. environment as fundamental human right

b. prohibits both state and private actors from

recklessly endangering "the environmental

needs of present and future generations"

c. U.S. and first Gulf War