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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Third World Elites

Leaders of third world countries that have been “approved”

Function: support interests of MNCs and First World

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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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International Organizations

World Bank, International Monetary:

Function: “developmental” loans

World Trade Organization (WTO) NAFTA Tribunal

Function: Regulation

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US Military/National Militaries

Function: enforcement

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First World Corporate Media

Function: distraction and stupification

II. Power structure = Neo-Colonialism aka Economic Imperialism

A. Goals

1. cheap natural resources

2. cheap labor

3. financial liberalization

4. open markets

5. privatization

6. intellectual property rights

B. Ideology

1. free market capitalism

2. global free trade

C. Means

1. Support “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

b. beneficiaries

i. elite

ii. military

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

c. irony

i. “disaster” = opportunity

ii. US aid

iii. aid vs repayment

iv. country is in debt

3. Demand “structural adjustment plans”

a. privatize profitable industries

b. privatize government services

i. water

ii. transportation

iii. fire, police

c. liberalize investment laws

d. export crops

i. “cash” crops

ii. pesticides

iii. fertilizer

iv. machinery

e. open economy to foreign investment

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

g. accept intellectual property rights

h. user fees: education and health

4. Environment for sweatshops

a. no unions or labor organizers

b. no OSHA

c. no environmental laws

d. low wages

e. export processing zones

4. 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

E. Mal-development

1. inequality

1. poverty
2. hunger
3. disease

5. environmental destruction

6. Planet of Slums

a. largest demographic movement in history

b. consequence: megacities

c. T W megacities

i. 40%-60% in shantytowns

ii. location: steep hills, river beds, garbage dumps, toxic dumps

iii. natural disasters and occupants

d. informal labor force

F. Resistance

1. Seattle, Quebec City, Washington, Genoa,

South Africa

2. Groups: human rights, worker rights, environmental, anti-sweatshop, labor org