Introduction “Blank is Beautiful”

The book is a challenge to the central assumption that the triumph of deregulated capitalism is a result of freedom and that free markets lead to democracy.

1.Friedman strategy: Shock (natural or man made crisis) followed by “shock treatment,”

the “holy trinity” (elimination of public sphere, liberation of corporate sphere, skeletal social spending.

Examples: Katrina and schools, Chile, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Latin America

2. New: U.S. war on terror and shock treatment: rise of disaster capitalism complex

Examples: homeland security, weapons contractors, humanitarian relief

3.. Consequences: ruling elite (corp and wealthy) or corporatism. Other features: surveillance, mass incarceration, shrinking civil liberties.

4. Torture as a metaphor for shock treatment

Chapter 1 “The Torture Lab”

1. Ewen Cameron: erasing the mind, curing or destruction through regression

2. CIA: NKUltra, Kubark manual, drugs, funding, Battalion 3-16.

Chapter 2 “The Other Doctor Shock

1. Milton Friedman and free market capitalism as perfect scientific system.

2. Real threat: developmentalism, Southern Cone, social democracy.

3. Capitalism and Freedom.

4. Eradicating developmentalism in Southern Cone: Chile Project, Brazil and Indonesia as models of overthrow.

Chapter 3 “States of Shock”

1. Chile: overthrow, the “Brick”, piranhas, Pinochet’s “success”! as a “miracle”!

2. Military overthrows: Brazil 1962, Chile 1972, Uruguay 1973, Argentine 1976, shock therapy and repression (disappearances, torture, torture centers, torture training,Operation Condor), cover story.

Chapter 4 “Cleaning the Slate:

1.Letelier and dismantling the myth: radical social transformation and massive state violence are not connected: who were killed, tortured and disappeared (trials and truth commissions), MNCs and funding the repression.

2. Cleansing cultures: philosophers, artists, union leaders, farmers, church leaders, community workers, torture as cleansing the mind, adopting children

Chapter 5 “Entirely Unrelated”

1. The problem with the human rights approach: Declaration of Human Rights, Amnesty International, Ford Foundation.

2. Simone de Beauvoir and morality of occupation: two choices, accept the whole system or reject it. Is neoliberalism an inherently violent ideology.

Chapter 6 “Saved by a War: Thatcherism and Its Useful Enemies

1. Thatcher to Hayek, great ideas but we can’t do them in a democracy.

2. Nixon in Chile v Nixon at Home

3. Inglorious end, the Falklands War and Thatcher as Winston Churchill.

4. War against labor, victory and the privatization of national industries.

Crises are democracy-free zones.

Chapter 7 “The New Doctor Shock: Economic Warfare Replaces Dictatorship”

1. The taking of Bolivia. And the discouragement of “fuzzy ideas.”

2. Election of Victor Paz Estenssoro and his secret turn to neo-liberalism., eliminate food subsidies, freeze government wages, eliminate price controls, cut government spending, allowed imports.

3. Shock and Awe: Achieving Rapid Dominance: 200 plus laws all at once.

4. “Bolivian Miracle” inflation stopped vs hunger, poverty, unemployment, declining wages, malnourished children.

5. “Miracle and violence”: state of siege: resistance and violence

Chapter 8 “Crisis Works: The Packaging of Shock Therapy”

1. Odious debt: dictators, debt bombs, Volcker Shock (debt shock), price shock.

2. Odious debt leads to structural adjustment, or dictator of debt.

3. The “Colonization” of the World Bank: Washington Consensus.

4. Deception: SAPs as marketing strategies and free trade as irrelevant to ending an economic crisis.

5. Argentina as a model student.

Chapter 9 “Slamming the Door on History”

1. 1981-1988 Solidarity’s victory in Poland, and crisis.

2. IMF, World Bank, US no loan without structural adjustment, the Sachs Plan.

3. The “end of history”: democracy and radical capitalism are in process of inevitably shaping the world.

4. China and Tiananmen Square: an economic struggle. Deng, Friedman and the free market agenda.

5.Bloody crackdown; continued economic reform but not political reform.

Chapter 10: Democracy Born in Chains.

1. South Africa: ‘debt bomb” vs Freedom Charter.

2. high profile political negotiations v low profile economic negotiations

3. political “freedom” and dictatorship of debt, trade agreements.

4. 1996 Mbeki’s shock therapy and its consequences.

Chapter 11 “Bonfire of a Young Democracy”

1. Gorbachev glasnost, perestroika and the G7 “message”.

2. Yeltsin and the Chicago Boys: 1991 shock therapy and the third worlding of Russia.