I. Global Social Problems

A. Inequality:

1. Trend

a. Relative terms: 30x to 72x

b. Absolute terms

2. Individual

3. Debt

B. Poverty:

1. Poverty line

2. Near poverty

C. Hunger

1. Undernourished and underweight

2. Food insecure

3. Starvation and related diseases each year (children)

4. Irony

D. Disease

1. Hunger and disease: rickets, goiters. anemia

2. Malaria, pneumonia, tuberculosis

3. AIDs

a. Africa and Asia 60 million

b. Infected, 20+ million dead

E. Life Chances

1. Infant mortality

2. Life expectancy

a. declining in poorest countries

b. 50 years of age

3. Women and childbirth

F. Environment

1. increasing pollution

2. continuing destruction of environment

G. Labor

1. Slaves

2. “new slavery”: debt servitude

3. child soldiers

4. migrant

H. Megacities

1. shantytowns

2. natural disasters

3. fires

4. disease

5. work

I. Conflict

1. war: Iraq, Afghanistan, Congo

2. civil: Colombia

3. casualties

J. Myths

1. Third world countries are resource poor.

2. Regressive cultures which inhibit development.

3. Corruption

4. Generosity of FW and especially US

II. Solving global social problems

A. Old Stories, new stories

1. “White Man’s Burden”

2. Post WWII: Modernization Theory

3. Globalization

B. Globalization

1. Since the mid-70s

2. “Storytellers”: First world government,

Multi-national corporations, corporate media

3. Story

a. free market capitalism

i. maximize resources

ii. new technology

iii. new goods and services

b. democracy

i. representative government

ii. eliminate dictators

c. results:

i. higher standard of living

ii. health care, education, opportunity

4. means: “free trade “

a. International agreements

i. GATT (Global)

ii. NAFTA (North America)

iii. FTAA (Americas)

b. international regulatory organizations

i. World Trade Organization

ii. NAFTA Chapter 11 Tribunal

c. Development

i. loans

ii. international institutions: World Bank, International Monetary Fund

5. Resistance

a. reactionary governments

b. religious extremists

c. cultural traditionalists

III. Globalization: “Another Story”

A. Contradictions

1. Inequality and poverty in countries with wealth?

2. world hunger when there is enough food?

a. 4.3 lbs

b. 80% of countries with hungry children

c. 36 out of 40 countries

3. debt: loans and aid

a. Aid FW $80 billion/ debt repayment $200 billion

b. US Aid

i. $20 billion (1/2 military)

ii. comparison

4. continuing support of dictators or “democracies”

B. Reality: Neo-Colonialism/ economic imperialism

C. Powerful Groups organizing and shaping world

1. Multi-national Corporations

2. First World governments

3. Third World Elite

D. Goals

1. cheap natural resources

2. cheap labor

3. open markets

a. no subsidies

b. no tariffs

c. eliminate “non-tariff barriers”

4. intellectual property rights

5. privatization

E. Method

1. TW elites

a. elites govern in interests of FW

b. historically: dictators

c. Latin America, Africa, Asia, Middle East

2. Put country in debt through “developmental loans”

a. elite and military

b. infrastructure (dams, highways, bridges, ports,

harbors)

c. 40% of WB loans: coal, oil

d. disasters: “wonderful opportunity”

i. war: Iraq

ii. CIA: Chile

iii. typhoon and hurricanses: Sri Lanka, Indonesia, New Orleans

3. Demand “structural adjustment”

a. privatize national industries

b. cut public sector jobs

c. cheap resources to MNCs

i. rain forests

ii. minerals

d. open markets to MNCs

e. privatize government services

i. water

ii. transportation

iii. fire, police

iv. education: users fees

v. health care: users fees

f. agriculture

i. no subsidies

ii. export (cash) crops

g. environment for sweatshops

i. no unions or labor organizers: Colombia

ii. no occupational safety and health regulations

iii. no environmental laws

iv. low wages: below subsistence

v. “export processing zones”

4. WTO and NAFTA Tribunals

a. decisions regarding trade disputes

b. accept penalties

F. NAFTA: Chapter 11

1. Foreign corporations (or a single shareholder) can

sue governments

2. Not in court, but a secret tribunal

a. closed to public and elected representatives

b. no limit on amount

c. claims for $13 billion have been filed

i. environmental regulations

ii. health and safety regulations

iii. worker safety

iv.

3. decision is binding

a. professional arbiters

b. No appeal

4. Examples:

a. MTBE and Methanex

b. Ethyl Corp sued Canada MMT, nerve toxin

G. Political/Popular Resistance

1. elect leaders who reject

a. international agreements

b. loans from international institutions

2. popular rejection of treaties

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

a. Bolivia

b. Ecuador

c. Venezuela

4. eviction of U.S. military bases: Ecuador

5. examples of popular resistance

a. Brazil: Landless People’s Movement

i. colonialism and land

ii. Constitutions

iii. occupy and cultivate

b. Argentina: “People’s Movement”

i. Argentina and IMF

ii. elite and MNC

iii. workers takeover factories

iv. industrial democrracy

H. Legal Resistance

1. Lawsuits against MNCs

2. Alien Torts Claims Act

3. Ecuador v Texaco

4. Unocal and Myanmar

I. Class Action Law Suit : 30,000 Ecuadorans

1."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. "the richest biotic zone on earth . . .a kind of global epicenter of biodiversity"

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

2. Texaco's acts

a. oil spills:16.8 million gallons

b. 4.3 million gallons: highly toxic 'produced

water" per day

c. heavy metals into unlined pits

d. burned pits "black rain"

e. Vegetation turned black, creeks lined with

petroleum

f. people forced off the land

g. 400%+ cancer rate

3. 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

4. International Agreements

a. 1972 Stockholm Declaration

1. 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

5. Ecuador kicks Texaco out.