I. Neoliberal Theory

A. Dominant theory shaping relations between countries (global society) and domestic institutions and policies.

B. “Jumble” of various other theories that we have examined (and it is filled with contradictions)

1. Free market theory

a. assumptions

b. laws

c. Milton Friedman and the Chicago School

i. goal

ii. means

2. Theory of freedom

a. marketplace is where freedom is actualized and model for all social arrangements/institutions

i. Freedom is “freedom from” constraints on pursuit of self-interest in the market place

ii. Freedom is “freedom to” choose within the options the marketplace creates

b. Freedom is no longer “freedom to collectively participate in the democratic process through shaping policies which determine the direction of society

c. Freedom is “freedom to” choose in the political marketplace aka vote

3. Instrumental theory of technology

a. technology is a tool, universal, neutral, autonomous

b. technology is progressive

c. technology transfer is essential in creating global society

4. theory of history (aka philosophy of history)

a. history is a process: globalization

b. driven by:

i. inevitability of free market (human nature/causal laws)

ii. technology

iii. theory of freedom (human nature)

c. TINA

II. Neoliberalism (policies and practices)

A. deregulation

1. eliminate government regulation of economic activity (violation of laissez faire)

2. nation-state role: guarantee environment for market place

B. privatization

1. goods, services, ideas, technologies should be commoditized

2. country needs to divest itself of any of the above.

C. cutback/eliminate social services

D. free trade agreements

1. examples: NAFTA, GATT, FTAA, CAFTA, TPP

2. eliminate trade barriers (tariffs, subsidies, price controls, non-tariff, investment regulations)

3. establish global regulatory system

a. World Trade Organization

b. NAFTA Ch 11 Tribunal

E. “aid” to poor countries to help them compete in the global marketplace

1. technology and infrastructure to help country become competitive

2. Structural Adjustment Plans (SAPs)

a. privatization

b. deregulation

c. cutbacks in social services

d. export-driven economy (cash crops)

F. “austerity” measures for rich countries

1. cuts in government spending

a. health care

b.education

c. “entitlements”

2. cut taxes on rich

a. cut taxes on corporations

b. cut wages and benefits for workers

G.. “freedom” requires strong police and military

1. protect individual freedom aka market system

2. overcome irrational and reactionary resistance

H. corporate-owned advertising supported mass media

CNBC: Obama is unfriendly to business and needs to help them out because they are doing so poorly

NBC Meet the Press: Obama should be more like Republicans, cut spending, Social Security and Medicare

NBC, WP, NY Times: Obama needs to cut more from “entitlements” needs to be tougher on the aged!!! (Yes, older Americans have it too good).