I. Corporatism

A. Definition: corporatism is a system of power in which large corporations are the dominant institution and as the dominant institution, they have the capacity to:

1. shape and control the economic system

a. concentration of ownership

b. direct and manage market forces

c. manipulate the financial sector

2. shape and control the political system

a. control electoral system: candidate selections process

b. policies and legislation: special interest process

i. create policies and legislation

ii. guarantees what legislation gets passed/ what doesn't

c. control judicial system: judicial capture

d. control regulatory system: regulatory capture

3. shape and control ideological institutions

a. education

i.K-12 standardized tests and obedience, privatization, charter schools

ii. higher education: vocational studies

iii. reproduce conventional wisdoms, American Exceptionalism

b. mass media

i. mass distraction

ii. stupefication

iii. culture of fear

iv. reproduce conventional wisdoms, American Exceptionalism

c. social media

i. "the cave"

ii. being sold

iii. globalization of ignorance

4. create a police and surveillance infrastructure to monitor, control and punish

a. scapegoats

b. those critical of the system

5. create a military-industrial complex

a. defend U.S. corporate interests in foreign countries

b. maintain global dominance

c. eliminate challenges

B. Goals

1. Create a total social environment, domestic and global, to maximize profit- taking for large MNCs and return on investment for shareholders.

a. privatization

b. deregulation

c. elimination of the social

i. social values

ii. social services

iii. organized labor

2. Manufacture consent

a. make sure that enough citizens believe that the "two year made for tv show" called the election is the core of the democratic process and don't see it for what it really is-a bad "fiction" that makes billions for advertisers, and pacifies the electorate for another two to four years.

b. make powerless workers believe that unions are bad for them and that U.S. capitalism frees them to be successful through hard work, and the liberation of their entrepreneurial spirit.

c. make people believe that to be human means to own more, acquire more, and keep acquiring more, even God wants you to own lots of stuff.

d. make students believe that being indoctrinated by the educational system into a, b and c is a good thing and not propaganda that creates individuals who reproduce a system that is harmful to them. And, yes, that student debt is an investment, not neo-indentured servitude.

e. make people believe that the reality of that tiny technological device they waste the majority of their lives looking into is more important than the real world, so they won't pay any attention to the real world, the bs of a,b,c and d.

f. make sure that the people believe that every time the U.S. military bombs, invades and/or overthrows another country, killing thousands to millions, that it is done for good reasons, moral reasons, not power and profit, therefore there is no obligation to know, question or resist.

C. Successes

1. record corporate profit

2. creation of an entrenched upper class

3. elimination of labor as resistance

4. elimination of thought and knowledge as resistance

5. elimination of social values as a possible foundation for resistance and

reshaping society