I. Global Social Problems

A. Inequality

1. Wealth

a. Countries

i. relative terms: 30x to 72x

ii. absolute terms

b. Individuals

i. top 2% over half of world’s wealth

ii. top 20% consumes 76.6% world’s goods

iii. bottom 50%/1%

2. Income

a. top 20%

b. within countries: richest v poorest

i. sub-Saharan Africa 65%/4%

ii. Europe 40%/7%

B. Poverty:

1. Poverty line: $1.25/1.4 billion

2. Near poverty: $2/3.2 billion

C. Hunger

1. # 1 billion

2. Food insecure: 1/3

3. malnutrition deaths annually: 9 million

D. Disease

1. Malaria, pneumonia, tuberculosis

2. AIDs

a. Africa and Asia 60 million

b. Infected, 20+ million dead

3. clean water

4. unsanitary squalor

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. informal labor

2. “new slavery”: debt servitude

3. “old slavery”

4. child soldiers

H. Megacities

1. demographic: 3 million per week

2. planet of slums

I. Conflict

1. war: Iraq, Afghanistan

2. civil: Colombia, Congo

3. ethnic cleansing

J. causes (according to rich countries)

1. countries are resource poor

2. regressive cultures.

3. corruption

4. ignorance

K. solutions (according to rich countries)

1. free trade: NAFTA, GATT, WTO
2. loans and aid: World Bank and IMF
3. G20 and $1 Trillion to IMF

4. charity

L. contradictions

1. resource rich, people poor (Mexico, India, Indonesia, Brazil, Nigeria, Congo,

Equatorial Guinea)

2. hunger

a. 4.3 lbs

b. 80% of countries with hungry children

c. 36 out of 40 countries

d. consumption

3. debt: loans and aid

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

b. US Aid

i. $16 billion (1/2 military)

ii. who to?

c. countries and long term debt servitude

4. corporate dumping: Summers memo

5. disasters: “wonderful opportunity”

a. war: Iraq

b. Milton Friedman: Chile, New Orleans

c. Rice: typhoon: Sri Lanka, Indonesia

d. Haiti

M. solutions (another look)

1. IMF and “developmental loans”

1. elite

b. military

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

harbors)

2. “structural adjustment plans”

a. privatize national industries and rewrite investment laws

b. cut public sector jobs

c. cheap resources to MNCs

i. rain forests

ii. minerals

d. open markets to MNCs

i. no tariffs

ii. no price supports

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. “race to the bottom”

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

N. 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

3. decision is binding

a. professional arbiters

b. No appeal

4. Examples:

a. MTBE and Methanex

b. Ethyl Corp sued Canada MMT, nerve toxin

O. Political/Popular Resistance: Battle in Seattle

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

P. Legal Resistance

1. Lawsuits against MNCs

2. Alien Torts Claims Act