I. Corporations and Economic Power

A. Corporation

1. By law

i. “person”

ii. legal obligation

2. Constraints

i. chartered

ii. regulated

iii. public ownership

3. No constraints

i. capitalization

ii. shareholder liability

iii. time

iv. “speech”

B. 500 corporations

1. business assets

2. sales

3. profits

4. producer networks

C. Size

D. Shared Monopolies

E. Shared Ownership

F. Interlocking Directorates

G. Stock ownership

1. for-profit financial institutions
2. top individuals: Stocks, trusts, business equity, financial securities

a. Top 1% = 40%

b. Top 10% = 80%

H. Causes

1. Deregulation

2. Mergers

3. Acquisitions

4. Global expansion

1. Economic power
2. strategic alliances: industries

a. energy

b. financial

c. media

d. pharmaceutical

2. control labor

a. off-shoring

b. downsizing aka “rightsizing”

c. product development/manufacture

1. capital flight vs reinvestment

e. collective anti-labor practices

3. communities

a. relocating

1. demands

i. tax abatements

ii. no unions

4. countries

a. trade agreements: rules, regulation

b. “developmental” loans (Aid)

5. mass media

a. own media

1. corporate media and profit
2. democracy

6. control regulatory process: “revolving door”

A. Corporation

1. Early America

a. profit

1. meeting social need

c. chartered for specific purpose

1. limited time and capitalization
2. could not own another company
3. shareholders liable

2. Fourteenth Amendment

1. Equal Protection Clause

b. Corporation is “ legal person”

c. Free Speech: Buckley v Valeo

3. Present

a. chartered but no limits on purpose

b. unlimited capitalization

c. eternal

d. “ own other persons”!

e. shareholders not liable

f. function: profit