

THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM
AND THE FUTURE OF GLOBALIZATION

“Another World is Possible”

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GLOBALIZATION

- Definition...Art (Globalization) Depends on the Eye of the Beholder

GLOBALIZATION-- POSITIVES

Implements Economies of Scale that Benefits Consumers

- Airplanes (Airbus of EU; Boeing of USA)
- Regional Jets (Bombardier of Canada; Embraer of Brazil)
- Autos (Daimler-Chrysler, BMW, Toyota, Hyundai)
- Toys and Textiles from China

RECENT FORCES FUELING GLOBALIZATION

- Computers
- Global Communications (Internet)
e.g., Outsourcing of Computer Software
Programming from USA, Germany,
France and UK to India and China
- Fall of Berlin Wall

NOW ONE WORLD ECONOMY EXCEPT FOR
NORTH KOREA AND CUBA

BACKLASH AGAINST GLOBALIZATION

- 6 1/2 Billion people on the Planet Earth
- 2 1/2 Billion Live on Less than \$2 a Day
- Perception (Accurate or Inaccurate) --
Globalization is a Tool of American
Capitalism and Multinationals in Europe
and Japan to Exploit Poor People

BACKLASH AGAINST GLOBALIZATION

- Image of Hedonistic American Consumerism –
MTV Half-Time Show in the Super Bowl
– Justin Timberlake & Janet Jackson
- Threatens Moral values in Traditional Cultures-
Catholic Church, American Religious
Fundamentalists, Orthodox Jews,
and Traditional Islamic Family Values.

BACKLASH AGAINST AMERICAN MATERIALISM

“A serious threat is hovering over European Culture. The threat emanates from an onslaught of “mass culture” from across the Atlantic....Indeed one can only wonder that a deep, profoundly intelligent and inherently humane European culture is retreating to the background before the primitive revelry of violence and pornography and the flood of cheap feelings and low thoughts.”

BACKLASH AGAINST AMERICAN MATERIALISM

- Quote on previous slide is by Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of Russia

RECENT HISTORICAL TIME LINE

- 1945 TO 1989 – NATO Fights Communism
- 1990's – Age of Globalization Accelerates after Fall of Berlin Wall
- World Economic Forum Gathers Most Powerful People Each Year in Davos to Advance Globalization
- 1990's IMF/World Bank Interventions

IMF/WORLD BANK INTERVENTIONS

- Loans to Yeltsin's Russia Go to Corrupt Oligarchs
- Mexican Peso Collapses in 1994. American Banks Loans Covered by IMF/World Bank and US Treasury

IMF/WORLD BANK INTERVENTIONS

- 1997- Thailand Currency Collapses with Subsequent Effects in Indonesia and Korea
- Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz Blames Mistakes by IMF/World Bank
- Argentine Peso Crashes with Devastating Impact on the Poor and the Middle Class

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

- Seattle, 1999—First Meeting Collapses in the Streets
- Doha, 2001—Agenda Items
TRIPS (Trade Related Intellectual Property)
Agricultural Subsidies of US/EU/Japan
Harming Third World Farmers
- Brazil, 2002—Union Activist Lula da Silva
Elected President of Brazil
- Cancun, 2003—WTO Meltdown Punctuated by a
Korean Farmer Burning Himself to Death

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

- 2000—French and Brazilian Social Activists Seek Alternative to World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland
- 2001—First World Social Forum held in Porto Alegre, Brazil with 15,000 Attendees

“ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE”

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM(WSF)

- 2002—Second WSF with 40,000 Attendees
—European Social Forum held in
Florence, Italy
- 2003—Third WSF with 100,000 Attendees
President Lula da Silva Goes from
Porto Alegre to Davos with Strong
Message

2003 WSF—PROTEST MOBILIZATION

- Porto Alegre Attendees Plan World-wide Protests Against Iraq Invasion in March, 2003 Leading to Demonstrations in the Millions
- President Lula da Silva Leads Group of 22 Developing Nations to Confront the US/EU/Japanese Alliance in Cancun

2003 CANCUN WTO DISASTER

- USA & EU Refuses to Yield on Agricultural Subsidies
- American Govt. Says There are “Can Do” and “Won’t Do” Countries
- Attacks are Aimed at Brazil for being Inflexible
- Lula Counters He is Fighting for the Poor of Latin America, Africa and Asia

WTO FINANCIAL ISSUES

- USA/EU/Japanese Agricultural Annual Subsidies are \$300 Billion
- USA/EU/Japanese Humanitarian Assistance is \$100 Billion (2005)

WTO FINANCIAL ISSUES

- EU humanitarian Aid is triple that of the United States
- 60% EU
20% USA (**excluding Iraq and Afghanistan)
13% Japan
7% Other
100%

2004 WORLD SOCIAL FORUM— MUMBAI, INDIA

- Statement by Several Speakers—Most Important Global Issue is the WTO Negotiations
- Many Activities and Demonstrations
- Opening Ceremonies

OPENING CEREMONIES INDIAN HERITAGE

- Former Mayor of Mumbai (81 years old)
- Captain Laxmi Sehgal (90 years old)
Female Military leader of India against
the British during the Independence
Struggle
- Arundhati Roy (Booker Prize Author)

2005 WORLD SOCIAL FORUM RETURNS TO BRAZIL

- 200,000 attendees
- Will the World See a Confrontation Between the Rich (1 Billion) and the Developing World (5 Billion)

DEMOCRACY AND THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

- Major Democracies in the Developing World– Brazil and India
- World Social Forum Cannot be Held in China Because NGO's Must Be Free to Express Themselves
- Future Organization Initiatives ???

FUTURE OF THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

- Will the World Social Forum Become the Major Organizing Vehicle for the Global Justice Movement?
- “The Movement of Movements”
- Big, Big Celebration!!!

“Another World is Possible”