

Edmonton Social Justice, Activist Contact & Resource Handbook

(a.k.a. Radical Randy's Resources)



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Written & Researched by Radical Randy
Edited by Paula E. Kirman • Design by Lyn X
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Publisher: The Edmonton Small Press Association (ESPA)
Creator/Writer: Radical Randy
Editor: Paula E. Kirman
Art Director/Designer: Lyn X
Production Editor: Lyn X
Publisher's Assistant: Robert Wilde
Proofreader: Owen Melsness
Website Coordinator: Paula E. Kirman
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CONTACT FOR MORE INFO:

The Edmonton Small Press Association (ESPA)
P.O. Box 75086 RPO, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6K1 Canada
(780) 434-9236 • contact@edmontonsmallpress.org
www.edmontonsmallpress.org

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Local Activist Distributors/Lenders at a Glance (Books, Magazines, Zines, CDs, Videos and/or DVDs)

Edmonton Public Library

(Main Branch/Downtown: Stanley A. Milner Library)

Tel: (780) 496-7000

Web: www.epl.ca (Borrowing Info: www.epl.ca/EPLMembership.cfm)

Address: 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2V4

Hours: Mon - Fri 9am - 9pm; Sat 9am - 6pm; Sun 1 - 5pm

Earth's General Store

(Eco-Friendly & Fair Trade Products; Borrowing Library)

Tel: (780) 439-8725

Web: www.earthsgeneralstore.ca

Address: 10832 Whyte Ave. (upstairs), Edmonton

Edmonton Small Press Association (ESPA)

(Small Press Library & Archive; Large Selection Zines, Videos & DVDs)

Tel/Email: (780) 434-9236 • contact@edmontonsmallpress.org

Web: www.edmontonsmallpress.org

Office (By Appointment Only): Room #9, 6th Floor, Stanley A. Milner Library

- or -

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 75086, R.P.O., Edmonton, AB T6E 6K1

Ten Thousand Villages

(Global Fair Trade Products)

Tel/Email: (780) 439-8349 • edmonton@villages.ca

Web: www.tenthousandvillages.com

Address: 10432 Whyte Ave.

Rainbow Bridge Communications

(Made-In-Alberta & Other Eco-Vids)

Tel/Email: (780) 455-7335 • rainbow.bridge@shaw.ca

Web: www.MadeInAlberta.ca (or www.rbcc.ca)

Other independent resources:

Parkland Institute: 11045 Saskatchewan Drive (www.ualberta.ca/parkland)

Public Interest Alberta: Suite 35, 9912 106 Street (www.pialberta.org)

APIRG: HUB Mall, University of Alberta (www.apirg.org)

Hub Cigar and Newsstand: 8118 Gateway Boulevard (103 St.) 439-0144

Front Page Magazines: 10356 Jasper Ave.

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Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts



edmonton
arts
council



But Fear Not!!!

Canadians can turn to several superb non-corporate sources for public policy analysis.

The **Council of Canadians**, founded in 1985 by a group of prominent Canadians including Edmonton author Mel Hurtig as well as David Suzuki, Pierre Burton, Peter C. Newman, and Margaret Laurence, is this country's largest citizen's group. The Council is dedicated to fighting the erosion of Canada's social programs and independence by the "free trade" treaties and the privatization agenda. Its website is **www.canadians.org** and information on the Edmonton chapter can be accessed by clicking on "Welcome" then on "chapters in action" and then on "Alberta chapters".

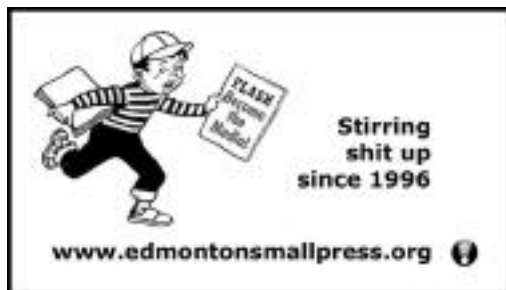
In Edmonton numerous public policy publications concerning Alberta are available from the **Parkland Institute** and **Public Interest Alberta**, both of which also sponsor conferences and forums. Their websites are **www.ualberta.ca/parkland** and **www.pialberta.org**.

Nationally, the **Canadian Centre For Policy Alternatives** provides non-corporate, citizen-oriented analysis of Canadian public policy, as does the **Polaris Institute**. The **Pembina Institute** is a source of information on energy issues. Respectively, their websites are **www.policyalternatives.ca**, **www.polarisinstitute.org** and **www.pembina.org**.

Local Resources

Contact info for the local distributors & libraries referenced in this guide, including the **Edmonton Public Library**, **Earth's General Store**, the **Edmonton Small Press Association (ESPA)** and more, are located on the inside back cover of this zine (see right).

Comments or questions regarding the contents of this zine can be directed to Radical Randy at **radicalrandy@raisemyvoice.com** or care of the ESPA at the contact info on the inside front cover.



Edmonton Social Justice, Activist Contact & Resource Handbook

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So What's All The Protesting About?

During the 1990's I became aware of a growing dissonance between the glowing terms used to describe the economic "reforms" that were incessantly touted by government, mass media, and corporate pundits, and the dismal actuality of the results here and around the world. Since the Reagan/Thatcher/Mulroney 1980s the public has been constantly bombarded with the need to downsize government and to free capitalism to produce wealth as part of the new "common sense" reality. We were told that there was nothing government could do that big business couldn't do better and cheaper when the profit motive was unleashed. **Globalization** (outsourcing manufacturing jobs to low-wage developing world countries with little or no protection for workers and the environment), a constantly expanding economy without limits, and **neoliberalism** (allowing an unregulated market to reign supreme with resulting privatization, deregulation, corporate tax cuts, tax cuts for the wealthy, reduction or elimination of government social programs, and the unrestricted flow of capital) were presented as the rising tide that would lift all boats, providing benefits to all. The reality I witnessed indicated just the opposite. Homelessness, poverty, unemployment, downsizing, stagnating or falling wages, sweatshops, McJobs, cutbacks, environmental degradation, and a growing gap between the rich and everyone else were the new economic order of the day. In an effort to reconcile this contradiction I sought out various mainstream sources but they uniformly acted as cheerleaders for this new business-as-usual paradigm, demanding more of the same while extolling the coming economic utopia.

It was by accident that I came upon a body of dissenting literature and began to become aware of the extent to which our entire cultural, economic and political systems, and society as a whole have been subverted by the need for limitless profits by a small corporate elite. The neoliberal "reforms", "free trade" treaties, and the commodification of every aspect of our lives are driven by the desire of big business to increase its already bloated bottom line regardless of the costs which it externalizes to the rest of us.

Realizing this I became involved in the movement for social justice and resistance to corporate-led globalization, as well as the anti-war movement. In my contact with various individuals involved in these struggles to improve the human condition, it became apparent that many people were fighting the isolated symptoms without addressing the underlying global disease. Poverty, developing world debt, unsustainable environmental exploitation, war and militarism, rigged trade treaties enshrining big business rights, curtailment of dissent and civil

"Big Idea". They have promoted linking Canadian economic security to American homeland security and the establishment of a full Customs Union and Common Market between the two nations. **The Fraser Institute** pushes Deep Integration in order to harmonize Canadian social programs with declining American standards. Canadian corporate media, including the far-right **National Post**, have eagerly advocated Deep Integration as well.

Deep Integration with the U.S. has many facets. One is Canadian involvement with U.S. ballistic missile "defense" better known as "star wars". Though the Canadian government has publicly downplayed its role in this offensive military system, there is a great deal of cooperation behind the scenes. The military aspects are further highlighted by the push, backed by the **CCCE**, for closer interoperability and integration between Canadian and U.S. forces for joint operations as well as increased military spending.

Internationally Canada is being pushed to abandon its traditional multilateralism in order to align itself more closely with U.S. unilateralism. There is also more Canadian compliance with U.S. style security procedures such as the "No-Fly" lists, surveillance, and cooperation with their **rendition** program which involves kidnapping people and transporting them to another country for torture. The **Smart Border Accord** would harmonize our immigration, visa, and customs service with theirs.

The push for Deep Integration also involves downward harmonization of our health, environmental, pharmaceutical, and food standards to those of the U.S. by with the adoption of tested-once **"Smart Regulations"** and allowing voluntary compliance by industry.

As American supplies of oil and natural gas dwindle, Canada is increasingly viewed by the White House as America's gas tank for both its domestic needs and its foreign military adventures. This will involve extending the control the U.S. already has over our natural resources under the **proportionality** clause of **NAFTA**. Also being eyed for negotiation is bulk export of our water which the U.S. needs to continue its own wasteful water use practices. Despite massive American deficits and economic instability Canadian continentalists are also pushing for closer currency linkage to the U.S. dollar.

The closer tying of Canada to the U.S. involves the Americanization of our social, economic, and resource policies for the sake of higher corporate profits. This sell-out of the interests of Canadian citizens represents the culmination of the process begun with the "free trade" treaties.

More information on Deep Integration can be found in: "Too Close For Comfort: Canada's Future Within Fortress North America" by Maude Barlow (2005) and "Zip Locking North America: Can Canada Survive Continental Integration?" by Murray Dobbin (2003).

National Citizens' Coalition (NCC)

Founded in 1967, this secretive organization refuses to reveal the corporations that bankroll it, but is known to have an advisory board made up of corporate leaders. The Coalition publishes its yearly "**Tales from the Tax Trough**", ridiculing government social spending. Its publications proclaim public education a failure, advocates privatizing the post office and CBC, opposes government grants for research, and praises the superiority of the private American health care system to Canada's public Medicare. The Coalition has funded campaigns against the Canada Health Act and the Canadian Wheat Board. It has also challenged limits on third party political spending, allowing corporations further influence in elections, while working to undermine union influence in Canada. The NCC lobbies politicians and gives cash prizes to politicians that have advanced the neoliberal agenda as well as to journalists who promote its views. The Coalition is run in an extremely undemocratic manner and its public citizen members can't vote at or even attend its meetings. Prime Minister Stephen Harper is a former Coalition president.

In addition to these more general groups there are numerous manufacturing and business lobby groups influencing the Canadian and provincial governments to implement policies favorable to their particular industry. More information on the organizations described in this section can be found in: "The Myth of the Good Corporate Citizen: Canada and Democracy in the Age of Globalization" 2nd edition by Murray Dobbin (2003) and "Global Showdown: How the New Activists Are Fighting Global Corporate Rule" by Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke (2000).

Deep Integration

The push for "free trade" treaties with the U.S. is only one aspect of a far wider agenda being pursued by Canadian **continentalists**. Their ultimate goal is the Deep Integration of Canada with the United States. This is presented as a necessity in the post 9/11 environment to ensure continued access for Canadian businesses to U.S. markets, but their true agenda involves decimating Canadian social, environmental, and Medicare programs by harmonizing them with their vastly inferior American versions.

Several of the big business front groups discussed above have been very active in pushing this agenda. In a 2003 Washington meeting the **Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE)** president launched the **North American Security and Prosperity Initiative**. The 2005 **Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America**, signed in Waco, Texas by the three leaders of Canada, the U.S., and Mexico, was a virtual carbon-copy of this initiative. The **C.D. Howe Institute** has published many reports supporting the Deep Integration agenda, calling it the

rights in the name of "fighting terrorism", Deep Integration of Canada with the U.S., American **hegemony** (global military, political, and economic domination), and underfunding/privatization of medicare/education/social programs are overwhelmingly the goals or consequences of **corporate rule**. I define this as ownership, control, or undue influence over the economy, mass media, and government by transnational corporations and the wealthy elite who largely own them. This control allows the setting of the agenda and policies for the rest of society and the selling of these policies to the public through the corporate media. This has been the case for several decades but has been shifted into overdrive since the enthusiastic embrace of neoliberalism by the power elite. What we are left with is a hollowed out formal democracy where people's only participation in their own government consists of voting every few years for a narrow slate of candidates chosen by the party machinery. Any real control over government economic policies affecting their daily lives vanishes with the resulting democratic deficit as the elected party pursues a business-friendly agenda. What is left is a depoliticised, disempowered, apathetic electorate more concerned with the latest celebrity gossip or sporting event than with the issues shaping their own future.

Defenders of the established order will deny corporate rule can exist in a democracy. When this line fails they may admit to corporations setting the economic agenda, but claim that the benefits are worth it to the majority of people. When this too is discredited their final fallback position is that corporate rule is inevitable regardless of the costs, and we must simply endure it as the price of living in a globalized world. Economic theory is trotted out to justify all manner of exploitive, irresponsible, destructive business practices in the name of "free markets". Closer examination reveals this to be a self-serving misreading and misapplication designed to rationalize what corporate leaders want to do anyway, solely for their further enrichment. It can ultimately be seen more as desperately clung to ideology or neoliberal theology than as a serious, objective "economic science". Apologists for the big business community will denounce statements such as these, labeling them as strident conspiracy theory, but an honest description would be organized greed. I invite them and everyone else to sample the evidence listed herein. The following books, web sites, magazines, videos, TV and radio programs are presented as a resource to the Edmonton activist community and to all others desiring an alternative view of the world from that which is usually served up to them. •

Radical Randy
radicalrandy@raisemyvoice.com

Social Justice & Activist Contacts

Get Involved! Stay Informed!

These web sites are a quick and easy way to find local groups involved in various social justice, activist, research, and education efforts. These may be accessed directly at <http://activistresources.raisemyvoice.com>.

Local Activist Listservs:

You can keep up to date with various social justice and activist events in the Edmonton area by signing up for free listserv announcements - join directly via the supplied websites, or send an email (provided) asking to subscribe:

Activist Agenda (Earth's General Store): kalman@interbaun.com
Redmonton: <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/redmonton>
Activist Network: <http://edmonton.activist.ca>
Community Networks Group: leocamposa@aol.com
Edm Coalition Against War & Racism: www.ecawar.org
Anarchist Reading Circle: www.oxygensmith.com/~arc
Project Ploughshares: www.members.shaw.ca/projectploughshares
Raging Grannies: <http://clubweb.interbaun.com/grannies/index.html>
Amnesty International: www.ualberta.ca/~aiuofa/edmonton.htm
Women In Black: <http://members.shaw.ca/womeninblack>
Edmonton Small Press Association (ESPA):
<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/edmontonsmallpress>
Miniser Faust: www.ministerfaust.blogspot.com (contains int'l news)

Other Activist Groups (Edmonton):

Economic/Globalization & Public Interest Issues:

www.ualberta.ca/parkland www.pialberta.org www.apirg.org
www.web.net/acgc www.friendsofmedicare.ab.ca

Environmental: www.aenweb.ca www.vofa.ca
www.su-ecos.ca www.efones.ca www.earthsgeneralstore.ca
www.cpaws-edmonton.org www.elc.ab.ca
www.edmontonbicyclecommuters.ca www.biofreedom.ca
<http://prairie.sierraclub.ca/index.html> www.peoplespedal.org

Int'l Development/Relief: www.web.ca/acgc
www.changeforchildren.org www.sombrilla.ca
www.international.ualberta.ca www.humanserve.org
www.oxnet.org/index.php/Edmonton (local chapter of oxfam.ca)

Ottawa pushing the "free trade" agreements for the benefit of the corporate elite, working closely with Federal government departments to achieve this goal and spending millions to sell the **Free Trade Agreement** and **NAFTA** to the Canadian public.

Canadian Taxpayers' Federation

This Ottawa based organization was created in 1990 to fight social programs and combat any egalitarian government policies by attacking the taxes needed to fund them. It is run in a totally undemocratic manner with its members having no control over the Federation's spending or policies.

Fraser Institute

Headquartered in Vancouver and founded in 1974, this is Canada's most important corporate propaganda factory for molding public opinion. It is financed by Canada's leading businesses with more than half of the country's top one hundred most profitable corporations having contributed to it. Also prominent is funding from right-wing foundations such as the **John Dobson Foundation** and the **Donner Foundation** as well as foreign foundations. The Institute has received large grants from ExxonMobil and has published articles in its "Fraser Forum" skeptical of climate change and warning that the Kyoto Protocol on climate change will be disastrous for the Canadian economy. It has staged a presentation on why Russia shouldn't ratify the protocol. It has also campaigned against government tobacco regulation and published a book purporting to refute the link between second hand smoke and cancer by an author who received grants from the tobacco industry. Independent, outside experts have described its surveys as "methodological garbage" but they are used by the cheerleaders of **corporate libertarianism** to rationalize the programs they want to implement for their own financial gain.

The Fraser Institute campaigns for "free trade", privatization of public health and education, anti-union legislation, and has a **Law and Markets Project** advocating limits on citizens' ability to sue corporations for faulty products or pollution. In collaboration with other right-wing institutes it produced the **Economic Freedom of the World** project which equates freedom with the ability to do whatever is desired with wealth regardless of the totalitarian nature of a state.

The Fraser Institute has enjoyed funding from many corporate media conglomerates including Sterling Newspapers, Southam, Thompson Newspapers, and Standard Broadcasting. The institute produces big business friendly reports which can then be quoted by corporate media as "neutral think-tank" conclusions. Its **"Tax Freedom Day"** gimmick is used to campaign for tax cuts for the wealthy with resulting government cutbacks. The Institute's **National Media Archive**, purporting to provide an analysis of bias in Canadian televised news programs, is itself biased and distorted. The Institute claims not to engage in lobbying even though it makes presentations to politicians and packages its "studies" and conferences for them.

Don't Get Fooled Again: Canadian Corporate Front Groups

The advancement of the neoliberal corporate agenda and "free trade" in Canada, along with the erosion of our sovereignty, have not happened by accident. During the last few decades a carefully coordinated campaign led by big business interests and championed by corporate media have pushed these policies. The conclusions of bogus "studies" and reports issued by corporate dominated "think-tanks" have been uncritically and enthusiastically echoed by corporate media. This is used to give ideologically driven agendas a specious patina of academic respectability. These corporate front groups have worked relentlessly to mold government policy toward market fundamentalism, but even more influential has been their role in spreading the neoliberal mythology throughout the public's consciousness. This has been essential in lowering working Canadians' expectations while enriching wealthy investors even further. The Canadian poor and middle classes are encouraged to believe they somehow have interests tied to the wellbeing of the country's financial elite. The ultimate aim of the corporate neoliberalism being promoted by these institutions involves the rollback of the 20th century's social, labour, and environmental gains. What follows is a brief introduction of the major institutions working behind the scenes to promote this program in Canada. The eventual goal of the "free traders", **Deep Integration** of Canada with the United States, is also examined and alternative, non-corporate Canadian public policy sources are presented.

C. D. Howe Institute

This Toronto based "think-tank" founded in 1973 and financed by the corporate sector has been involved in building an elite consensus and changing public opinion. Its "studies" have been used to help create the debt panic as well as to advocate radical cuts to social programs and undermine confidence in the Canada Pension Plan.

Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE)

Formerly the **Business Council on National Issues** or **BCNI**, the CCCE was formed in 1976, and consists of the CEOs of the 150 largest banking, manufacturing, resource, insurance, retail, telecommunications, and energy corporations in Canada (many of them American subsidiaries). The Council has operated behind the scenes in Ottawa since the 1980s as a virtual shadow cabinet, influencing public policy to implement neoliberal programs favoring the interests of Canada's corporate elite and foreign investors, with many of its papers serving as blueprints for Canadian Federal government legislation. These include privatizing Crown Corporations, energy deregulation, tax cuts for the wealthy, watering down competition legislation, and helping to create the deficit hysteria with resulting cuts to social spending. The Council has been the major player in

Labour:

<http://edmonton.iww.ca>
www.edlc.ca
www.informedmonton.com/public/agency/0489.htm

www.afl.org
www.canadianlabour.ca

Arts-Activism/Creative Resistance:

www.edmontonsmallpress.org
www.thoughtcrimeink.com
www.madeinalberta.ca
www.raisemyvoice.com

www.globalvisionsfestival.com
www.mayweek.ab.ca
www.rbcc.ca

Citizen's Groups/Informational Web Sites (Global):

These sites provide a wide-ranging source of information from around the world on global issues, from backgrounders to the latest developments. I have arranged these with what I consider the most useful or vital at the beginning of each section. (All sites prefaced by "www." to save space.)

Citizen's Groups:

womanspace.ca
ceasefire.ca
healthcoalition.ca
ploughshares.ca
kairoscanada.org
amnesty.org

canadians.org
activist.ca
citizen.org
friends.ca
ccla.org
acp-cpa.ca/en
aclu.org

pej.org
policyalternatives.ca
fairvotecanada.org
polarisinstitute.org
savemedicare.com
interpares.ca
humanrightswatch.org

News & Alternative/Independent Media:

pej.org
fair.org
thenation.com
freespeech.org
motherjones.org
gregpalast.com
mediachannel.org

indymedia.ca
newint.org
iacenter.org
adbusters.org
oneworld.net
robert-fisk.com
alternativeradio.org

rabble.ca
vivelecanada.ca
alternet.org
publicintegrity.org
commondreams.org
democracynow.org
progressive.org
dominionpaper.ca

Globalization, Neoliberalism & Fair Trade:

globalexchange.org
ifg.org
focusweb.org
seen.org
transfair.ca

corporations.org
sprawl-busters.com
50years.org
corporateeurope.org
oxfam.ca

corpwatch.org
mcspotlight.org
iatp.org
corporatetwatch.org.uk
corporatecrimereporter.com

Environmental:

ran.org
foe.org
earthfirst.org
cpaws.org
nrdc.org
pej.org

sierraclub.ca
pembina.org
greenpeace.ca
davidsuzuki.org
theecologist.org
wildernesscommittee.org

Audio-Visual & Magazine Resources

Magazines:

The following recommended mags are all available at **Earth's General Store**. Some are also available at the **Edmonton Public Library** as well as various other magazine/bookstores. Hundreds of social justice & activist zines and books can also be obtained from the **Edmonton Small Press Association (ESPA)**. A list of these & other recommended local merchants and distributors is provided on the inside back cover.

Recommended Magazines: The Parkland Post, Alberta Views, The Walrus, UTNE, Mother Jones, New Internationalist, Z Magazine, Adbusters, Extra!, Canadian Dimension, This Magazine, The Activist, Briarpatch, Yes!, Red Pepper, Alternative Press Review, Global Outlook, Clamor Magazine, The Ecologist, E: The Environmental Magazine, Earth First!, Earth Island Journal, Anarchy, Permaculture Magazine.

CD/Spoken Word:

(All available at the Edmonton Public Library):

- "Hegemony Or Survival: America's Quest For Global Dominance" Noam Chomsky, 2003
- "Free Market Fantasies: Capitalism In The Real World", 2000
- "Case Studies In Hypocrisy: U.S. Human Rights Policy", 2000
- "Class War: The Attack On Working People", 1995
- "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man", John Perkins, 2005
- "Nickel and Dimed", Barbara Ehrenreich, 2004
- "Become The Media", Jello Biafra, 2000
- "Drowning In Stuff" (Cassette Tape), Jill Eisen, 1999
- "Fast Food Nation" (Cassette Tape), Eric Schlosser, 2001

TV Programs:

(*indicates channels & broadcast times at time of printing)

- "NOW": A wide-ranging look at various aspects of American politics and business from a non-corporate viewpoint.
* on PBS: Shaw #22 (KSPS) @ 9:00pm Friday or Shaw #24 (WTVS) @ 11:30am Sunday
- "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart" and "The Colbert Report": Irreverent, satirical takes on the more absurd pronouncements and actions of the American government.
* on CTV (CFRN): Shaw & Telus #2, Mon-Thurs @ Midnight (Mature)

Radio, Streaming Audio & Podcasts:

CJSR Radio 88.5 FM (www.cjsr.ualberta.ca): A wide variety of news and information programs, both American and locally produced:

- "Democracy Now"- Mon., 5pm
- "Terra Informa"- Tues., 5pm

ments), and permits foreign corporations to commit biopiracy by patenting indigenous life forms developed by local residents over centuries. The TRIPs section was lobbied for and effectively written by several U.S. giant corporations including Dupont, Pfizer, Monsanto, and General Motors along with Japanese and European companies and industry groups. Another provision is the **General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)** which originally covered banking and financial services but has been expanded to define healthcare and education as services. Under GATS, if we open any portion of one of these public services to private Canadian companies, foreign corporations could sue under the WTO to privatize the whole sector. Together with NAFTA it may make it exorbitantly expensive to bring back public services such as Medicare once they have been privatized. The biannual November 1999 WTO Ministerial summit was the site of the most famous anti-corporate globalization protest of all when tens of thousands of activists virtually shut it down during the famed "**Battle of Seattle**".

Fair Trade Alternatives

Fair Trade stands in diametrical opposition to Free Trade. Under **free trade** prices to farmers and producers are driven as low as possible, often with the aid of the International Monetary Fund's Structural Adjustment Programs. This has exacerbated widespread poverty and child labour in developing nations. Under **Fair Trade**, farmers and local producers receive a guaranteed minimum floor price and earn more if prices rise. This allows for a more economically and environmentally sustainable system of production and helps to lift local workers, farmers, and their families out of poverty.

Some groups working to promote Fair Trade include Oxfam Canada, TransFair Canada (the certifying body for Canadian Fair Trade goods), and our own Edmonton Small Press Association is the local group that produces an annual Fair Trade Fair & Film Fest as part of TransFair's National Fair Trade Weeks (held every May).

See the Videos & DVDs section of this guide for great films about Fair Trade, see the inside back cover for a small list of stores which offer certified fair trade goods in Edmonton, or call the ESPA for more info on Fair Trade networks, resources and listservs in North America.

This logo is your guarantee: It stands for fairness and global social responsibility in international trade. In Canada, you can find the label on select brands of coffee, tea, chocolate, sugar, fruit (bananas & mangos), cereals (rice and quinoa), spices, cotton garments, wine, roses, and sports balls. Buying Fair Trade Certified products helps make the world a better place by paying farmers and workers in developing countries a fair price. **See Transfair.ca for more info.**



World Bank

Officially called the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development**, the **World Bank** was formally created in 1945 as part of the Bretton Woods institutions and is headquartered in Washington, D.C. It presents itself as helping to finance the developing world in its industrialization programs, but a closer look reveals a darker side. The Bank has been responsible for promoting large-scale environmentally destructive development projects that benefit transnational corporations and contractors and make it easier for foreign interests to exploit a country's resources. The Bank is especially notorious for financing dams that have displaced millions of people around the world. Developing nations wind up with billions of dollars in debt while most of the benefits go to local power elites and foreign contractors. A U.S. Bank official once estimated that for every dollar the United States spends on the Bank, American corporations receive \$1.30 in business. When countries can no longer pay even the interest on their loans they may fall victim to intervention by the **International Monetary Fund (see IMF)**.

World Economic Forum (WEF)

Created by Swiss Billionaire Klaus Schwab, the WEF first formally met in 1971. The Forum is an annual meeting, usually in Davos, Switzerland, of the world's most powerful political leaders and corporate executives. It provides a venue for further advancing globalization and neoliberal policies. It is **not** to be confused with the **World Social Forum (WSF)** which began in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001. The WSF is an annual meeting of tens of thousands of grass roots social justice activists from numerous **non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** from around the world dedicated to developing alternatives to neoliberal globalization. The WSF's slogan is "Another world is possible".

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Formerly the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade** or **GATT**, the WTO commenced its present incarnation in 1995 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The WTO is the most powerful trade regulatory body on the planet for the advancement of the rights of transnational corporations. Unlike its predecessor the GATT, the WTO is designed to eliminate any non-tariff barriers that were claimed to stand in the way of international trade. Foreign corporations can challenge our laws by requesting their government to bring Canada before secretive tribunals of trade bureaucrats with the power to impose severe retaliatory trade sanctions to enforce their ruling. These rulings can be used to force Canada to change its laws if they're ruled to restrain potential corporate profits. The WTO includes the **Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs)** which extends U.S. style monopoly patent rights to the rest of the world. This allows drug companies to deny developing countries the right to produce cheap generic drugs (such as those for AIDS treat-

- "Counterspin"- Tues., 5:30pm
- "Rise Up"- Wed., 5:30pm
- "The Terrordome"- Wed., 6pm
- "Alternative Radio"- Sat., 11am

Streaming audio & podcasts also available on: rabble.ca, pej.org, coopradio.org, pacifica.org, airamericaradio.com (preface all with "www.")

Videos & DVDs:

Most of the following are available at the **Edmonton Public Library**. Many are available through **Earth's General Store**, the **ESPA** and **Rainbow Bridge Communications (RBCC)**. Contact information for local lenders & distributors is provided on the inside back cover.

Corporations:

- "The Corporation" 2003
- "Money" 2004
- "The Money Masters" 2004
- "Bhopal: The Search for Justice" 2004
- "Wal-Mart, the High Cost of Low Price" 2005



Corporate Media:

- "Truth Merchants" 1998
- "Manufacturing Consent: Noam Chomsky and the Media" 1992
- "Orwell Rolls in His Grave" 2004
- "Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism" 2004
- "Weapons of Mass Deception" 2004

U.S. Imperialism:

- "The Oil Factor: Behind the War on Terror" 2005
- "Fahrenheit 9/11" 2004
- "Inside the CIA: On Company Business" 1987
- "Uncovered: The Whole Truth About the Iraq War" 2004
- "Control Room" 2004

Commodification, Genetic Engineering & Food Issues:

- "Future of Food" 2005
- "The Genetic Takeover" 1999
- "Beef, Inc." 1997
- "A Cow at My Table" 2001
- "Super Size Me" 2004
- "Sweet Misery: A Poisoned World", 2004
- "In Defense of Animals: A Portrait of Peter Singer" 1989

Consumerism:

- "Affluenza: Medical Alert!" 1997
- "Escape From Affluenza" 1998
- "I Wanna Be Adored" 1998
- "End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion & the Collapse of the American Dream" 2004

Activism:

"Democracy a la Maude" 1997
"Culture Jam: Hijacking Commercial Culture" 2001
"View From the Summit" 2002
"Speaking Our Peace" 1985

Globalization & Developing World Debt:

"Global Assembly Line" 1986 "Minimum Wages" 1994
"Turbulences" 1997 "Free Trade Slaves" 1998
"The Big One" 1998 "Trading Democracy" 2002
"Life and Debt" 2003 "The Take" 2004
"Who's Counting: Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies & Global Economics" 1995
"Emperor's New Clothes: Cautionary Tale of Free Trade" 1995
"The Debt Crisis: An Unnatural Disaster" 1990
"For Man Must Work, or, the End of Work" 2000

Fair Trade & Labour-Related:

"Zoned for Slavery: The Child Behind the Label" 1995
"Mickey Mouse Goes to Haiti" 1996
"Sweating For a T-Shirt" 1998 "Something To Hide" 1999
"Fair Trade Labelling Organizations International" 2002
"Stolen Childhoods" 2003
"After Cancun: Free Trade or Fair Trade?" 2004
"Betrayed: The Story of Canadian Merchant Seamen" 2004
"Buyer Be Fair: The Promise of Product Certification" 2005

Environmentalism:

"Battle For the Trees" 1993 "Earth Trauma" 1998
"The Earth Changes!" 1998 "Save Clayoquot Sound" 1998
"Turning Down the Heat" 1998 "Holes In Heaven?" 2002
"Ah... the Money, the Money: The Battle For Saltspring" 2001
"Crashshoot: The Gamble With Our Wastes" 2004

* NEW: "Made In Alberta" eco-series (2006) is now available through RBCC & ESPA, as well as broadcast on Shaw TV (various times).



Canada begins to run out of conventional oil and natural gas reserves. Furthermore, Canada is required to charge the same price for oil and natural gas used in this country as it does on exports to the U.S. NAFTA was promoted as a way to encourage more American investment in Canada to create new businesses but the overwhelming majority of that new investment has gone toward buying up existing Canadian companies rather than setting up new ones. This has resulted in a hollowing out of our economy. Together with the WTO it may make it exorbitantly expensive to bring back public services such as Medicare once they have been privatized. To appease critics NAFTA also contains environmental, labour, and cultural "side deals", but with no credible enforcement mechanism these are rendered meaningless window dressing.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Formed in 1961 with its secretariat in Paris, the OECD consists of the richest 30 or so developed countries and their global corporations. This was the organization responsible for promoting the failed **Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI)**.

Organization of American States (OAS)

The OAS is an organization made up of North, Central, and South American and Caribbean governments which has become the primary political vehicle for carrying out neoliberal "free market" style integration of the Americas. The June, 2000 annual meeting held in **Windsor**, Ontario was an opportunity for thousands of protestors to challenge neoliberal globalization.

Quad

Collective term for the developed countries and regions most aggressively promoting neoliberal globalization. These are the U.S., Canada, Europe and Japan.

Trilateral Commission

The Trilateral Commission was formed in 1973 when David Rockefeller and Zbigniew Brzezinski (later national security advisor to President Carter) expanded the secretive post World War II **Bilderberg** meetings of North American and Western European political and business leaders to include Japan. It includes heads of the largest banks, media corporations and other companies. Its members also include politicians not currently occupying high office. Former Presidents Jimmy Carter, George Herbert Walker Bush, and Bill Clinton have all been members. The Commission advocates the **Washington Consensus** approach of neoliberal market freedom for corporations and the control of developing countries through debt. A major challenge of the Commission was to reverse the rising tide of participation by citizens of the democratic nations which began to threaten the established order in the 1960s. Its first report concluded that "Some of the problems of governance in the United States today stem from an excess of democracy".

privatizations and open itself to foreign investors and financial speculators. This can result in huge profits for transnational corporations, but also results in the economic destabilization of whole regions of the world such as the mid-1990s Latin American and the 1997 East Asian financial meltdowns. In addition, rather than growing food for their own population, farmers are diverted into growing cash crops for export to pay the debts, leading to further food insecurity for their people. Due to international criticism, the IMF now refers to these as **Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF)** programs. IMF bailouts of countries undergoing financial meltdown have been for the benefit of Wall Street bond investors rather than the people of the affected countries. The U.S. is the one country that has veto power over major changes to Fund policy. Together with the World Bank, the IMF has been responsible for increasing the impoverishment of the planet's poorest nations. The spiraling debt loads of these countries make them easy prey for transnational corporations eager for quick profits, as well as to political pressure from the U.S. to advance its own international objectives.

Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI)

This failed attempt to further entrench global corporate rights was first drafted by the **International Chamber of Commerce** and negotiated at the **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development**. It would have given corporations the right to sue governments that passed laws that might reduce their potential profits as well as challenging government funded social programs. Also, governments could not demand domestic content in hiring or any other aspect of the operation when foreign companies exploited publicly owned resources. The MAI would have given corporations the same legal status as nation-states. In 1997 Canadian activists obtained copies of the then secret agreement, and the resulting world-wide grass roots uproar led to its collapse in 1998.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

This came into effect in 1994 by bringing Mexico into 1989's **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** between Canada and the U.S. This earlier treaty gave corporations all the legal rights of citizens but without the obligations. The **National Treatment** principle in NAFTA means that the Canadian government cannot favour its own corporations over those of the U.S. or Mexico in order to keep jobs or profits here. The infamous **Chapter 11** provision allows foreign corporations to sue the Canadian government before secretive trade tribunals for laws that potentially interfere with their profits. This includes environmental laws designed to protect public health. There is also the **proportionality** clause which obligates Canada to continue exporting the same or higher proportion of its energy and other natural resources to the U.S. even if we start to suffer shortages ourselves. This provision, which the Mexican government refused to sign, makes it virtually impossible to institute meaningful conservation measures even as

Edmonton Public Library Books: Social Justice, Activism & Globalization

The following books deal with various aspects of neoliberalism, globalization, corporate rule and their consequences. All are highly recommended but I have tried to start each section with what I consider the most useful, general, or overarching books. Those unfamiliar with neoliberalism will probably benefit by starting with the first introductory section. (Many social justice & activist books are also available at **Earth's General Store**, the **Edmonton Small Press Association**, and via the **APIRG** Library.)

Quick & Easy Introductions to Globalization, Neoliberalism & Corporate Rule:

These books provide an excellent guide to those unfamiliar with the "new economy" and its effects on society, and who are looking for a very basic introduction to the subject.

- **"Culture Jam: The Uncooling of America"** by Kalle Lasn (1999)
A lively, readable account by the creator of Adbusters of the neoliberal corporate takeover of our culture and society.
- **"Goodbye Canada"** by Paul Hellyer (2001) Basic intro to the free trade treaties Canada has been led into, and resulting loss of sovereignty.
- **"The No-Nonsense Guide to Globalization"** by Wayne Ellwood (2001)
A good intro to the institutions involved in corporate-led globalization.

Globalization, Neoliberalism & Corporate Rule:

Since the 1980s we have been subjected to an unrelenting propaganda campaign on the virtues of unrestricted freedom for big business, while being assured that the blessings of **neoliberal** "free market" capitalism will be made available to all through the magic of "trickle down" economics. In the global corporate 'race to the bottom' known as **globalization**, manufacturing has been relocated to sweatshops in developing countries and money has been freed to flow to wherever the highest profit margin can be pried out. In Canada these objectives have been championed by the Canadian Council of Chief Executives as well as corporate funded "think-tanks" such the Fraser and C. D. Howe Institutes. This section explores the NAFTA, WTO, IMF and other members of the "free trade" menagerie as well as the transnational corporations which relentlessly push these corporate bills of rights. The corporate control of government and continuing erosion of Canadian sovereignty are also examined.

- **“Too Close For Comfort: Canada’s Future Within Fortress North America”** by Maude Barlow (2005) An excellent account of the struggle to maintain Canadian independence in the face of “free trade” and the corporate push for Deep Integration with the U.S.
- **“Global Showdown: How the New Activists Are Fighting Global Corporate Rule”** by Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke (2000) The single best book on neoliberal globalization, NAFTA, WTO, IMF and government complicity in advancing the big business agenda, as well as the worldwide movement of citizens’ fight-back.
- **“Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power”** by Joel Bakan (2004) Profiles the history of corporations, and the effects of deregulation and privatization, corporate control of government, and corporate penetration of schools and public spaces.
- **“When Corporations Rule The World”** by David C. Korten (1995) The classic work on corporate control of government in pursuit of the neoliberal agenda and “free trade”.
- **“The Collapse of Globalism and the Reinvention of the World”** by John Ralston Saul (2005) Chronology of the rise and fall of globalization and its artificial linkage to neoliberalism. Academically oriented.
- **“The Case Against the Global Economy and For a Turn Toward the Local”** edited by Jerry Mander and Edward Goldsmith (1996) A wide-ranging series of essays by some of the world’s foremost globalization critics.
- **“All You Can Eat: Greed, Lust, and the New Capitalism”** by Linda McQuaig (2001) Historical perspective on “free trade” and its relation to past enclosure movements.
- **“The Vanishing Country: Is It Too Late To Save Canada”** by Mel Hurtig (2002) Effect of NAFTA and American ownership, harmonization and privatization on Canadian independence.
- **“Zip Locking North America: Can Canada Survive Continental Integration?”** by Murray Dobbin (2003) The threat posed to Canadian sovereignty, medicare & social programs by Deep Integration with the U.S.
- **“A Citizen’s Guide To the World Trade Organization”** 2nd edition by Steven Shrybman (2001) Thorough look at the major institution for worldwide corporate globalization.
- **“Profit Over People: Neoliberalism and Global Order”** by Noam Chomsky (1999) Interview highlighting the concepts behind neoliberalism

Bretton Woods Institutions

This term refers to the three organizations which resulted from a 1944 international meeting in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. The organizations are the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade** or **GATT** (now morphed into the **World Trade Organization**), the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development** (commonly known as the **World Bank**), and the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.

Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

Known as “NAFTA on steroids” (see NAFTA below), this is an attempt to extend the “free trade” area to include all of North, Central, and South America except Cuba. This treaty includes the **Chapter 11** provisions of **NAFTA** allowing corporations to sue governments for lost potential profits, as well as the **GATS** agreement of the **WTO** allowing corporations to request their governments to sue to force the privatization of public services. In April 2001, **Quebec City** was the site of the **Summit of the Americas** meeting of Western Hemispheric leaders to advance the FTAA negotiations. The summit became the location of Canada’s most famous anti-corporate globalization protest when tens of thousands of demonstrators also made an appearance.

Group of 8 (G8)

This group of the world’s dominant industrial and military powers originally began in 1975 with France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the U.S. as members. It was subsequently expanded to the **G7** with the inclusion of Canada, and later the **G8** with Russia. It also includes representatives from the European Union. Lately one of the key controversies surrounding the annual G8 meetings of its leaders has revolved around their unwillingness to substantially relieve developing world debt. The G8 governments and their corporate elite are also the driving force behind neoliberal globalization. A massive protest occurred at their July, 2001 **Genoa**, Italy meeting. In June 2002 the G8 heads met in a heavily guarded hotel in **Kananaskis**, Alberta, while thousands of demonstrators protested their policies in nearby Calgary.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Formally created in 1945 as part of the **Bretton Woods** institutions and headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Fund was originally established to stabilize currency exchange rates but its role altered profoundly during the Reagan years. The Fund is now known as the lender of last resort to heavily indebted countries who are in danger of defaulting on their interest payments to international financial institutions such as the **World Bank**. This involves undermining their sovereignty by imposing **conditionality** on these countries in the form of a **Structural Adjustment Program (SAP)**. Under these one-size-fits-all programs the country is required to cut social spending on education, healthcare, and food subsidies, as well as carry out

“Free Trade” Alphabet Soup

A major hurdle anyone new to the globalization debate faces is trying to wade through the ‘alphabet soup’ of international trade agreement acronyms. This guide is offered as a brief introduction to the major treaties Canada is involved in, and their implications for this country.

Although these treaties are invariably presented to the public as promoting “free trade” they have very little to do with lowering tariffs or removing subsidies to agribusiness giants. A closer examination reveals that their true role is the elevation of corporate rights above national law and the ability of countries to control their own economies. Agreements allowing the free flow of capital are instrumental in promoting the **global corporate ‘race to the bottom’** in which nations, held hostage to international financial markets, are forced to compete to see which of them can offer transnational corporations the biggest tax breaks, lowest wages, and laxest environmental enforcement. The treaties also seek to “harmonize” standards, in effect bringing all member states down to the lowest common denominator. It is the meetings of these organizations that have drawn huge protests around the world, often with severe police crackdowns. The planning sessions for these trade summits can be counted on to include corporate representatives with the resulting treaties embodying rights for big business at the expense of the world’s citizens. Beyond entrenching ever stronger rights for big business, neoliberalism and the trade treaties promote the **commodification and enclosure of the global commons**. This involves seizing cultural and economic resources such as education, healthcare, and access to clean water from the community and placing them under private control for private profit and use by those who can afford it. These trade treaties serve to facilitate the plundering and further impoverishment of developing countries of the **Global South** by transnational corporations from the **Global North**. In recent years, due to increasing international criticism, the backers of these unfair, asymmetric trade pacts claim to have reformed their worst provisions, but this usually amounts to little more than a public relations exercise. In addition, there are other organizations and summits Canada is involved in which further push the neoliberal agenda. More information on all of these treaties and organizations can be found in the Globalization section of the “Books” portion of this Handbook.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

This organization of North and South American, Oceanic, and East Asian countries with its secretariat in Singapore was formed in 1989 to promote “free trade” in the region with an agenda of deregulation, privatization, and completely unrestricted foreign investment. At its meetings transnational corporations are considered equal partners with governments. Thousands protested the leaders’ November 1997 **Vancouver** summit, site of the infamous police pepper-spraying of demonstrators.

and the reality of their effect on people.

- **“Globalization and its Discontents”** by Joseph E. Stiglitz (2002) Former chief economist of the World Bank discusses its effect and that of the International Monetary Fund on the world’s population.
- **“The Selling of ‘Free Trade’: NAFTA, Washington and the Subversion of American Democracy”** by John R Macarthur (2000) Political maneuvering in the U.S. behind the push for NAFTA.

Neoliberal Economic Myths & Fallacies:

The neoliberal project could not have been advanced without a series of myths designed to sell it to the public. Distorted and mangled economic theology masquerading as science is used to prop up corporate rule. Primary in this has been the equation of corporate dominated capitalism with “free markets”. Competing independent entrepreneurs would supposedly bring Adam Smith’s concept of supply and demand ruling the marketplace to life.

In reality we have corporate monopolies and oligopolies with competition even further curtailed through the constant rounds of mergers and acquisitions, promoted as increasing business efficiency. Corporate capitalism is equated with formal democratic institutions even though it leads to an even further erosion of real power by the people. We are told there is only one inevitable model of globalization, when this particular form has been deliberately chosen and pursued by a small elite for their own financial gain. David Ricardo’s theory of comparative advantage is used to back up international free trade when it no longer even applies in an era of hyper-mobile investment capital. Increased global trade is supposed to somehow bring about an improvement in general material well-being, when the reality is increased concentration of wealth in fewer hands. International investment is applauded by the financial media even though the vast majority of it is short term speculation—“hot money” that can destabilize entire regions of the world. Foreign investment in Canada is celebrated as an unmitigated blessing, when in reality it means that the profit from and control of business activities, as well as the top jobs, flow out of the country. Mandatory regulation of business behaviour has been replaced by “smart” regulations in which companies are allowed to voluntarily police themselves. Corporations whose only reason for existence is to generate profits for shareholders by any means possible, legally or otherwise, are presented as the best hope for world prosperity. Big business leaders portray themselves as valiantly struggling to compete on their own while receiving huge subsidies and government handouts. Meanwhile the working poor are admonished to get by with less. All this is done in the name of an economic efficiency trumpeted as being for the betterment of humankind.

● **“The Myth of the Good Corporate Citizen: Canada and Democracy in the Age of Globalization”** 2nd edition by Murray Dobbin (2003)

The myths Canadian corporate media uses to promote neoliberalism and the business groups behind the push for globalization.

● **“The [Undeclared] War: Class Conflict in the Age of Cyber Capitalism”** by James Laxer (1999) Explores the reality of the growing class inequalities of the new economy behind the neoliberal rhetoric.

● **“The Cult of Impotence: Selling the Myth of Powerlessness in the Global Economy”** by Linda McQuaig (1998) Good introduction to economic concepts and post World War II economic history.

● **“The Divine Right of Capital: Dethroning the Corporate Aristocracy”** by Marjorie Kelly (2001) Examines the aristocracy of wealth created by shareholder demands for ever increasing corporate returns.

● **“Wealth By Stealth: Corporate Crime, Corporate Law, and the Perversion of Democracy”** by Harry Glasbeek (2002) Implications of Canadian corporate law, as well as detailed discussion of corporate crime, boycotts, ethical investing, and the false equation of corporate capitalism with free markets. Very academically oriented,

● **“False Dawn: The Delusions of Global Capitalism”** by John Gray (1999) Debunks myths of the “free market”, provides a history of English laissez-faire capitalism, and looks at alternative forms of capitalism from around the world.

● **“The Vampire State and Other Myths and Fallacies About the U.S. Economy”** by Fred L. Block (1996) A look at the true role of government in the economy.

● **“Poor-Bashing: The Politics of Exclusion”** by Jean Swanson (2001) Examines myths used to scapegoat and marginalize the poor in Canada.

Alberta Politics/Economics:

No other province better exemplifies the theological reverence for neoliberalism than Alberta. Its precious nonrenewable resources are being squandered as the provincial government virtually gives them away to energy companies, mainly American, at rock-bottom prices. Taxes for the corporate sector and the wealthiest Albertans are cut. Meanwhile social programs are starved of funding and we are told that Alberta medicare spending is unsustainable. The Alberta government maintains power by appealing to fundamentalist “family values” while its policies undermine the livelihoods of working families. Regressive labour laws and disregard for

are empowering themselves and learn a few tips for your own fight-back.

● **“Global Uprising: Confronting the Tyrannies of the 21st Century”** by Neva Welton and Linda Wolf (2001) Essays from around the world on citizen’s resistance to corporate rule.

● **“The Global Activist’s Manual: Local Ways to Change the World”** edited by Mike Prokosch and Laura Raymond (2002) A wide-ranging series of essays on coalition building, direct action, consumer mobilization, and other practical aspects of activism.

● **“An Action a Day: Keeps Global Capitalism Away”** by Mike Hudema (2004) A creative how-to manual on resisting neoliberalism by a legendary Edmonton activist.

● **“We Are Everywhere: The Irresistible Rise of Global Anticapitalism”** edited by Notes From Nowhere (2003) Comprehensive overview of a decade of anti-corporate globalization protests from around the world.

● **“Fences and Windows: Dispatchs From the Front Lines of the Globalization Debate”** by Naomi Klein (2002) On-the-scene reports from the battle against neoliberal globalization.

● **“The Legacy of Luna: The Story of a Tree, a Woman, and the Struggle to Save the Redwoods”** by Julia Butterfly Hill (2000) One woman’s account of her two year tree-sit to save the California redwoods.



- **“The Bush Dyslexicon: Observations on a National Disorder”** by Mark Crispin Miller (2001) A look at the right-wing in America and its political influence.

- **“Dude, Where’s My Country?”** by Michael Moore (2003) Raises unanswered 9/11 questions and examines White House lies about the Iraq war as well as looking at the Wall Street financial casino.

Alternatives to Corporate Globalization/Free Trade:

Since the collapse of Soviet communism neoliberals have proclaimed the unregulated global marketplace supreme. Their rallying cry has been Margaret Thatcher’s infamous “TINA” (there is no alternative). To this, activists around the world have replied “TATA” (there are thousands of alternatives). These books provide the answer to that perennial taunt of globalization’s boosters: “we know what you’re against, but what are you for?”.

- **“Alternatives to Economic Globalization: A Better World is Possible”** by John Cavanagh (2002) Great summary of neoliberal globalization and its institutions and systematic analysis of the possible alternatives. Academically oriented.

- **“Deglobalization: Ideas For a New World Economy”** by Walden Bello (2002) History and activities of the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, etc. and the alternatives.

- **“The Post-Corporate World: Life After Capitalism”** by David C. Korten (1999) Explores new ways of doing business outside the confines of corporate capitalism.

- **“The No-Nonsense Guide to Fair Trade”** by David Ransom (2001) Presents the alternative to corporate “free trade” globalization.

- **“Good News For a Change: Hope For a Troubled Planet”** by David Suzuki and Holly Dressel (2002) Describes how out of our present dysfunctional economic system people have begun to change the way they do business to create a more sustainable lifestyle.

Activism:

Resistance is futile? Hardly! From Mexico’s Zapatistas rising up against NAFTA to Argentine workers taking over abandoned factories, to the WTO “Battle of Seattle” to local Edmonton activists finding everyday ways to subvert the system, the struggle against neoliberalism and corporate-style globalization is growing. Explore the diverse ways people around the world

environmental degradation have become standard policies in the creation of a “business-friendly” climate in the province.

- **“Shredding the Public Interest: Ralph Klein and 25 Years of One-Party Government”** by Kevin Taft (1997) Lively and readable exposé of government cutbacks and corporate welfare in Alberta.

- **“The Return of the Trojan Horse: Alberta and the New World (Dis)order”** edited by Trevor W. Harrison (2005) Series of essays providing a comprehensive survey of the effects of neoliberalism on Alberta’s citizens and the myths used to justify it. Very academically oriented.

(A wide selection of publications dealing with Alberta political & economic issues may also be obtained from the Parkland Institute & Public Interest Alberta - see inside back cover for contact info.)

Privatization, Commodification, Corporate Ownership:

A major objective of neoliberalism is to bring everything from medicare to education, to the right to clean water to the genetic heritage of life itself, into the marketplace for the exclusive use of those who can afford them. Governments have systematically underfunded our healthcare, education and social programs, and when quality declines and waiting times increase, we are told by corporate leaders that the only viable solution is to privatize. In fact, this system leads to higher prices due to higher administrative costs, marketing costs, and the need for investor profits. In addition, poorer training, pay, and working conditions for those providing the services usually result, but all this is presented as a “reform” of the system. The latest incarnation of the privatization manoeuver is the **Public-Private Partnership (P3)** in which governments lease facilities from corporations for extended periods with guaranteed profit margins to investors, while the public is left to pick up the extra cost and suffers decreased quality of service.

- **“You Don’t Always Get What You Pay For: The Economics of Privatization”** by Elliott D. Sclar (2000) Reveals the true cost we pay for privatizing services to the corporate sector.

- **“Profit Is Not The Cure: A Citizen’s Guide To Saving Medicare”** by Maude Barlow (2002) Deconstructs the arguments for Medicare privatization and looks at the corporate forces behind the privatization push.

- **“Blue Gold: The Battle Against Corporate Theft of the World’s Water”** by Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke (2002) Reveals the corporate attempt to privatize the world’s access to clean water and the international fight-back against it.

- **“Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply”** by Vandana Shiva (2000) Examines genetically modified foods, the World Trade Organization, and the biopiracy committed against countries of the developing world.

Deteriorating Jobs/Work Life:

Worker’s real wages in the Western world have been largely stagnating or declining since the 1970s. People are either underemployed or working longer and harder (often at multiple McJobs) for less. Simultaneously, unions have been subjected to an unrelenting assault by neoliberal governments. Even lower and middle management jobs have been deteriorating as upper management and corporate shareholders reap more of the rewards in a globalized economy. Employees are exhorted to be ever more dedicated to their jobs, even as those jobs disappear.

- **“Nickel and Dimed”** by Barbara Ehrenreich (2001) Undercovers the absurdity of trying to survive in America while working poverty-waged jobs.

- **“White-Collar Sweatshop: The Deterioration of Work and its Rewards in Corporate America”** by Jill Andresky Fraser (2001) Fascinating account of how under neoliberalism even formerly coveted white collar jobs are becoming less and less desirable.

- **“Take Back Your Time: Fighting Overwork and Time Poverty in America”** edited by John De Graaf (2003) Wide-ranging series of essays on the philosophical basis of work, the economy, capitalism, and inequality.

- **“The European Dream: How Europe’s Vision of the Future Is Quietly Eclipsing the American Dream”** by Jeremy Rifkin (2004) Excellent history of the origins and development of the American dream and the new European alternative. Academically oriented.

Corporate Media Control/Spin:

The mass media presents itself as an objective, neutral, if occasionally somewhat sensationalistic, chronicler of the news of the day. Right-wing critics charge it with a social or cultural liberal bias but this obscures the true nature of media spin. Mass media is overwhelmingly corporate, embracing and expounding the values of corporate leaders. The major media outlets are links in huge media chains with many of these conglomerates themselves owned by transnational corporations. Corporate control is further solidified by the advertising dollars other corporations spend on the media. Thus it comes as no surprise that the mass media consistently support globalization, neoliberalism, and the politicians that push these corporate agendas. Editors serve as the day-to-day gatekeepers for corpo-

- **“Hegemony or Survival: America’s Quest For Global Dominance”** by Noam Chomsky (2003) Reveals U.S. human rights hypocrisy, marginalization of the U.N., American invasions and coups around the world and control of the media.

- **“What’s the Matter With Kansas: How Conservatives Won the Heart of America”** by Thomas Frank (2004) Terrific analysis of how the anger of the Christian right, “family values” and culture-war backlash movement was mobilized by the wealthy to advance their corporate interests at the expense of ordinary Americans through the separation of class from economics. Implications for Alberta politics?

- **“Confessions of an Economic Hit Man”** by John Perkins (2004) A former insider describes how developing world countries become entrapped by debt and then fall victim to pressure by the U.S. government and are preyed upon by its corporations.

- **“A People’s History of the United States: 1492-Present”** by Howard Zinn (1995) The classic work on American history from the perspective of the common people and their struggle.

- **“Rogue State: A Guide to the World’s Only Superpower”** by William Blum (2000) Comprehensive history of post-World War II U.S. invasions, coups, assassinations, and support for torture.

- **“The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic”** by Chalmers Johnson (2004) Describes how U.S. military bases form the physical infrastructure of its empire, the rise to supremacy of the military-industrial complex, and provides a detailed analysis of American military/espionage institutions.

- **“Rogue Nation: The America the Rest of the World Knows”** by Peter Scowen (2002) U.S. aggression against and overthrow of governments of various countries from the end of World War II onward. Also looks at the American religious right and the 2000 Presidential election.

- **“Rushing to Armageddon: Canada and America’s Star Wars”** by Mel Hurtig (2004) Exposes U.S. efforts to coerce Canada into joining its offensive military project (masquerading as a “defensive shield”) as part of its plan to weaponize space.

- **“An Ordinary Person’s Guide to Empire”** by Arundhati Roy (2004) A series of essays mainly concentrating on the American Empire and its effects on the world.

Mimi Swartz (2003) Details Enron's creative accounting practices to inflate its share prices and its use of political influence to push deregulation and engineer artificial energy shortages.

- **"McLibel: Burger Culture on Trial"** by John Vidal (1997) Details Britain's longest trial: McDonald's libel prosecution/persecution of two English activists for daring to publicly criticize the company.

U.S. History, Politics, Militarism & Hegemony:

For decades, throughout Latin America, the Middle East, and around the world, the U.S. has covertly or through direct military invasion destabilized and overthrown governments to institute "democratic regime change" while simultaneously propping up corrupt right-wing military despots. The American government claims to have done this in its role of "fighting communism", "fighting the drug lords" or "fighting the war on terrorism". In fact the motivation has invariably been to advance U.S. strategic interests and/or to benefit its corporations by creating investor-friendly governments. Corporate profits are enhanced by securing scarce resources and new markets for their products as cheaply as possible, while U.S.-friendly regimes clamp down on any dissent in the countries being victimized. A constant war-footing is also necessary to justify ever upwardly spiraling military spending and profits for the military-industrial complex. For decades Americans have ascribed their economic prowess to unrestrained capitalism or the blessing of divine providence, but in reality the high standard of living enjoyed by many Americans has been built upon the ruthless exploitation of the resources and labour of other countries at far below their fair value.

Since the Reagan years a new dynamic has been growing in the United States: the ruling neoliberal corporate elite, together with the neoconservatives and their socially regressive policies, have co-opted the radical Christian right. Under the guise of protecting "family values" and fighting the culture war these fundamentalists have been mobilized in a business-friendly jihad that often undermines their own economic interests and brings poverty and war to the rest of the world. American corporate media are complicit in this by spinning a fantasy world far removed from real-world information and context. "American exceptionalism" is used to excuse hypocritical conduct by that country. Anyone attempting to hold U.S. actions to the same standards that it claims apply to the rest of the world can expect to be accused of "moral relativism" by U.S. apologists. Right-wing critics can be counted on for an immediate knee-jerk dismissal of this as "anti-American", but in reality it is anti-American Empire.

- **"Why Do People Hate America?"** by Ziauddin Sadar and Merryl Wyn Davies (2002) Details U.S. invasions/coups, cultural imperialism, and the myths that sustain the American Empire.

rate media, deciding which stories will be covered and what their spin will be. Rather than providing in-depth journalism, the mass media serve as stenographers to the rich and powerful. "News" consists of context-free sound bites with all the analysis of an infotainment program. The corporate media has been instrumental in propagating the myth that what's good for big business is good for the rest of us.

Ultimately the corporate media may be seen as the chief instrument for the advancement of **hegemony**. In a modern society with democratic trappings, rule by an economic elite requires co-opting the support of the exploited majority who must be convinced to vote against their own interests. Gaining their participation in their own exploitation requires selling them an ideology that this is for their own benefit, is the right thing to do, or is unavoidable. Today this is the ideology of neoliberal globalization, and corporate media plays its role in disseminating these ideological myths as if they were the natural order of life.

- **"Global Spin: The Corporate Assault on Environmentalism"** rev. ed. by Sharon Beder (2002) Details corporate use of front groups, phony Astroturf "grass roots" citizen's groups, lawsuits against activists, corporate funded "think-tanks" and public relations firms.

- **"What Liberal Media?: The Truth About Bias and the News"** by Eric Alterman (2003) Deconstructs right-wing "liberal bias" claims, reveals effect of "think-tanks", and exposes pro-corporate news slant.

- **"Trust Us, We're Experts: How Industry Manipulates Science and Gambles With Your Future"** by John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton (2001) Exposes "neutral third party" techniques and front groups corporations use to manipulate public opinion. Lively and readable account.

- **"Toxic Sludge Is Good For You! Lies, Damn Lies, and the Public Relations Industry"** by John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton (1995) Details corporate front groups, spying/infiltration of activist groups by public relations firms, "green washing", co-opting environmental groups, etc.. A lively and readable account.

- **"Our Media, Not Theirs: The Democratic Struggle Against Corporate Media"** by Robert McChesney and John Nichols (2002) Brief but insightful look at corporate media concentration in the U.S. and around the world, its deleterious effects on democracy, and the citizen's movement resisting it.

- **"PR! A Social History of Spin"** by Stuart Ewen (1996) Comprehensive look at a century of corporate public relations propaganda and its role in setting the public agenda.

- **“Rich Media, Poor Democracy: Communication Politics in Dubious Times”** by Robert McChesney (1999) U.S. broadcast history, conglomerates, and media myths.

- **“The Media Monopoly”** 6th edition by Ben Bagdikian (2000) Classic work of U.S. mass media concentration in a few corporate hands and its effects on democracy.

- **“The Habits of Highly Deceptive Media: Decoding Spin and Lies in Mainstream News”** by Norman Solomon (1999) A look at the techniques corporate media uses to ensure a business-friendly news spin.

- **“Blinded By the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative”** by David Brock (2002) A behind-the-scenes look at the American right-wing propaganda machine and its political ramifications.

Social/Cultural Hijacking & Commodification:

More and more of our daily lives revolve around and are dominated by economic exchange. Public spaces are replaced with privately owned malls whose only function is to promote commercial interaction. Small neighbourhood businesses are replaced by cloned chain stores. Our mental landscape itself is colonized by advertising. “Fashion” turns people into walking billboards. Authentic, real life experiences are replaced by media-driven, shallow, frenetic sensation-seeking. The purpose of education has been perverted to the creation of a pliable, compliant workforce. Culture has no meaning unless it can be used as a marketing vehicle with all the artistic integrity of an advertising jingle. The world’s rich tapestry of diversity is homogenized to better generate McProfits. Nothing is of value unless it can be bought and sold. Marketplace democracy is reduced to one dollar/one vote. People are no longer citizens but only consumers whose value to society is determined by what they can afford to purchase.

- **“No Logo: Taking Aim At the Brand Bullies”** by Naomi Klein (2000) The classic work on globalization and its effect on people’s lives.

- **“Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal”** by Eric Schlosser (2001) Chronicles the rise of fast food, factory farms, and the corporate takeover and commodification of our food.

- **“Branded: The Buying and Selling of Teenagers”** by Alissa Quart (2003) The exploitation of young people by corporate advertisers and the commodification of their everyday environment.

- **“Can’t Buy My Love: How Advertising Changes the Way We Think and Feel”** Jean Kilbourne (1999) The effect of advertising on our

perception of ourselves and our world.

Corporate Corruption/Monopolies:

These books highlight some of the most egregious examples of unmitigated corporate greed and monopolistic practices. They represent what happens when the unrelenting “free enterprise” pursuit of profit is allowed to run to its natural conclusion.

- **“It’s the Crude, Dude: War, Big Oil, and the Fight For the Planet”** by Linda McQuaig (2004) Comprehensive but lively history of the oil industry, its monopolies, price-fixing, and industry collusion with the U.S. government.

- **“Pigs at the Trough: How Corporate Greed and Political Corruption Are Undermining America”** by Arianna Huffington (2003) Details the corporate control of government, corruption, lobbying, and corporate interest vs. the public good.

- **“The Best Democracy Money Can Buy: An Investigative Reporter Exposes the Truth About Globalization, Corporate Cons, and High Finance Fraudsters”** by Greg Palast (2002) From Bush’s 2000 U.S. election theft, to energy deregulation, to Wal-Mart, this book is a wide-ranging look at corporate corruption and control of the U.S. government.

- **“Slam-Dunking Wal-Mart: How You Can Stop Superstore Sprawl in Your Hometown”** by Al Norman (1999) Explores Wal-Mart’s predatory tactics and their effects on workers and communities as well as how citizen coalitions can fight back.

- **“The United States of Wal-Mart”** by John Dicker (2005) Lively description of Wal-Mart’s union busting, overseas sweatshops, and impoverished “associates” relying on public assistance to survive.

- **“The Truth About the Drug Companies: How They Deceive Us and What To Do About It”** by Marcia Angell, M.D. (2004) A former editor of The New England Journal of Medicine exposes the phony research and development costs drug companies claim to justify their inflated monopoly prices as well as their influence on the U.S. government and shoddy drug testing procedures.

- **“The Microsoft File: The Secret Case Against Bill Gates”** by Wendy Goldman Rohm (1998) The real story of Microsoft’s rise as a corporate giant through the use of monopolistic bundling techniques.

- **“Power Failure: The Inside Story of the Collapse of Enron”** by