

Talking Points For Grassroots Solutions And Corporate Power

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Talking Points For Grassroots Solutions And Corporate Power

ELECTIONS –

Corporate Money Buys our Politicians

Our 2010 election cycle saw the creation of a host of new nonprofit corporations designed to raise independent campaign funds for pro-big business candidates. These super-PACs dominated the 2010 election results and created a House of Representatives controlled by a corporate-friendly majority, ready to do the bidding of their campaign contributors. Now, all the major political actors have realized that they have to be corporate-friendly if they are going to be successful in our pay-to-play electoral system

Roberts Court Frees Corporate Monster John Roberts, who spent his legal career as the most successful corporate lawyer in Washington, is now leading the US Supreme Court toward eliminating all restrictions on corporate campaign contributions. Not only did their 2010 decision allow corporations to contribute unlimited amounts from their corporate treasuries to independent political campaigns, there is not even a requirement that the source of these corporate contributions need to be revealed.

Corporate Agenda Destroys the Planet From climate change to the destruction of the middle class, our biggest environmental and social problems are caused by the pro-corporate political agenda that is implemented by corporate-financed politicians. The corporate agenda prohibits rational solutions to green-house gas emissions and has held working wages at the same level for 40 years, while shareholder returns and executive pay has increased ten-fold in the same period.

Citizens Need to Control Our Democracy Corporations, not the general citizenry, control our electoral process. Our democracy must be controlled and financed by the common citizens of the country if our political system is really going to fulfill its role of protecting the common good and promoting a bountiful future for all. Only through citizens promoting publicly financed elections and removing illegitimate, court-created Constitutional rights for corporations will this be possible.

Join the Move to Amend the Constitution To end corporate corruption of our political system, we need to amend the US Constitution to make it clear that corporations do not have the same constitutional rights as natural persons. The Move to Amend grassroots movement is helping local communities across the country support such an amendment. You can join an existing MTA group or start a new group in your town. See movetoamend.org for more information.

Track the Money Buying Your Elections Shine a bright light on the political corruption in your local political area. Check out the Sunlight Foundation, opensecrets.org or followthemoney.org to understand: who is financing your elected officials, who they are beholden to, and what kind of favors your representatives are doing to keep the special interests happy and loyal.

Promote Publicly Financed Elections Join the long-established drive for publicly financed elections. Help create a system of clean elections in your community and state. See publiccampaign.org for help. You can also encourage your federal representatives to support the federal Fair Elections Now Act that will create a campaign finance system that depends on small local donors rather than on large national and multi-national corporate funds

Allow States to Regulate Corporate Contributions At least 24 states have regulations on corporate campaign contributions that are now jeopardized by the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision that overturned a Michigan law prohibiting "corporations from funding the advocacy for or against state candidates." Make sure that your state defends its right to control corporate funding of elections. Montana's law is already being challenged (see page 14) and a decision is expected by the end of the year.

Questions for Corporations, Democracy, & The Rise Of Grassroots Popular Power: Money in Democracy Part 1

1. What are the electoral impacts of the overwhelming percentage of campaign finance money coming from corporate contributions?

Politicians (policymakers) favorable to corporate interests
Candidates chosen through the wealth primary
Bully Pulpit

2. Which industry is the biggest contributor? Why?

FIRE, Finance, Insurance Real Estate
Money machine — Like the water Company

3. What is the wealth primary?

Media and Money long before the primaries

4. What has been the impact of Citizens United on corporate campaign giving?

- 2012 election cycle, all super PACs together had raised about \$26 million by June 30 of the year before the vote;
- presidential super PACs were responsible for about \$15.6 million.
- This time, the total comes to more than \$258 million at the same point in time for presidential super PACs alone.
- double the more than \$130 million the presidential campaigns raised in the first six months of this year, setting up a new paradigm for campaign finance at the federal level.

Articles & charts

5. How does the ability of corporations to fund political campaigns impact the lives of our politicians?

Spend a huge amount of their time raising \$
Elizabeth Drew – Leads to politicians that are exhausted can't think clearly,
do not think about the broad questions, who do not lead

6. Are corporate campaign contributions corrupt?

Quid Pro Quo is the legal requirement
Deliberative Democracy is destroyed

7. How has corporate money impact our local elections?

GMOs, Timber

8. How are corporations involved in the Republican and Democratic Political Conventions?

Convention Funding

Massey Rich

112 million between RNC & DNC

Most every brand name you can think of

DNC 2004 & RNC 2008

Patton Boggs - Lobbying Firm

- founded in 1962 by James R. Patton, Jr. and

- "participated in the formation

of every major multilateral trade agreement considered by Congress."^[14]

- Thomas Hale Boggs joined the firm in 1966 after serving as an economist for the Joint Economic Committee and

in the executive office of President [Lyndon B. Johnson](#).

Hale Boggs & Lindy Boggs

Congressman from New Orleans

House majority leader

- Member of the Warren Commission
 - Broke the power of Huey Long
 - Cokie Roberts
 - NPR, ABC
 - FAIR —she favors Corporations over working people
9. **How has Citizens United brought various pro-democracy groups together?**
 - MTA, Free Speech for the People, Lawrence Lessig
 10. **How does Move to Amend help solve the problem of corporate money in our elections?**
 - Denies Corporate Personhood and Corporate Free Speech rights
 - History of Corporate Personhood
 11. **What are the two similarities between the elections of 1980 and 2010?**
 - History of Campaign Finance 1896 to 1980
 - End of the spoils system
 - Institutionalization of Civil Service
 - Mark Hanna, McKinley & the Populists
 - Teddy Roosevelt and First campaign finance laws
 - 1976-80 Powell on the Court
 - Buckley v Valeo – Money as speech - 1976
 - Bellotti decision – corps have free speech rights 1978
 - 2010 Citizens United
 - Understand what Citizens United was?
 12. **Is Free Speech the same as equal speech?**
 - Kurt Hoehstein article
 13. **Are Independent campaigns truly independent**
 - Elizabeth Drew quote of Lyn Nofziger
 - Communicating through Congressional Campaign committees
 - Or straight from the chair of the campaign committee
 14. **What other approaches are out there to upend Citizens United and change campaign financing?**
 - MTA, Free Speech for the People, Anti Corruption Act
 15. **How important is transparency in ending corporate influence of our elections?**
 - Sunlight foundation
 - Hackfests
 16. **What is the Institute for Responsive Politics & Opensecrets.org?**
 - First & best trackers of Money in Politics
 - Have a news letter
 17. **Who was Granny D?**
 - 90 yr old grandma who walked across country
 18. **Will publicly financed elections be part of the solution and what is the status of publicly-financed elections today?**
 - Money as speech makes impossible
 - Voluntary Clean Money campaigns, CA Clean Money-only transparency
 - Been swamped by CU
 - Pushed back by SCOTUS
 19. **How functional is the Federal Elections Commission?**
 - Split between Dems & Republicans
 - Can not make a decision
 20. **Is instant runoff voting a corporate issue?**
 - Will allow the growth of a third party

Will better reflect the will of the people

20. What is the corporate connection to election integrity?

Who owns the machines

Who writes the software

Politico Story Voting machines

Black Box Voting

21. Do elections make a difference?

[JR - Summer 2011, Vol 5 #2: Money in Democracy, Pt 1: Reclaiming Our Elections](#)

[JR, Spring 2005, Vol 1 #1: Creating Honest Elections: Problems, People, Solutions](#)

Talking Points For Grassroots Solutions And Corporate Power

POLICY MAKING

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

Public Policy Making is a Failure Public policy decision making has ground to a halt in our nation's capital as a corporate agenda dependent on “regulatory moratoria and endless litigation” has gained ascendancy. Change is difficult to make happen in the best of times and change for the good has become impossible in a system dependent on corporate money to not only fund our elections but to make the government function for the 1%.

Lobbyists Dominate Government In the past decade, corporate expenditures on lobbying have doubled. Corporations spend four times as much on lobbying as they do on campaign contributions. At this point, our government officials are dependent on lobbyists to provide services that they do not have the ability to provide for themselves. Lobbyists have branched out into influencing all branches of government, including the regulatory system and the judiciary, and they brag about their success rate.

Money Power is Corrupting Our Politics From the Koch Brothers to the US Chamber of Commerce, corporate generated money is being used to control public policy on all levels of government. The US Chamber of Commerce has increased their lobbying expenditures seven fold in the past decade. The corporate agenda is to leave policies about our economic lives to the corporate dominated marketplace where humans are commodities.

Our Future is in the Balance We have entered a new era as our military spans across the globe to ensure access to resources and markets for the biggest US corporations. Climate change is threatening our lives, water supplies, agriculture and wildlife. Without coherent policies that are not beholden to corporate priorities, we will find ourselves living in a world of continual war and an out-of-balance environment that is a danger to us all.

Supreme Court Under Elite Control When George Washington appointed his wealthy, landholding friends to the first Supreme Court in 1789, it became clear that the Supreme Court would be the primary bastion of elite economic power. As corporate power grew in the 1880s, corporate lawyers dominated the Court. Now a “free market” Court majority continues to twist the Constitution in favor of corporations and to the detriment of the people and the planet.

Public Policies Lack Public Values Public policy makers committed to corporate agendas fail to protect public values and create a society that discourages critical aspects of our sacred nature including cooperation, imagination, creativity, mysticism and appreciation of our place in nature. Without these, everything is commodified and policies are promoted that destroy the environment and impose social havoc amongst people.

Military Has Gone Corporate Double-dipping military commanders move into corporate jobs and weapons industry executives are recruited for top policy jobs in the Defense Department. They promote weapons programs that drive an expensive global arms race that sucks up our tax dollars and deprives most citizens of the world a high quality education, adequate medical services, appropriate housing and other essential public services.

Wall Street Empire Threatens our Security Wall Street investment houses took control of US foreign policy over a hundred years ago when a series of corporate lawyers served as Secretaries of State. They created an American empire that has ravaged the earth's resources leaving the rest of the world angry and revengeful. The American Empire has caused the growth of multiple “initiatives” around the world that are banging at the gates of global power, making the world dangerous for all Americans.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Help End Corporate Personhood Only by taking away the illegitimate Constitutional rights given to corporations over the past 150 years, will we get back in control of our national policy making. The biggest cities and smallest communities have now come together calling for a Constitutional Amendment making it clear that humans are persons, corporations are not. Contact thealliancefordemocracy.org to get involved.

Occupy the Empire The Occupy Movement has spread around the world and is holding money power accountable to the needs of the common good. There are thousands of Occupy actions emanating from every corner of the planet. There is probably one near you. Go to OccupyWallSt.org to find an Occupy near you or use it to find out how to start an Occupy action for you and your neighbors.

Start Public Banking Institutions Money is power, and until money comes back under public control, the power will reside within the vaults of our corporate treasuries. One way to start this process is to create a public bank in your city, county or state. Check out the Public Banking Institute at publicbankinginstitute.org to find out how to get involved in the public banking movement that is spreading across the country.

Create Alternatives The world is alive with creative ideas for alternative economic systems spreading democracy to all sections of our lives. See our *Justice Rising on Building an Economy for People and Nature* at www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/html/eng/2592-AA.shtml Also check out the US Solidarity Economy Network www.usсен.org for information on worker-owned businesses and cooperatives.

Support the We the People Amendment This 28th Constitutional Amendment, introduced into the House of Representatives on February 14, 2013, clarifies that “Artificial Entities Such as Corporations Do Not Have Constitutional Rights” and that “Money is Not Free Speech.” Get your local politicians and Congressional Representatives to support this bill entitled House Joint Resolution 29.

Promote an Ethical Public Service Show your appreciation for public servants and honor those policy makers that uphold the public trust and promote public values. Government service is a valuable and praiseworthy undertaking that is essential to the well being of us all and to the health of our planet. Guarantee them well-paid and secure jobs and make them proud to serve the American people.

Separate Corporations & State Make it clear to your local, state and federal officials that a major role of government is to protect the public from the self-serving policies of corporate elites. Push for the establishment of a firewall between public service and corporate power that prohibits our public servants from ever going to work for the companies that they have been paid to protect us from.

Join the Revolution of Values Adhere to the words of Martin Luther King who called for a "radical revolution of values" to "recapture the revolutionary spirit" and declare "eternal hostility to poverty, racism, and militarism." And hear Chris Hedges when he says, "All that concerns itself with beauty and truth, with those forces that have the power to transform us, is being steadily extinguished by our corporate state."

Questions & Notes Money in Democracy:-Policy Making,

1. How do expenditures on lobbying compare to campaign expenditures?

4 times

Bill McKibbens Energy article

2. What sectors are the biggest funders of corporate lobbying?

Handout

Top Industries 1998 -2015

Industry	Total
Pharmaceuticals/Health Products	\$3,146,090,212
Insurance	\$2,190,651,832
Electric Utilities	\$2,013,127,133
Electronics Mfg & Equip	\$1,823,347,451
Business Associations	\$1,811,811,643
Oil & Gas	\$1,715,405,541
Misc Manufacturing & Distributing	\$1,416,425,661
Education	\$1,399,862,870
Hospitals/Nursing Homes	\$1,310,021,801
Telecom Services	\$1,271,840,866
Securities & Investment	\$1,264,774,284
Civil Servants/Public Officials	\$1,216,181,432
Real Estate	\$1,215,135,758
Health Professionals	\$1,189,983,794
Air Transport	\$1,125,384,003
Misc Issues	\$929,225,311
Automotive	\$891,793,138
Defense Aerospace	\$887,354,553
Health Services/HMOs	\$863,410,051
TV/Movies/Music	\$851,379,595

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Finance, Insurance & Real Estate

Insurance	2,190,651,832
Securities & Investments	1,264,774,284
Real Estate	1,215,384,003
Total	4,670,810,119

Add up all of the FIRE group, they do way more than any other industry

Top Lobbying Spenders

1998-2014

Lobbying Client	Total
US Chamber of Commerce	\$1,165,505,680
American Medical Assn	\$319,182,500
General Electric	\$314,480,000
National Assn of Realtors	\$313,459,056
American Hospital Assn	\$275,253,489
Pharmaceutical Rsrch & Mfrs of America	\$267,106,420
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	\$247,887,806
AARP	\$241,342,064
Northrop Grumman	\$220,292,213
Exxon Mobil	\$208,462,742
Boeing Co	\$204,002,310
Verizon Communications	\$199,940,043
Lockheed Martin	\$199,704,514
Business Roundtable	\$198,630,000
Edison Electric Institute	\$191,356,789
AT&T Inc	\$180,285,644
National Cable & Telecommunications Assn	\$179,710,000
Southern Co	\$171,330,694
National Assn of Broadcasters	\$165,780,000
Altria Group	\$157,525,200

Camber of Commerce biggest spender

3. How did the early lobbyists operate?

Smooth, congenial with all the right social graces. Gentility, Jeffery Pasley

4. How has our right to petition the government been manipulated by corporations?

Excuse for established lobbying industry in DC

5. How do lobbyists influence policymakers?

Services that they cannot provide themselves

Provide political intelligence

6. What is the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)?

Been around for decades

Brings together legislators and corporate lobbyists to write Corporate dream bills that are then introduced as bills without any indication of their origin.

Koch Funded

ALEC Exposed

Lisa Graves – Center for Media & Democracy – John Stauber The rise of PR Firms

7. How has conservative philanthropy influenced policymaking?

Nikki Jagpal – Center for Responsive Philanthropy

Axis of Ideology

8. How does Congress work as a lobbyist training school?

Donny Shaw – Open Congress

Both Congressmen and staff

Abramoff Quote:

“When we would become friendly with an office and they were important to us, and the chief of staff was a competent person, I would say or my staff would say to him or her at some point, ‘You know, when you’re done working on the Hill, we’d very much like you to consider coming to work for us.’ Now the moment I said that to them or any of our staff said that to ‘em, that was it. We owned them. And what does that mean? Every request from our office, every request of our clients, everything that we want, they’re gonna do. And not only that, they’re gonna think of things we can’t think of to do.”

9. How influential was/is the Occupy Movement?

Changed the national debate

Ongoing local actions

Ashley Sanders article in Occupy Issue

10. How did the Populists deal with Public Policy?

Reinvented Public Policy

Sub treasury, Regulations & Publicly owned railroads

11. How does the Power Elite work?

Long Term Social Relationships, World Social Forum, Business Roundtable

Non Profit Think Tanks

Elite Decision makers using Market decision making

12. Who was Alexander Hamilton & what heritage did he create?

First Sec of Treasury -Scion of British Money - Monied Interests in the Govt.

America needed the monied elite or it would be overrun by Europe

Rule by the Elite

13. How does the Revolving door work?

From Corps to the Administration

From Government Employee to Lobbyist

From Corporate Exec to Congressional staff

Advisory committees etc

14. Are our public policies “Insanity”?

Chris Hedges Welcome to the Asylum

RD Lang Crazy people are considered and Normal People are considered

15. What are the impacts of Think tanks?

Policy making

Reservoir of policy makers

Changing the narrative

Getting Corporate Story into the media

16. What are the most effective corporate Think Tanks?

Council on Foreign Relations
Heritage Foundation & AEI

17. How can we make policy makers loyal to the common good?

Esprit de corps
Confidentiality agreements

18. How can Community Rights ordinances keep depredations of corporate policy makers out of our lives?

CELDF
Measure S
Proclaiming local rights that supersede corporate rights

19. How are corporations involved with Federal Advisory committees?

POGO Article- Defense Department, FDA, Energy Advisory Boards

20. How are DC NGOs trying to deal with the revolving door?

Revolving Door Working Group
Center for Corporate Policy, Center for Environmental Health, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Center of Concern/Agribusiness Accountability Initiative, Common Cause, Corporate Research Project of Good Jobs, Government Accountability Project Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Organization for Competitive Markets, Project On Government Oversight, Public Citizen, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Revolt of the Elders
A Matter of Trust How the Revolving Door Undermines Public Confidence in Government and What to do about it - 2005

21. How can we separate Corporations and State?

[JR - Winter 2012, Vol 5 #3: Who—or What—Occupies the Government Control Room?](#)

[JR - Spring 2013, Vol 5 #4: Policymakers—Committed to Public Values or Corporate Agendas?](#)

Talking Points For Grassroots Solutions And Corporate Power

COURTS

Why You Should Care

Free market legal theory is a fraud Corporate foundation money has transformed legal thought by funding lavish retreats on free-market economics for law professors, judges and law students in a move to connect legal theory to classical economics. Unfortunately, it is a corrupt theory that fails to recognize market externalities that are poisoning the planet and causing global warming. It also fails to take into account depletion of our natural resources and ignores the fact that money is power and only seeks to serve its own ends.

Pro-Corporate Supreme Court There is a bare Supreme Court majority intent on eliminating all restrictions on corporate activity. Their decision against the FEC on 1/21/2010 allows corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money as independent agents in any political race. By spending just 1% of corporate profits, the 100 largest corporations will be able to double all current political spending by all of the parties and federal candidates.

Chamber buying out state courts The US Chamber of Commerce has long had a campaign to take over state supreme courts. The AfD helped to first uncover this project when they revealed that the US Chamber of Commerce had collected \$4.2 million from 383 corporate entities to defeat a judge they did not like in Ohio. "Between 2000 and 2008, over \$200 million was contributed to State Supreme Court campaigns, more than twice the \$85 million contributed throughout the 1990s." Judges in partisan races are 23% more likely to favor business interests, perhaps because that is where their job security is coming from.

Corporate lawyers gaming the system Since the rise of the railroad monopolies in the 1800s, corporate lawyers have been a fully funded attack team to manipulate the law in favor of their clients and against our common good. From corporate personhood to the recent decision to allow unlimited corporate campaign spending, corporate lawyers are gaming the system against We the People.

What You Can Do

Join Move to Amend. Amend the US Constitution to legalize democracy. Go to www.MoveToAmend.org, sign the petition and share the message with your friends. Join the Move to Amend Facebook page. "Take Action" by: writing a Letter to the Editor using sample letters on the website; call in to a talk show using the tips on the Action page; ask your local candidates to support the Move To Amend campaign; use the materials at the website to pass a local resolution supporting a Constitutional amendment revoking all corporate rights; present a golden megaphone award to a local corporate CEO; organize Fourth of July events such as a float, street theater, a reading of MTA's Declaration of Independence from Corporate Rule; and most importantly, get your friends, neighbors and community together for a forum on rewriting the US Constitution from the grassroots and show the world that We the People are in charge.

Reclaim corporate law for the public good. Restore the mandates of the American Revolution and push to have corporations once again serve our public good. Get Congress to rewrite the Judiciary Acts in order to de-centralize the power of the Supreme Court and establish a true democracy where We the People are the final arbiters of our laws. Or learn about corporate law and re-establish the principle that corporations are to serve the public good. Invigorate the usage of *ultra vires* to keep corporate business within the legal boundaries of their charter.

Promote the Rights of Nature. Join the movement to rewrite the US Constitution to emphasize that nature is not property and has important rights of its own. Follow the wisdom of the indigenous cultures in Ecuador and Bolivia that have written the Rights of Nature into their new national

constitutions. Only by giving rights to nature can the natural systems that all life depends upon be saved for the good of all life on earth.

Questions & Notes Courts & Corporations,

1. What can we learn from the Timeline of Corporate Personhood?
People get rights by Constitutional Amendment
Corporations get rights by judicial decisions
2. What role has the Supreme Court played in continued corporate influence of our election?
Look at the 3 Courts History
3. Is the US Chamber of Commerce controlling State Supreme Court Elections?
Rose Bird -Once special-interest politics begins to undermine the rule of law, it is not hard to imagine a system in which judges put their moistened fingers to the wind, decide what is perceived to be the prevailing view and rule accordingly....Such a system would as surely end the rule of law as would the destruction of our constitution itself." Opposed by big ag & Big Business. Recalled in 1996
4. How has the Supreme Court been connected to the power elite throughout history?
Chart
5. How does judicial interpretation work?
Federalist Chief Justice John Marshall in Marbury v Madison 1803 decided that the Court had the power to declare Judiciary Act of 1879 illegal. Federalists lost the case but won the power of Judicial review for the Supreme court. Supreme Court gets to decide which laws are legal and which laws are not
6. Are the Justices of the Supreme Court policymakers?
All the cases in the corporate timeline are policy making cases
7. What is the conservative legal movement?
Based on Hayek & Von Mises, promoting a market based jurisprudence.
Inundated elite law schools
Money is speech
Citizens United
8. What are the long-term goals of the Federalist Society?
Conservative Problems with SCOTUS – Earl Warren – David Souter, JP Stevens
Corporate Power, Eliminate Campaign restrictions, Conservative takeover of the Court
Scalia a Founder
GW Bush used to Vet SCOTUS judges
9. How does “Austrian Economics” fit into this picture?
Hayek & Von Mises – Market oriented judicial decisions
10. What is the corporate connection to this movement?
Supported by same Foundations, Scaife, Bradley, Koch
Oil, Wall Street, Pharma – Microsoft and big media

11. How is the Chamber of Commerce involved in the legal system?
 - Chamber building in DC
 - Institute for Legal Reform
 - Public Citizen, Chamber Watch

12. Is the US Chamber of Commerce controlling State Supreme Court Elections?
 - Ohio – AfD Case
 - Michigan, Texas etc.
 - Cost of Judicial elections skyrocketing
 - Judges in contested elections 23% more likely to favor business

13. Who was Lewis Powell?
 - Virginai Corporate Lawyer
 - Powell Memo
 - Nixon Appointd to Supreme Court
 - Moderate on Social Issues
 - Rabid on conservative business issues
 - Buckley v Valleo money as Speech
 - Belotti Decision Corporate political speech rights

14. What is Sandra Day O’Connor’s solution?
 - Judicial Commission to select judges at State level
 - & publicly funded retention elections

15. How do corporate Lawyers game the system?
 - Design cases to fit the corporate agenda,
 - Affordable Care Act finding tiny little legal blips
 - Jan’s article on Kasky & CU

16. How are the rights of nature being promoted?
 - Thomas Berry- Catholic Theologian
 - CELDF
 - Bolivia & Ecuador

17. What is a politician in robes?
 - Sandra Day O’Connor’s term for judges with an agenda promoted by corporate power

18. How could Congress control the Courts?
 - Jane Anne Morris –
 - Judiciary Acts,
 - Multiple Courts,
 - Eliminate Judicial review of state laws

19. What is Ultra Vires?
 - Deciding what is beyond the power of a corporation to doBeyond the Powers

20 Why are the Political Conventions important to the Courts?

Deciding who will be president

21. Who does the law favor and how?

Gravel of law

Law favors the wealthy

They make the laws

They can afford to defend themselves against the law

[JR - Spring 2010, Vol 4 #4: Courts and Corporations vs. Our Common Good](#)

Talking Points For Grassroots Solutions And Corporate Power

• Economic Democracy Or Corporate Hegemony?

CRISIS OF ECONOMICS 2008 AND BEYOND

Why You Should Care

Corporatist economic theory is destroying the planet For two hundred years, corporatist economists have used false assumptions and blatant misstatements to convince the public that the corporate free-trade agenda is in tune with human nature and the laws of the universe. Meanwhile, they have implicitly accepted the reality of monopoly capitalism while deprecating government enterprise even though economic analysis consistently shows that government enterprise would be better for the public good. Neo-classical economics has failed and is ruining communities, the environment and life as we know it.

The corporate economy enslaves people across the planet From the mines of Africa to the sweatshops of Asia, the Global Corporate Empire has unleashed an economy that enslaves workers or turns them into commodities, destroying communities across the planet as people are forced to flee their homelands in search of work wherever it is offered.

Short-term corporate view depletes resources & natural systems Resources are depleted and natural systems are compromised by an economy that worships the sanctity of the short-term, corporate bottom line and is blind to the impacts that will arise from resource depletion and natural system collapse.

Asset owners grow richer and wage earners suffer As corporate currency traders flood the world economy with cash, stockholders grow richer as asset prices rise, while workers grow poorer as wage rates stagnate or decline.

What You Can Do

Join the Solidarity Economy. Be part of the transformation from the Extraction Economy to the Restoration Economy by working and trading within the solidarity economy that celebrates cooperation, democracy, equality, justice, ecological sustainability, community, and respect for diversity. Form a Community Land Trust. Take land out of the speculative market by forming or supporting a community land trust in your community. Community land trusts keep housing affordable, guarantee that land is used for the public good and ensure that the value of land is secured as a community asset rather than as a private gain.

Join or form a localization movement. Support the localization of your economy. Go to www.relocalization.net and see if there is a localization group in your community that you can become part of. If not, check out the resources at the Post Carbon Institute to start an economic localization group and do asset surveys of your community

Create a broader understanding of restoration economics. Break through the economic mythology that says that humans are selfish, resources are endless, land is inert and that people are commodities. Embrace the vision of a restoration economy that nurtures the environmental health of the earth and strengthens the social and economic fabric of our communities, producing healthy products, healthy people and a healthy planet.

Questions & Notes

1. What are the false assumptions of classical economic theory?

David Ricardo

1811 London Stock Broker

Created Trade theory based on the assumptions of a stock broker

Assumed that all ownership would be local &

Workers earned slave wages

Now 200 years later ownership is international
& workers have fought for living wages

John Stewart Mills

Consumption = Happiness

Resources last forever

Unused land has no value

Capital would not go global

Invisible Hand

Labor would always work at subsistence wages, slaves

2. What are the realities of the national economy over the past 30 years?

Increasing economic inequality

Benefits of increases in productivity not going to workers

Stagnant wages, returns to K1980 -2005, stocks rose 58 x faster

Skyrocketing executive pay, 354 to one

3. What are external costs and what are they doing to our planet and our lives?

Pollution,

war

climate change,

resource depletion

4. What are the economic assumptions of human behavior?

how valid are they?

Homo Economicus

Lazy, Greedy, selfish

5. How does the Extraction Economy work?

Depletion of resources

6. How is our economy failing?

Increasing inequality,

destructions of resources,

& the middle class

7. Do markets work?

Do not consider externalities

Pollution

Depletion of Resources

Destruction of Natural systems

Money is power

favors concentration of monetary assets

8. What are the realities of peak oil?

Easy oil coming to an end

Dirty oil on the rise

market does not value the poisonous cost

They will extract all of the earth's resources until there is nothing left

9. What is the problem with using GDP to measure our happiness?

Measures what is good for the empire not people

Market economy activity

War

Does not account for depletion of resources

Pollution of the planet

Human misery

10. What is money?

Before Money

Gift economy

First money

Items with useful value — Debt first 5000 years

cosmetics

adornment — gold & silver

cow hides in California

Paper money

Initially based on items of value

Gold

Fiat money

Faith & trust that you can buy milk at local store

Credit cards

money as debt

How Fractional banking creates money

11. Who should control the money supply?

Money supply part of the commons

We all rely on a stable monetary system

Traditionally government regulated

1680s private interests took over the bank of England

Colonial \$ cause of revolutionary war

Hamilton & Treasury secs in 1800s

Fed created in 1913

co-op of regional banks

infused with the culture of big banks

12. What happened in the 2008 Financial crisis

Banks invested in bad financial instruments

mortgage backed securities & synthetic derivatives

Rating failures

complex instruments unable to price

Insurance companies could not cover losses

Gov refused to save Lehman brothers

Banks could not trust each other

Credit markets came to a shuttering halt

bringing the economy to a halt

Hank Paulson & Tim Geitner

Sec of Treasury & head of NY Fed

former CEO of Goldman Sachs & friend of Citigroup

Bail out big Wall street banks & Insurance companies

to cover losses

Goldman Sachs becomes a commercial bank to get the money

Increased size of the biggest banks

More big bank control of the monetary system

13. What are the problems with growth?

Finite planet

exacerbated by

population growth

growing material expectations
population x consumption

Depletion of resources

14. How did repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act impact the 2008 financial crisis?

Established to separate investment banks & commercial banks
to protect depositor money being invested in risky assets

Repeal led all banks to invest in mortgage backed securities

collapse in mortgage market & derivatives

bankrupted commercial banks

Repeal in 1990s

Driven by Robert Rubin, Larry Summers

15. Why did the trade in derivatives cause such a problem?

derivatives have a purpose

became very complex

Synthetic gambling casinos

huge market

Insurance companies could not cover losses

16. Who was making the decisions around the bailouts?

Hank Paulson former Goldman Sachs CEO

Tim Geitner head of NY Fed & friend of Sandy Weil & Citigroup

17. How do trade agreements aggravate global financial problem?

eliminate financial controls

expand power of the banks

18. What kind of workable solutions are there for our financial system?

Reinstate Glass Steagall

Stop the Revolving door between banks and Treasury

Growth of banking influence in the Treasury

Single Payer health Care

Tobin Tax on trading

Windfall profits on resource extraction industry

Abandon guaranteeing toxic debt

Nationalize banks

Restructure bonuses so cover longer time period.

Campaign Finance Reform

Herman Daily

Increase the reserves so that we are dealing with real wealth

Return control of the monetary system to the public realm

public banking

Break up the big banks — Allow FDIC to unwind big banks

[JR - Fall 2007, Vol 3 #2: Moving from Corporate Extraction to the Grassroots Restoration Economy](#)

[JR - Winter 2009, Vol 4 #2: Money for People Not Corporate Plunder](#)

Talking Points For Grassroots Solutions And Corporate Power

VISIONS FOR A NEW ECONOMY –

Why You Should Care

Free Trade Economics is a fraud The present economic meltdown has exposed the corporate globalization/financial deregulation/trickledown economic model as a fraud perpetrated on the peoples of the world so a few can get rich by exploiting workers, communities and the earth.

Happiness is on the Decline It's a lie that our consumer culture creates happiness. Over the past fifty years, as World Gross Domestic Product has risen, self-rated happiness has decreased and rates of depression, suicide, and anti-depressant drug use by our youth have increased, while massive poverty has remained a chronic problem.

Free Traders are Pushing Deregulation Citicorp, AIG, American Express and the US Coalition of Service Industries is pushing the US Trade Representative and the World Trade Organization to forbid regulation of financial industries. They have also gotten the US to propose to its global trading partners that it will never repeal the Glass Steagall Act, which means that commercial banks will always be able to trade in risky financial instruments while still being protected by the taxpayers.

No One is Responsible for the Earth Free market theory absolves everyone of responsibility for their actions and proposes that an invisible hand guarantees an optimum outcome for all. This practice forbids anyone from being a responsible steward of the land and prohibits concerned citizens from taking actions to either support the maintenance of a healthy atmosphere or stop the depletion of natural resources.

Community is Fun We can live lightly on the earth and be happier by spending more time with friends and family, by treasuring nature's gifts, and by breathing deeply with the breath of Gaia.

"Fair is foul and foul is fair" in our economy Currently, people are dependent on a foul economic system to meet their essential needs. Unfortunately, in societies that have accepted this fate "people find themselves oppressed by increasing frustration, alienation, insecurity and so forth." As Martin Luther King, Jr. said "When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

Economic problems have not been solved Despite rosy predictions by Wall Street pundits, the market has not solved our economic problems. It is only making them worse. The wonderful resources of nature that we are consuming at a horrendous rate are not replaceable. Our economic thinkers treat these phenomena of nature as if they will never come to an end. However, when they do come to an end, we will all be sorry. On top of that, the market failure to account for the poisoning of our air and water will ruin the basis for all life on earth.

The Solidarity Economy works better Community benefit enterprises of the Solidarity Economy provide more long-term good for society. They care more for people and nature. They are better at providing needed goods and services to a broader section of the population. They do not sell out or leave town. They do not succumb to cycles of boom and bust. They get steadily more efficient and effective at what they do and they have a good time doing it.

Fast Money is wrecking our world With \$3 trillion dollars rushing through currency markets everyday, financial resources are being ripped out from under projects and communities around the world, devastating any hope of a sustainable future. The drive for higher profits in corporations that must maximize their bottom line has led to a ruthless savaging of our environment, atmosphere and the complex intricacies of nature.

What You Can Do

On a Personal Level

- Take a moment and think about what really makes you happy. How can you create more time for more of those happy moments?
 - Take up the motto, “More fun, less stuff.”
 - Buy your food from local farmers and eat by the season; Grow some of your own food, digging in the soil with your grandkids or neighbor kids.
 - Put your money in a community bank.

On a Community Level

- Learn more about local currencies. Begin with time dollars to build a core of people thinking locally and exchanging local services. Then when you have a good local exchange going, begin to explore a local currency and invite speakers from towns where they have local currencies. For list, go to www.smallisbeautiful.org/local_currencies/currency_groups.html
- Find out where the closest consumer or worker cooperative is located; arrange a field trip.
- Invite your neighborhood to a meeting to talk about your dreams for your neighborhood. What’s missing? Would time dollars or a cooperative enterprise help realize your dreams?

On a State Level

Tell your state legislature and your governor that you want:

- A state bank like North Dakota;
- More support for local economies from community gardens to farmers' markets;
- More support for de-centralized alternative energy.

On a National Level

Tell your Congressional delegation and President Obama that you want:

- No more banks too big too fail;
- Reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act;
- More funding for cooperative banks;
- A stop to all negotiations on WTO/GATS financial services.

Join the Solidarity Economy In the Solidarity Economy “fair is fair and foul is foul.” The Solidarity Economy emphasizes fair by promoting “cooperative, collective and nonprofit, democratically-controlled enterprises, emphasizing the primacy of people over capital and a philosophy of empowerment, equality and inclusivity.” It eschews the foul notions of greed, envy, usury and money-as-power, while looking after the welfare of the community, nurturing the health of the planet and preparing for the long-term sustainability of our life on planet earth.

Map Your Solidarity Economy Network Connect and maximize the solidarity network in your community. It will: enable consumers to find solidarity economy goods and services; help Solidarity Economy producers and suppliers build mutual supply chains; collect data for research that can identify best practices and construct supportive policies; and promote linkages between individuals, organizations, networks and movements.

Promote Participatory Budgeting Learn how participatory budgeting works. Get your local government to institute participatory budgeting to establish priorities for public policy. Use participatory budgeting to encourage a fair Solidarity Economy and discourage a foul monopoly-capitalist economy.

Encourage Slow Money Slow money down by starting a slow-money institution in your community to amalgamate local capital or invest your money in an existing slowmoney institution to “reorient capital away from endless cycles of consumption and a relentless focus on markets, towards a new economy that is focused on quality and human relationships to one another and to the land.”

Questions & Notes Visioning a New Economy

1. How do we deal with income and wealth inequality?

Increase Economic Democracy

Co-ops

Worker owned businesses

Divine Right of Capital

Return productivity gains to the workers

Germany

2. How do we deal with dwindling resources?

Make new Economic Assumptions Like

It is vital that our natural systems are maintained

We live on a finite planet

Responsibility

Business schools

Green MBAs

3. How do we deal with reduced labor needs?

Job Sharing

Work less – enjoy life more

Voluntary simplicity

the “new maturity.”

Japan’s youth movement. Less consumption

Economist Juliet Schor

Shorter workweek

Smaller, efficient businesses

4. How do we shift society's focus from material to non-material, community values?

Re-orient our values

Martin Luther King

_ racism, extreme materialism and militarism

Crispin

Ghandi Living simply so that others can simply live

5. How do we get firms to nurture the environment?

We are part of Nature

Right of nature

Triple bottom line:

social, environmental, financial,

people, planet before profit

B corporations

Bien Vivir – Living well

Ecuador

Globalization Devastation & Hope

Indigenous movement, CONAIE

enterprises that benefit society get tax breaks

enterprises that harm society be heavily taxed

6. What factors should be maximized in the new economy?

Cooperation

Reverence for nature

Scale

Community Federalism

Local enterprises collaborate

- for economies of scale
- & needs for capital
- An equitable market
- Global oversight of trade and corporate conduct
 - The Global reserve- watching the ecological limits
- Trustees of Global Commons
- Global Federation – protecting the commonwealth
- Regional Economies
 - New England
- Global court – protecting natural systems
 - Right relationship –
- preserving the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.
- Economic efficiency changed to Earth Efficiency
 - What is good for the planet
 - Move from trade that promotes economic efficiency
- to one that promotes earth efficiency.
- Wealth changed to mean - Share of earths life & the creative force of sunlight
- Cost looks at the environmental cost
 - Money is a license to exert ecological cost or produce toxins
 - Waste is when a material has no more work it can do
- Cradle to Cradle

7. What ownership models would work best in the future?

- Worker self management
- Mondragón
 - 1256 companies, 85,000 workers
 - 1991 visit
 - Structural debate – reforming to meet market demands
 - Or keeping the co-operative spirit
 - Ruth’s questions
- Cleveland Evergreen Co-ops
 - Laundry, energy Solutions, Green City Growers
 - Built around needs of hospital and Universities
 - Employees buy in
 - \$65,000 equity in 8-9 yrs
 - Local Foundations
- History of Co-ops
 - Rochedale – England
 - Populists
 - Co-ops nurtured the concept of co-operating
- people changed their whole approach to society
- Co-ops in Fort Bragg & Ukiah
 - Ukiah Co-op
 - The Nelson brothers: Finnish-American radicals from the Mendocino co
- US Steelworkers to Mondragón
 - Meld worker- owned model into collective bargaining
- Community land trust

8. What are the advantages of the Social Solidarity economy?

- Brings like minded institutions together
- Co-ops,

Non-profits,
Worker-owned businesses
Locally owned businesses,
Allied government agencies
Promotes democratic enterprises, cooperation & self management
Healthy products that do not harm society

Solidarity,
democracy,
cooperation,
environmental preservation & human rights
We are like termites

QUEBEC

Recognition & standing in public policy dialogue

Priorities from the bottom up

\$10 million loan fund

\$50,000 per co-op

Chantier Trust - \$52 million fund

proved reliability of enterprises so that other funds opened up to them

Movement financial institutions

\$7 billion Union fund,

\$1 billion Social Economy fund.

Venture capitalists running after them

9. Why do we need a restoration economy?

To restore the health of the planet

The strength of the economy

The happiness of the people

10. What sorts of financial institutions are necessary for a new economy?

Public Banking

slow money

Connecting investors and local economy

Woody Tasch

Will it work within capitalism?

Will it get bought out.

Public lending funds

To job building institutions

To stable community enterprises

local currencies or “hour banks” part of the solution? Why?

When Local economies are broken

Broad local acceptance

Keeps \$ money local

How about regional currencies?

Ukiah hours

Seed Money on the Coast

11. Is it possible to create an economy that maximizes happiness?

Happiness

Bhutan

Mark Anielski in Fort Bragg

Genuine wealth

Genuine Progress Indicator
Measuring these broader categories than the GDP
Genuine progress.net

12. How can we create a new economy in Mendocino County?

map the local Solidarity Economy on the North Coast?

To create local, self supporting, economic networks

Participatory budgeting

sustainable community forestry working in Mendocino County

REFI & The Conservation Fund

Farmer's markets

WELL

Transition Towns

[JR - Spring 2009, Vol 4 #3: Deglobalization/Relocalization](#)

[JR - Fall 2010, Vol 5 #1: Building an Economy for People and Nature](#)

Talking Points For Grassroots Solutions And Corporate Power

PUBLIC BANKING

Why You Should Care

Money Power Creates a Dismal Future

The financial industry contributes twice as much money to political campaigns as any other industry and spends far more than any other sector lobbying our government, weakening essential financial protection legislation like Dodd-Frank. Wall Street bankers run our Treasury and the Federal Reserve to ensure their control over the money supply and their earnings from government debt. Big banks and their financial allies continue placing bets on derivatives spelling economic disaster for the rest of us.

Private Banks Bankrupt Government In their drive to maximize profits, the private banking industry has been preying on local governments, selling them snake oil like “credit/default swaps.” Detroit and other cities have been bankrupted by such financial schemes. Meanwhile the Federal Reserve, run by the private banks, keeps the federal government in debt by loaning the government money, which the Fed just creates out of thin air.

Public Control of Money is Necessary Our privately created and controlled money supply has taken us on a 300-year roller coaster ride guaranteeing that the private money industry reaps the benefits of the system, while the rest of us pay the price. Public money proponent and 1884 Presidential Candidate General George Butler made the logical declaration that currency should be “uniform, sound, cheap, stable, and elastic.” But to make that happen, money has to be publicly controlled.

Working Poor Need a Working Bank Our banking system should work for the good of everyone. But it does not work for America's poor. A quarter of all US households, 34 million, mostly low-income households, do not have bank accounts.

Banks will not even locate in poor communities. The residents of those neighborhoods must depend on a vulture industry of payday lenders that charge an average 400% interest, costing low-income communities \$95 billion dollars a year, trapping them in a life of poverty.

What You Can Do

Join the Public Bank Movement Money is power. Until money is placed under public control, the power will reside in the vaults of our corporations and banks. To start taking back the power, create a public bank in your city, county or state. To find out how to get involved in the public banking movement that is spreading across the country, check out the Public Banking Institute at publicbankinginstitute.org And use Justice Rising to spread the word.

Support Local Institutions Begin with grassroots action. Put your money into credit unions and local banks. Encourage your local government to move its money out of Wall Street banks and into local financial institutions, while making clear that partnership loans with a public bank will do far more to strengthen the local banks. Remember, deposits are a liability while loans are an asset.

Push for Publicly Controlled Money Join the movement to nationalize the Federal Reserve. Encourage your Congressional delegation to embrace the power embodied in the U.S. Constitution to control our own money supply and to print our own currency. This way we will free ourselves from the stranglehold Wall Street has on our families and our communities and prevent our homes from being used as pawns in the race to unearned wealth.

Help the Working Poor Get a Bank The US Postal Service providing banking services for the working poor is a win/win solution for the people, the Post Office and society in general. Postal banks are popular through out the world. The US had postal banking services until the 1960s. The Office of Inspector General of the US Postal Service recommends it. The working poor need it. Senator Elizabeth Warren supports it. Join with [Bank Act.org](http://BankAct.org) to get involved.

Questions and notes

Public Banking

1. What sorts of changes should be instigated to avoid another 2008 style financial crisis?

Public Bank

Break up the banks

Reinstate Glass Steagall

Move away from Fractional banking

Create a regulatory regime true to the public good

Jubilee

2. Is the monetary system part of our cultural commons?

Introduction to the commons

We are all dependent on a a functioning monetary system

3. Who should control the money supply

History of public control of the money supply

American Revolution about printing money

Alexander Hamilton & the fight over the United States Bank

No Banks under initial CA Constitution

Greenbacks

Mike Thompson

4. How can we the People take control of our money supply?

Public Banks

Postal Banks

Publicly run Central Bank

5. Are public banks part of the solution?

Yes

Would stop gambling with the public's money

Would promote local well being rather than risky derivatives

Could have softened the foreclosure crisis.

6. What is the history of public banking?

Bank of England

Public Banks & currencies in the colonies

7. Why is the Bank of North Dakota important?

Birthing Saga is instructive

Array of present services is impressive

8. Who is Ellen Brown?

Author of Web of Debt – the history and crisis that demands public banks

Public Bank Solution that looks as the history of Public banks around he world

Founder f PBI

9. What is the Public Banking Institute?

Formed in 2011

Mainly volunteer run

Helping establish Public banks

With webinars, blogs, forums

Forum in San Rafael

10. How do Postal Banks work?

Office of Inspector General Report

Relief from Payday Lending

Save unbanked billions of dollars

New Zealand Success story

11. What is the German Public Banking model

Like other aspect of the German economy

Over 65% of banking sector

Bankers Banks for Pubic good

Housing, Ag , small business

Co-op retail banks

12. Can change begin in our local communities?

Start slowly

Challenges of local banking

[JR - Spring 2014, Vol 6 #2: Public Banking: Creating Jobs, Building Communities, and Reclaiming the Commons](#)

Talking Points For Grassroots Solutions And Corporate Power

• SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT FROM CORPORATE DESTRUCTION –
CLIMATE CHANGE, RESOURCE DEPLETION AND GLOBAL POLLUTION –

Why You Should Care?

Toxic pollution in your neighborhood is a hazard to your health Agricultural and Industrial chemicals pose a serious health risk. After almost two centuries of industrial and agroindustrial activities—much of that in an era when corporate owners freely took it as their prerogative to foul our common air, land and waters—almost every community in the United States has been impacted. The true nature of the devastation is only now coming to the surface. This provides a great opportunity for communities to start restoring the earth and save their future.

Community resources need protection As pristine resources, including air and water, become more rare, they are a strong draw for corporate investors looking for new lands to plunder. Your local natural assets may be the next ones targeted. Make sure you know how to protect them.

Industrial interests are obscuring our environmental problems Additional greenhouse gasses being spewed into the environment are mainly coming from corporate sources or products. Faced with ruin if the true costs of this pollution becomes known, corporations have mounted a multi-million dollar campaign to hide the truth, preventing our media from serving its democratic function.

Free trade spreads the devastation Neoliberal trade agreements spread the industrial and consumptive lifestyles that are polluting the planet and threaten local initiatives to protect our health and the environment.

What You Can Do

Find out what toxics are in your neighborhood. Go to www.scorecard.org to find the registered toxic sites in your neighborhood. They also have a list of environmental justice groups or search for one on the web. Find one working in your area—discover what they know and support their efforts. If you have concerns about sites that have not been investigated, do some grassroots investigating of your own.

Start rights-based organizing in your community. Contact CELDF to find out how to protect your community from outside corporate predators.

Arrange to hold a Democracy School in your community. Research the local ordinances that CELDF has helped pass and educate your local politicians about the possibilities. Join the international movement to confront global warming. Most change begins at the grassroots. Get your local government to join the effort to stop global warming. Check out www.iclei.org.

Join the Earth Day Network to establish a climate education campaign in your area. See www.earthday.net Institute the Precautionary Principle.

Help your local community use the Precautionary Principle, which brings democracy and science to environmental decision making. GreenAction and Environmental Commons have been active in getting the Precautionary Principle adopted by local governments in San Francisco and Mendocino County CA and are happy to help other communities do the same.

Questions & Notes for

Saving The Environment From Corporate Destruction Climate Change, Resource Depletion and Global Pollution

1. How involved are the biggest energy producers in controlling public policy?

Huge lobbying and campaign expenditures,

Pg 3 Energy issue

Notice Koch on the list

Lobbying expenditures increased by over 50% 2000-2007

252 million in 2007

Both 2008 Presidential campaigns had staffers from energy industry

Bush Administration was run by the oil & gas industry

Both Bushes worked in the West Texas oil & gas industry

Now we have another Bush running

War in Iraq

Reclaiming oil supplies for private industry

Imperial overstretch- foot in the door to reprivatize oil industry

2. Does public policy favor energy corporations over the environment?

XL Pipeline big question

Obama on the line

Bush Administration

Cheney Task Force

Move to Shale oil & Liquefied Coal

API lobbyist head of President's Council on Environmental Quality

Environmentalism removed from Policy positions

Fraudulent anti global warming propaganda

75% of federal subsidies go to the oil, gas & nuclear industry

Exxon avoided \$60 Billion in royalty payments on publicly owned oil

supplies

66% of new loan guarantees goes to nuclear

3. What is Exxon's role in the Climate debate?

Biggest lobbying & campaign finance spender

Spent huge amounts to pay the experts

Competitive Enterprise Institute — Global Warming & other Eco-Myths

Received \$1,645,000 from ExxonMobil since 1998

4. What are the corporate assumptions that threaten our environment?

Natural systems have no value

Take advantage of externality to pollute the planet

We have a right to dominate nature

Our resources will go on forever

5. Should big energy companies take over renewable energy companies?

It is all show – Antonia Juhasz

Will destroy the renewable industry

King CONG makes money on destroying the planet not saving it

6. What is the problem with extracting oil from tar sands?

Destruction of the water supply

Pollution

2-4 barrels of H₂O for 1 barrel of oil

Huge problem for the Canadian indigenous groups

Huge delivery costs

Train wrecks

Local govts may be financially responsible for destruction of the water supply

3 times the carbon emissions as traditional oil production

XL Pipeline reminiscent of the super corridors of the SPP

7. How does climate change cap and trade work? Is it a solution? Who Benefits?

Corporate creation of pollution becomes property

they can sell to other polluters

Wall Street & corporate polluters benefit

8. What is the corporate impact on our soil?

- Save for the class on food
- Bob St. Peters article —
- Nitrogen based bombs to nitrogen based fertilizers after WWII
 - WWII never ended, just attacked nature
 - Rebecca Solnit article
 - Nitrogen rich fertilizers leading to Gulf dead zone
 - Algae bloom stealing the oxygen from sea life
 - Small, diversified farmers 1000% more productive
 - Farmer's that save the environment should be rewarded w federal subsidies
 - Break up mega food corps
- 9. **Whose side is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on?**
 - Taken public water & power rights and given them to corporations
 - Believe in market-based solutions that avoid the problems
 - Disregard the costs
 - Fight with Mineral mgt
 - Claimed regulatory rights over local govts
 - Sonoma Co has law suit over jurisdiction
 - Few environmental studies
- 10. **What is the difference between centralized and decentralized power?**
 - Long fight 100 yrs ago and again today
 - Private Utilities JP Morgan and General Electric vs
 - Local distributed power
 - Local, publicly owned power makes the most sense
 - Decentralized production makes the most sense
 - No transmission cost,
 - the fuel is free
 - Compromised on Regulated Utilities
 - Regulated monopolies do not work
 - Corps & Democracy interview with CA PUC member
 - Crispin Hollingshead in WA Victorious
 - Feed in Tariffs Germany
- 11. **How effective has the fight been against big coal?**
 - Coal Swarm
 - 15 states & many national groups
 - Scares off financiers
 - Put coal industry in a defacto moratorium
- 12. **Is there such a thing as clean coal?**
 - No
 - 2008 Democratic political conventions
- 13. **What are the Rights of Nature?**
 - Right to sustain natural systems integrity
 - Ecuador & Bolivia
 - Present govt ignoring
 - Developing oil in the Amazon
 - Outlawed CONAIE
 - Measure S
- 14. **What is CELDF's approach to protecting the environment?**
 - Tom Linzey "No environmental movement in this country."
 - Needs to demand that nature has rights

Disregards regulation, concentrating on the Corporate Actor
Drive the rights of nature into the constitution
CELDF wants to rewrite the Constitution
Group that initially developed community rights initiatives
Specific legal language that
denies corporate rights & asserts community rights
Hard to challenge in courts
Measure S

15. **What is the role of the Commerce Clause in environmental laws?**
No mention of nature in the US Constitution
Natural systems cross state boundaries
Treating nature as a commodity
Dormant Commerce Clause
States can not discriminate against or overly burden commerce
Trade agreements follow suit
Romans had a whole different category for nature
16. **Would passing a Toxic Trespass ordinance be good for Mendocino County?**
Measure S
17. **How is the cleanup of the Mill site going?**
Fort Bragg or Masonite in Ukiah
18. **Should we regulate the sea or let it be open?**
Bush Administration ready to conquer the sea
Richard Charter – Manifest Destiny
Local zoning?
21. **Is nuclear power sustainable?**
Uses more power than it generates
Unreported costs
Government Insurance
Short life span
Environmental disasters
Scott ANSI pushing standards
Uranium in short supply uses 30x more energy to mine than it produces
22. **What is the state of establishing a local power district on the North Coast?**
Community Choice Aggregation
Ukiah public power
Bill Corzilius report Common Sense

http://www.greentransitions.org/Papers/EWG2007_FRReport.pdf

[JR - Summer 2007, Vol 3 #1: Corporate Destruction of Nature & Grassroots Solutions to Save the Planet](#)

[JR - Summer 2008, Vol 4 #1: Corporate Energy or Grassroots Power](#)

Talking Points For Grassroots Solutions And Corporate Power

THE COMMONS –

Why You Should Care

- Bottled water is the way corporations are taking the human right to safe, affordable, accessible drinking water and turning it into a commodity, sold at market prices to those who can afford to pay the price, often at 1,000 times the cost of tap water.
- With bottled water, the giant corporations, primarily Coke, Pepsi and Nestlé, are creating a parallel private distribution system over which they have full control from the water resource to the market shelf.
- More than 10 billion plastic water bottles end up as garbage or litter each year. We all pay for their disposal with our tax dollars.
- Bottled water introduces a whole new stream of toxic plastics from manufacturing the plastic and then rinsing the bottle that puts plastic dust into the waste stream, including also chlorine and disinfectants needed to flush water lines. Hormone disrupting chemicals used in plastic contaminate the environment, leach into our landfills and pollute our bodies.
- Bottled water is not tested by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, which does no testing. While Coke and Pepsi use municipal water which is tested by EPA, Nestlé uses spring water which is only tested by the industry. When the Natural Resources Defense Council tested more than 1000 bottles of 103 brands, they found contamination, including synthetic organics, bacteria and arsenic, exceeding allowable limits in at least one sample from about one-third of the brands, . Check out www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bwbwinx.asp.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Avoid buying and using bottled water.
- Use a stainless steel water bottle. Refill it from the tap and carry tap water with you during the day.
- At public events, the office and home, offer pitchers of water. Ask your public officials to do the same at public meetings. Don't give the water bottlers free advertising.
- Inquire whether local restaurants are selling and serving bottled water. Educate them about the issues. Ask them to serve pitchers of tap water.
- Inquire whether your city or school district is negotiating or has signed an exclusivity contract for bottled water and other beverages. File a "Public Records Act (PRA) Request" to learn contract terms, minimum sales, advertising rights, and penalties or incentives linked to sales. See flier on Exclusivity Contracts at www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/water
- Make sure that your public works department provides good quality tap water and that it is available for everyone in your community at an affordable price.
- If for any reason your municipal water is not meeting Environmental Protection Agency standards or you have other concerns, buy a filter to attach to your faucet. Even the best filters are far cheaper than bottled water. What You Can Do!
- Do a price comparison of local municipal tap water and bottled water brands at your local stores and publicize it. Ask your local food coop and other sympathetic stores to post the price comparison.
- Do a taste test comparing your local water and several brands of municipal water. For details go to www.thealliancefordemocracy.org/water
- Find out where the bottled water sold in your stores comes from. Find out what kind of impact the pumping is having on the environment.

- Show the documentary Thirst available from the AfD office and hold public forums to educate the community about the need for a strong local law to stop corporations from taking your water. Use the AfD flier at: www.thealliancefordemocracy.org
- Advocate for strict local, county and state groundwater laws to protect your aquifer, watershed, and other water sources from pollution. Work to identify local, actual and potential sources of pollution and advocate for enforcement of laws, penalties and clean up.
- Talk with your family and friends about the danger of toxic chemicals, including hormone disruptors, leaching into bottled water (see page 6-7).
- Expose the serious public health impacts of plastics production and disposal . Corporations have no right to pollute our bodies.

Questions & Notes The Commons

1. How does the invisible hand threaten the environment?

God?

Does not consider the biosphere's carrying capacity

Leads to climate disaster,

depleted resources: wood, fish, water

Best possible adjustment to an ever worsening situation

2. What is the difference between the natural commons and the cultural commons?

Inherited from: life, nature, air, water soil, rivers forests etc., climate, ecology

Inherited from our ancestors, inventions, science, intellectual contributions, monetary system

The Cultural Commons,

creations of humankind,

should belong to all human beings

governed by true democratic process

with checks to assure protection of the rights of the Natural Commons.

3. Does it make sense to have patents on life?-

Can you really own life?

Isn't that slavery?

The secret to life is one of the unknown mysteries, how can someone own it?

US steamrolled the world to accept this crazy idea

Biopiracy is a crime against indigenous knowledge, poor people & nature.

4. What are Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights and why are they important?

TRIPs Uruguay Round of WTO

just before Seattle

Private control over the creative process

Put patents & copyrights in the trade agreements

requires WTO members to provide copyright rights,

covering content producers; industrial designs; i

; patents; new plant varieties; trademarks;

5. How is our public domain being privatized?

Wise Use movement

Free market environmentalism

Supported by Foundations Olin, Scaife etc.

Changing from public ownership to private customers.

Charter Forests, local interests?

Iron Rangers

Naming Rights to the National Parks

6. What is common and what is private property?

- Is publicly owned lands the Commons
- Is the Russian River the Commons
 - How about the water that comes from the Eel River
- Is our Monetary system part of the commons
- Is our climate system part of the commons
- 7. Should market mechanisms be used to protect the commons?**
 - Market will not protect the commons
 - Commons are a non market phenomena

- 8. What is Ecological Economics?**
 - Herman Daly
 - Since human existence operates within the milieu of the environmental commons, economics has to take the environmental commons into account.
 - They are figuring out how we can exist sustainably within our biosphere
 - True Cost Accounting
- 9. How does the Constitution deal with nature?**
 - property
 - Environmental laws under the Commerce Clause
- 10. How did the Romans consider nature?**
 - 3 types of property, private property, public property & common property
 - Extra patrimonium incapable of being possessed
- 11. Should nature have rights?**
 - Nature should not be property
 - should have inalienable rights of its own
 - CELDF
 - Ecuador, Bolivia, Uruguay
- 12. How should the natural commons be defined?**
 - Natural commons are beyond ownership
 - creations of nature,
 - should be seen as interconnected systems on which all life depends
 - deserving of rights in the constitution, standing in court, and legal recognition in their own right—not as the extension of human property rights.
- 13. How does corporate money control public policy over the commons?**
 - Conservative Foundations & Corporate Donors support
 - Conservative Think Tanks
 - Pro Privatization natural & cultural commons
 - TISA privatizing public services
- 14. How is our water supply threatened by corporate actions?**
 - Bottled water companies are instilling the notion that water is a commodity
 - Agribusiness
- 15. How can communities protect their water supplies?**
 - AfD Defending water for Life
 - Community Rights Ordinances
 - Do not have to deal with regulatory structure
 - Barnstead, NewHamshire
- 16. What are the problems with the bottled water industry?**
 - Commodifying water
 - Taking public water for private gain

- Stored in toxic plastic bottles
- 17. **What is critical about the cross-partisan support of community rights initiatives?**
 - Broad support
 - People protect their community
- 18. **What is meant by “Public Trust”?**
 - Government oversight of natural resources
 - For the common good
 - belong to all
 - controlled by society as a whole.
- 19. **How do trade agreements impact the water commons?**
 - General Agreement on Trade & services GATS
 - Regulations of private water & Sewage systems
 - Burdensome, not relevant, unreasonable
- 20. **Do public water systems work well?**
 - A lot of private water systems going broke - Albion, Camp Meeker
 - Stockton selling its water system
 - Public-public partnerships
 - Better than public/private
- 21. **How do acequias work?**
 - Milago -Beanfield War
 - Communally run irrigation systems
 - From Spanish heritage
- 22. **How does agribusiness impact the water supply?**
 - Pollution of the water supply
 - Selling cheap ag water to rich cities
- 23. **Do we have a right to water?**
 - Uruguay
 - Right to water
 - Social considerations over economic considerations
 - Private companies banned from supplying public water for human consumption
 - Bolivia
 - Cochabamba
 - Public water
 - Regulate cumulative impacts
 - Right to water
- 24. **Should Water be a commodity?**
 - Gift of nature or property
 - Water is a fundamental right.
 - It should not be available just to the rich?
 - Water split into many subcategories
 - Power, resource, Grace
- 25. **Is green washing good?**
 - Protects commoditization, transportation, plastics, difficult to compost
 - Starbucks —Biota

[JR - Spring 2006, Vol 2 #1: Reclaiming the Commons from the Jaws of Corporate Privatization](#)
[JR - Summer 2006, Vol 2 #2: Water for Life Not Corporate Profit](#)

Talking Points For Grassroots Solutions And Corporate Power

HEALTH AND FOOD

Why You Should Care

Industrial Agriculture Is Not Sustainable Our current system of agriculture, which substitutes chemicals for living soil, is not sustainable. It is killing soil, creating dead zones in the oceans, pouring greenhouse gases into the environment, and destroying biodiversity. The earth is our only home, and we must learn to relate to it as a living system, not as an environment we can exploit for profit, while killing its ability to regenerate.

Corporate Agriculture Is Not Healthy We are having epidemics of health problems created by modern agriculture, especially obesity, diabetes, heart disease and cancer. We need healthy soil to raise healthful food, both plant and animal. Food-borne pathogens, the only form of unsafe food recognized by the Food and Drug Administration, is the least of our worries. Those causing the problems are also telling us how to eat, and a great deal of what you think you know about that is wrong.

Local Food Brings Local Prosperity Our oligarchic food system sucks money out of our local communities and concentrates it in the hands of a few multi-national corporations. Eating locally-produced food circulates money locally and strengthens local economies. A thriving local food system means more jobs and a more vibrant and healthy economy. It also builds the resiliency needed when times get tough. Local food tastes good, too!

Food Strengthens Communities Breaking bread together is a time-honored way of celebrating life in community. Church suppers, bake sales, Grange pig roasts and all of the other gatherings bring people together. It is hard to be disagreeable to people when you are all eating together! And when people care about food, they care about people, and find ways to make sure that everyone gets to eat.

Private Insurance Does Not Work With administrative costs ten times higher than Medicare and a policy to deny access to anyone who might get ill, private health insurance companies provide a disservice to public health.

Corporations Have Taken Over Our National Health Policy A health-care system that maximizes the public good is imperiled by the medical/ industrial complex's overbearing influence in Congress. With the largest corps of lobbyists, and a policy of hiring powerful legislators right out of Congress, drug, insurance and corporate care companies overwhelm the political process. A revolving door in the regulatory agencies ensures that they are "captives of the industry."

We Have Corporate "Sickness Care" Not Health Care Corporations are imposing a system of "sickness care" rather than health care. They medicalize natural functions from sadness to ageing, drive up expenses with unnecessary procedures, expensive machinery, and additional costs from shareholder profits to exorbitant CEO salary and benefit packages. Finally, our regulatory system allows corporations to poison us and then make money on the cure.

Market Imperatives are Destroying Health Care "Health care is too precious, intimate and corruptible to entrust to the market." With the value of life unquantifiable, funders separated from patients and medical professionals making the decisions, markets do not work in health care.

What You Can Do

Pass an Ordinance Put your community in charge by passing a local ordinance that strengthens your food system. Tailor the Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance to your community and its needs and get it passed. You will be told you can't do that. Do it anyway. Then persist.

Move Your Food Dollars Never shop at Walmart. Find your local farmers and farmers' markets. Create a community garden. Stay away from the processed foods in the supermarket; learn to cook.

Say good-bye to McDonald's and Burger King, etc. Form a food circle with friends and help each other to eat only food sourced within a given radius (except for chocolate, of course!).

Educate Yourself Study your state constitution, agriculture laws, and local governance structure. Learn more about nutrition, but not from sources that use the USDA food pyramid. Inform yourself about the connection of industrial agriculture and climate change. Read the history of the Grange and the Populist movement. Find out about food co-ops and their place in our economy.

Create a Food Community Grow veggies for your local food pantry. Save and exchange seeds. Host a food swap — trade some of your dilly beans for your neighbor's cookies. Host a seasonal, local food potluck. Share what you know about food, farming and history. Form a local food policy council. Bake for community events. Ignore political affiliations. Feed the hungry. Raise food of all kinds. Share food.

Work to Pass Single-payer Health Care. Join an organization in your state (see pg 2) to create state-based single-payer health care. Make your voice heard during this presidential election year that single payer is the only rational funding system for a true national health-care system. Join the national effort to pass HR 676, which would create Medicare for all.

Become involved in National Health Care Policy. Counter the access of lobbyists by contacting your legislators on vital issues. Hold them accountable for their votes. Form community groups to keep up the pressure on our elected representatives. Advocate the passage of laws that stop former legislators from using their knowledge against the public good and stop the revolving door between industry and regulatory agencies. Create Community Health Centers that concentrate on the public good rather than corporate profits. Check out www.nachc.com to find out how to start your own community health center.

Get involved in the community health center or public hospital in your area. Volunteer as a fundraiser or run for the board. Refocus health care toward human needs rather than corporate profits. We need a system that emphasizes healthy people, healthy products and a healthy planet. The panorama of healing has to be available to treat our diverse medical needs. We deserve access to Chinese medicine, allopathic, homeopathic and naturopathic cures, as well as spiritual and traditional healing practice

Questions & Notes

1. Should we have a right to health care?

Yes

UN Declaration of Human Rights. Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Nixon, 1972 Health Strategy, equal access to all for healthcare

All industrialized nations have national health care except the US

Corporations fought National healthcare

Medicare for all

Regulatory system unresponsive to new science

Local care – Cape Care

Sonoma County Child health care

2. What role should the market play in health care?

Harvard Researchers

“health care too precious, intimate and corruptible to entrust to the market.”

Long been a debate.

- Truman almost passed national healthcare
 60 years ago SCOTUS declared that health care is a business
 Medicare opened up public Healthcare to market forces
 Market allows private institutions to skim of the most lucrative clients & procedures
 Biggest lobbyist sector in DC
 FDA captive of the drug industry
3. **Does it make sense to create national single payer health care state by state?**
 Worked in Canada
 Rational distribution of medical personnel & infrastructure
 Use of generic drugs
 Per person costs would drop by 57%
 Single payer would promote health not sickness
 4. **What impact has Affordable Care Act made to this movement?**
 Dissipated the drive?
 Govt \$ subsidizing private healthcare
 & medical insurance industry
 5. **How powerful are insurance companies in establishing public policy around health?**
 Lobbying chart
 Funds only allopathic medicine
 Does not allow for alternative medical strategies
 Stopped Clinton Health care
 Killed CA healthcare
 Central architect of ACA
 6. **How does the expense of health care in the US compare with other countries?**
 US is twice the median level of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nations.
 Americans do not fill out prescriptions, fail to visit doctor delay tests & treatments
 American pay 35% more for their drugs than other people in industrialized world
 7. **How can we deal with all the corporate produced chemicals we are exposed to?**
 Research local chemical exposures
 Demand that all chemicals be tested
 Make poisoning of the planet a compelling issue
 8. **What is the connection between Congress, Lobbyists and the Health Care industry?**
 Revolving door between congress, regulatory agencies and health care industry
 Bill Gradison ranking Republican on House ways & means commtee
 Became head of Health Insurance Association of America HIAA
 Now Health Insurance Plans of America –
 \$9 million in lobbying
 \$342,000 in campaign contributions
 HIAA major combatant to Clinton health plans
 Billy Tauzin Congressman who designed Medicare prescription drug bill
 Head of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
 9. **What is the precautionary principle and how can it help us?**
 Corporations have no right to harm us
 Passed in Mendocino county
 Chemicals need to be tested so we can make safe public policy
 Tolerable amount of poisons is not precautionary
 10. **What are some of the problems with corporate agriculture?**
 Mass confine, slaughter & production

- Campylobacter ,Salmonella in chickens
- Pigs hoof & Mouth Disease in S. Korea
- H5N1 bird flu
- Pesticides on GMO Crops leads to Autism
- Pollution causing dead zones in Gulf of Mexico
- Patenting life
- Seeds
- GMO crops
- Destroying small farmers across the planet –
- busting up homes & communities
- creating a global migrant work force
- Decreased safety & health of food
- Destruction of soil quality

11. How have corporations used the regulatory agencies to discourage the local food industry?

- Food Safety Modernization Act.
- Farmers taken away in handcuffs
- Farmageddon
- Expensive food safety rules are a barrier to entry for small farmers

12. What are the corporate connections to the regulatory agencies?

- Campaign contributions
- Revolving door through congress
- Corporate, Regulatory agency revolving door
- John Sheehan
- No one should drink raw milk

13. What are the benefits of local food production?

- Builds Community
- Social embeddedness of market relationships
- Non market relationships create economic relationships and visa versa
- Farmers markets
- Margaret Thatcher “there is no such thing as society, only individuals
- Provides local employment
- Boosts the local economy
- Closed loop farming
- More efficient
- Builds the soil
- Less Greenhouse gasses
- Unpasteurized milk reduces asthma
- Corporations can not co-opt local

14. Should small farmers be exempt from the regulations meant to regulate agribusiness?

- Yes
- The customer/ farmer relationship is a strong enough regulator

15. What is the Local Food & Community Self-Governance Ordinance (LFCSGO)?

- Developed in Maine to protect small farmers and their customers
- Local law, spreading horizontally and moving up to state & federal level
- Empowering for local citizens
- Stimulate state economy
- Attracts youth to the state
- Reduces bureaucratic barriers to business
- Challenges corporate power

Truth & respect between members of a community
Protects peoples' relationships and their own judgement
Protects social networks

16. Should we promote a LFCSGO for Mendocino County?

Community Rights Network of Mendocino County
Charter County First

17. What is the importance of Home Rule?

Allows local govts to pass laws that deal with issues not claimed by the state & Feds
County Charter is Home Rule

Necessary to have Home Rule to pass LF&CSGO

18. What is rights-based organizing?

LF&CSGO

Measure S

Established Community Bill of Rights

CELDF

We have the right to protect community health, safety, environment and resources

Removing power from power

19. Is the consumer/farmer relationship able to ensure healthy food?

Consumer is the real regulator

Small community can react fast

Subsidiarity

20. Should we have a right to eat what we want?

Govt says we do not have the right to eat

Should the government protect us from ourselves

Are corporations using food safety to create barriers to entry for competitors

21. Should access to healthy food be a human right?

Hunger vs poverty

We have enough to feed 10 billion

Out of world population of 7 billion, 1 billion are hungry

Waste & distribution

China in Africa

Right to feed ourselves

Education & resources need to go to farmers

70% of farmers are women

UN Declaration of Human Rights Article 25

[JR - Winter 2008, Vol 3 #3: Health for Humans - Not Corporate Profits](#)

[JR - Winter 2015, Vol 6 #3: Local Rules for Local Food: Communities Hold On To Food, Tradition & Democracy](#)

Talking Points For Grassroots Solutions And Corporate Power

CORPORATE GLOBAL TRADE VS POPULAR LOCAL CONTROL

Why You Should Care

Self-Serving Global Elites Make the Rules A cabal of transnational corporate executives, international financiers, and its government puppets is setting global rules that serve their own ends rather than the common good. Through interlocking directorates on transnational corporate boards and intertwined corporate global policymaking bodies, like the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Economic Forum, the global monied elite are intent on taking control of our future and to continue exploiting the world's resources for short-term corporate profit.

TPP and TAFTA Imperil our Future Trade agreements are a major tool for this global elite. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) has been secretly negotiated between thousands of Pacific Rim corporations and a dozen Pacific Rim countries. Their intension is to push the TPP through Congress using "fast track" without public debate or congressional amendment. The Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA) between the US and the 28 member states of the European Union is intended to further limit governments from acting to protect people and nature by setting what could become global standards.

Trade Courts Enforce Corporate Power Grab Starting with NAFTA and continuing with CAFTA and innumerable bilateral and multilateral agreements, the corporate elite enforce their "right" to protect future profits in secret trade courts where we, the people, have no right to be represented, not even by our elected local, state and federal officials.

Capitalist Military Dominates the Planet Secret negotiations and special courts are not enough for this global elite. Corporate neoliberal globalization is also promoted and protected by a globalized military force to open new markets and gain access to natural resources. Overseen by US military and NATO officers, militaries around the world are trained to call peaceful non-violent protesters "terrorist's and to put down peaceful resistance to the global corporate agenda.

What You Can Do

Join the Anti-Corporate Globalization Movement AfD is part of a growing global movement of diverse communities opposed to the global corporate empire. From the defeat of the MAI and the crippling of the WTO after Seattle in 1999 to stopping the FTAA, citizen activists have shown real muscle in taking on this empire and in putting out our vision of a safe and sane future for our planet based on mutual cooperation, not aggression.

Create a TPP-Free Zone Bring your community together to pass a law declaring itself to be a TPP-Free Zone. Tell the US Trade Representative and the corporations sitting at the TPP negotiating table: "If you, our unelected negotiators, create this corporate-driven monstrosity and then go to Congress for a rubber stamp, WE WILL NOT OBEY." It is time to assert our right of local self-governance and make our communities TPP-Free Zones. **Help Stop Fast Track** Corporate elite in the US push to "fast track" all trade agreements through Congress so there is no debate on the content of these agreements. AfD opposes this effort to ramrod trade agreements through Congress. Call your Congressional delegation and demand that they vote against Fast Track authority for the TPP or TAFTA.

Be the Change Work in your community to create positive alternatives to corporate globalization. Join the solidarity economy. Help get local food ordinances passed to protect local farmers selling food to their neighbors. Promote the right to local self-governance and deny corporations constitutional rights in your community. Move your money to local banks and credit unions.

Questions & Notes for

Global Governance: Who Or What Will Rule The World?

Corporate Global Trade vs Popular Local Control -

1. How has trade and global corporate power been connected since the early 1600s?

Article I wrote- Bob Winn

Retitled Triple Birth : Corporations Empire & Liberal Democracy

First Corporations were trading corporations

East India Co & Vereenigde Oost-Indische

Conquered the world for pepper & spices setting up English and Dutch Empires

Corp heads were Mayors of London and Head of the new Dutch Republic

Bretton Woods – Mt Washington Hotel

Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,

insure that the global economy after World War II promote “the opportunity for investment, under proper safeguards, of capital from many lands.”

Set up World Bank, IMF, and GATT that became the WTO

2. What did Trade associations have to do with the growth of the Corporate Global Empire

International Chamber of Commerce

1919

350 leaders in the commerce of America, Great Britain, France, Italy and Belgium” came together to form The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) as a parallel to the League of Nations. The League would handle global political rule setting and the ICC would handle the planetary economic rule making.

National Association of Manufacturers

Samuel Prescott Bush Founder and First President of NAM

3. Where did neoliberalism come from?

Reviving the old notion of the merchants who promoted trade in the British Empire

Allowing money to rule the planet

Money is power

Under mythology of free trade

Market makes the decisions

resource depletion, global pollution, destruction of nature

Milton Friedman, Chile

Thatcher & Reagan

4. How does Herman Daly see the corporate future?

Founder of Ecological Economics and Author of For the Common Good: Redirecting the Economy toward Community, the environment and a sustainable future.

Predicted all of our present disasters

Lower wages, more external costs, more debt, corporate wealth,

Oligopolistic markets, media control, purchased politicians

Domestic policy sacrificed on the altar of globalization

5. How are trade agreements Global corporate rule?

WTO writing the global constitution

Lowering wages. 3 million US manufacturing job losses to NAFTA

Barriers to trade

Any law that did not allow corporations to

rape the earth,

enslave the people, and

maximize profits

- Secret trade tribunals
 - Nullification of national, state & local laws
 - Changes to local laws
 - Local Purchasing seen as unfair to MNCs
 - Land use regulations seen as a barrier to trade
 - Public Services privatized
- Everything commoditized & markets opened to the power of money
- Eliminating restraints on international capital flows
- Opening up public services to privatization

6. What are the institutions of Global Corporate Rule?

- Corporate associations around the World
 - ICC, CFR, WTO, NAFTA TPP WEF Trilateral Commission, NAM etc

7. What is the role of the World Bank and the IMF in corporate global governance?

- Financing corporate globalization –
- Ecuador – Globalization Devastation & Hope
- IMF Narrative

8. How are rules against climate change being challenged in trade tribunals?

- Anything that can challenge the present order can & will be brought before secret tribunals
- Growing challenges by energy companies.
 - Over past 30 yrs grew from 3 to 32 to 43 cases

9. What are the groups resisting corporate global governance?

- Blessed Unrest
 - NGOs Global Exchange, International Forum on Globalization, World Social Forum, Our World is not for sale, La Via Campesina, Public Citizens Global Trade Campaign, Alliance for Democracy, Institute for Policy Studies – Transnational Institute,
 - Latin American Countries
 - Walden Bello, Focus on the Global South
 - Pachamama, Rights of Nature

10. What are some of the examples of the rise of the Global Citizenry movement?

- Reaction to NAFTA & the WTO
 - Zapatistas, January 1 1994 - NAFTA
 - Seattle 1999
- Continued resistance to the TPP, TAFTA etc
 - Arthur Stamoulis article.
- Movement against the Iraq war
 - local movements confronting global corporate/military empire
 - Multitude, Blessed unrest, The Great Turning,
 - Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA)
 - CONAIE in Ecuador – Indigenous uprisings
- World Social Forum
 - Genuine democratization of social policy making
 - Organized global protest against Iraq war
- Global Social Solidarity Economy
- Rights of nature

11. Is it a struggle that should be taken on at the local, national or international level?

- Subsidiarity

From the grassroots. Bottom up

12. **How did the fight around CAFTA change the Narrative**
 - Story telling of the trade agreement's true impacts
 - FTAA had already been stopped by massive protests
 - Ecuador & Miami
13. **What can people do to confront the global corporate empire?**
 - TPP Free zones
 - Resolutions against Fast Track
 - Lobby your representatives
 - Promote locally-based global power system
14. **What global problems is the nation-state system unable to solve?**
 - Environmental pollution
 - Resource depletion
 - Destruction of natural systems
 - Global Warming
 - Acidification of the oceans
 - Soil eradication
 - Species extinction
15. **What is the future of the Nation State System?**
 - Can not handle global problems
 - Climate Change
 - Resource depletion
 - Economic malaise
 - Can not handle local problems
 - Economic malaise
 - Resource depletion
 - Climate change - adaptation
16. **Should there be a global world government?**
 - Only to handle global issues
 - Empowered from the local level
 - Elimination of Global Military
17. **What institutions are stepping in to fill the void?**
 - Corporations & militaries
 - Have long term social connections
 - Have economic power
 - Have personal self interest
18. **What is the role of the military in Global Corporate Empire?**
 - Add to the questions for next week. Question 0
19. **What are the different models of a globalized world economy?**
 - Corporate open door neoliberal global governance
 - Global Federalism -subsidiarity
 - CAIS - AfD Solution
 - World Parliament
 - International Social solidarity Economy
20. **Does Federtated Internationalization make sense?**
 - Nation states wrong units for this model
 - Smaller bio regions or ethnic units more amenable to human society
 - Alliance between between people ideas and cultires.
 - Friendship between communities

The global solidarity economy
CAIS – Dave Lewit

[JR - Winter 2005-06, Vol 1 #3: Global Corporate Empire or Popular Governance: The Next Millennium](#)
[JR - Fall 2013, Vol 6 #1: World Citizenry Takes On Corporate Global Rule](#)

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Starting with NAFTA and continuing with CAFTA and innumerable bilateral and multilateral agreements, the corporate elite enforce their "right" to protect future profits in secret trade courts where we, the people, have no right to be represented, not even by our elected local, state and federal officials.

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Secret negotiations and special courts are not enough for this global elite. Corporate neoliberal globalization is also promoted and protected by a globalized military force to open new markets and gain access to natural resources. Overseen by US military and NATO officers, militaries around the world are trained to call peaceful non-violent protesters "terrorist's and to put down peaceful resistance to the global corporate agenda.

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Questions for Global Governance: Who Or What Will Rule The World?
War and its Promoters

1. What is the role of the military in Global Corporate Empire?

- Protect interests of Capital
- Protect Corporate Trade interests
- Ensure Corporate access to resources and markets
- 2. What are the Corporate Incentives for War?**
 - Thomas Friedman
 - “You can not have MacDonalDs arouhd the world without McDonald Douglas”
- 3. What is the reality of global resource wars?**
 - Smedley Butler
 - CFR study
 - Access to markets & resources
 - Iraq War
 - Imperial Overstretc
 - resource wars really environmental wars?
- 4. When and How did Wall Street Take over US War Policy?**
 - Open Door 1900s
 - Wall street Lawyers as Foreign Policy Makers
 - Elihu Root,
 - Henry Stimson
 - Elihu Root Protege
 - Philander Knox
 - US Steel
 - WISE Men, Best & the Brightest
 - Wealthy Pedigree
 - Council on Foreign Relations
 - JP Morgan
 - Trilateral Commission etc.
 - 5. How does the military industrial complex work?**
 - Revolving door
 - connection between the Carlyle group and the Military industrial complex
 - Military people cash in on war profits
 - military industry contributes to politicians
 - Doubled between 1990 & 2006
 - Mainly to house & senate committee members
 - What are targeted lobbies?
 - Committee for the Present Danger
 - Cold War in 1950s
 - Détente in the 1970s
 - US Committee on NATO
 - NATO Expansion
 - Center for security policy
 - Missile Shield
 - Project for the New American Century
 - Imperial Overstretch
 - Foundation for the Defense of Democracies
 - Shaped Bush’s war on Terror
 - 2004 Republican National Convention – militaristic
 - Military industrial complex “weakened American Society to its core”
 - Made other US corporations uncompetitive

Because they have to pay for health care
Spent huge % of Federal budget on the military
Weakening domestic programs
Diverting funds from needed domestic infrastructure

6. How does the size of the US military compare to other nations?

US spends 48% of all global military spending
Britain, France, Japan & China 4-5 % each
US biggest arms dealer
2004 US sold 63% of 268 billion weapons market
top 5 Weapons producers
Lockheed Martin, Northrup, Gruman, Raytheon, & BAE Systems
Made 44% of arms sales
Doubling their share between 1990 – 2003

7. How are the world's military already globalized or universalized?

NATO
Yugoslavia
Ukraine
Notes from Exporting security
Allying with all the other militaries around the world
Protecting markets, money & trade
To the detriment of the environment and people
Who will control the Universe?
Project for the New American Century
US Space command

8. How can we end corporate driven war?

Why have we not been able to stop War
Have to be more than anti war
Build a sustainable cooperative planet
Change the narrative about war
Its inevitability
Minoans etc.
Rianne Eisler
That it is making us cannon fodder for corporate empire
Smedley Butler
Shut Down!
Measure Y, 11.7.2006 Bring the Troops Home Now
Mendocino County Initiative
Parents for Peace
US out of Iraq
Passed with 63% of the vote
Lorna ?
Cities for Peace
Hundreds of cities passed referendum

9. What is Strategic Non violence?

Ghandi
Gene sharp
Dave Lewit- Multiple questions

10. How has Latin America revolted against the US War Machine in the new Millenium?

Argentina

Venezuela
Brazil & Lula
Landless People's movement
Ecuador
Globalization Devastation & Hope

11. How could ending corporate constitutional rights end War

We could keep Corporations out of public policy decisions.?

12. Is Corporate media also imperial media?

How corporate interlocks work

10 media Giants

118 individuals connected to 288 national & International corporations

• *New York Times*: Carlyle Group, Eli Lilly, Ford, Johnson and Johnson, Hallmark, Lehman Brothers, Staples, Pepsi;

• *Washington Post*: Lockheed Martin, Coca-Cola, Dun & Bradstreet, Gillette, G.E. Investments, J.P. Morgan, Moody's;

• Knight-Ridder: Adobe Systems, Echelon, H&R Block, Kimberly-Clark, Starwood Hotels;

• The Tribune (*Chicago & LA Times*): 3M, Allstate, Caterpillar, Conoco Phillips, Kraft, McDonalds, Pepsi, Quaker Oats,

Shering Plough, Wells Fargo;

• News Corp (Fox): British Airways, Rothschild Investments;

• GE (NBC): Anheuser-Busch, Avon, Bechtel, Chevron/Texaco, Coca-Cola, Dell, GM, Home Depot, Kellogg, J.P. Morgan,

Microsoft, Motorola, Procter & Gamble;

• Disney (ABC): Boeing, Northwest Airlines, Clorox, Estee Lauder, FedEx, Gillette, Halliburton, Kmart, McKesson, Staples, Yahoo;

• Viacom (CBS): American Express, Consolidated Edison, Oracle, Lafarge North America;

• Gannett: AP, Lockheed-Martin, Continental Airlines, Goldman Sachs, Prudential, Target, Pepsi;

• AOL-Time Warner (CNN): Citigroup, Estee Lauder, Colgate-Palmolive, Hilton.

Media Narrative of War

Fox's favorable coverage of Iraq war led the administration to work for ownership deregulation to help Murdoch

NBC's favorable coverage led to GE contracts in Iraq

War Made Easy

13. Who controls the cultural narrative

History is written by the victors

Or history is written by the elites

Think Tanks

Pushing media of all types

Corporate media

consolidation of corporate ownership

Fewer voices more control

Money becomes power

FCC now selling frequency access

Who owns the airwaves?

Climate change

Coal in the early 90s used mis information & deception

Exxon spent 13 million 2000-05

What is the National Association of Broadcasters?

2005 85% of network TV

40% of independent & Public TV

Says politicians prefer advertising to free coverage

2002-05 5 big media plus the NAB contributed 79,740,000 on Lobbying

2004 Broadcaster spent 3,592,069 on candidates

Effectively changed Media taxation policies

Stopped competitive advertising venues

Supported needs of Big media before the FCC

Is the media still in denial?

10 yrs ago it was in denial

Fox in denial

NYT fairly realistic

14. How do corporations create false news

Video news releases

Often with b roles & scripts

Leslie Griffith Channel 2 in the Bay Area

15. How has the Media Commons been transformed into a privatized domain?

Reagan rejection of the Fairness Doctrine

Public interest obligations of media

Temporary FCC licenses changing to assigned ownership

Telecommunications Act of 1996

Net Neutrality?

Public Broadband

Mendocino County Broad Band

Selling of the airwaves?

Less spectrum for public use

Battle for public broadband lost in Mendocino County

Corporate penetration of public media?

Underwriting

Archers Daniel Midland on NPR news

16. What are some of the groups working on Media Reform?

Free Press

Reclaim the Media

Useful site, but most info dates from 2011

Prometheus Radio Project

Media Alliance

Old Media Reform movement

Independent Media Centers

Still functioning around the world

Helped set up Ecuador –still functioning

Brad Will

low-power FM?

Came from radio Free Berkeley

Marco out of Corners tower

KMEC & KNYO

TV networks trying to fulfill the public good

PEG

MCTV in Fort Bragg

MTV
Free Speech TV
On Satellite, Dish and Direct TV
Does not appear to be on Comcast
Online at freespeech.org
Tom Hartman
Shut down in Fort Bragg
The Real News, Independent World Television
Deep Dish V
Dee Dee Halleck

17. Are you media literate? Should we start a Media Democracy group?

Do we have fair & sufficient local media?

KZYY

Corporations & Democracy

Organizing tool - WTO

Media education for youth

Media lab again open at MHS

KAKX 89.3, 4-10 PM

19 What is the Media Bill of Rights?

Locally produced, Diverse & independent media that truly informs

Media education

Electoral & Civic programs

Reflecting the diversity of the community

Open access to produce media

Public participation in policy making

Locally owned media

Public Access TV

Universal & Affordable Internet

Licensing renewal process featuring the public good

[JR - Fall 2006, Vol 2 #3: Corporate Origins of War and Grassroots Struggles for Peace](#)

[JR - Fall 2005, Vol 1 #2: Information and Democracy:](#)

THE RISE OF WORLD CITIZENRY AND HUMAN VALUES

Why You Should Care

Migrants Deaths are Mounting As US policies tighten up along the border, migrants fleeing the devastated, globalized economies in their home towns are taking more treacherous paths across hot, dry stretches of the Sonoran Desert. Reported annual deaths doubled between 1995 and 2005. The perils of Central Americans even reaching the US/Mexican border are also escalating.

US Policies Destroy Communities. Neoliberal US trade policies that promote the free movement of global capital have destroyed communities and economies in the global south forcing people to make the dangerous and harrowing journey to wealthy neighboring states.

Abuse of Migrant Laborers Allows Lowering of All Wages

The disenfranchisement of undocumented, immigrant workers destroys their ability to negotiate fair wage rates. Employers then utilize this labor supply factor to hold wage rates down across the board, increasing the income disparity between the workers and their employers.

Immigrant Workers are Modern Slaves. From H-1B Visas to undocumented workers, the lack of rights for emigrants has put them in the position of being slave labor or indentured servants. Charges have been brought against Louisiana strawberry growers, Florida fruit producers and others that are treating their workers as virtual slaves.

Concentrated corporate wealth ruins our politics and economics. Laws have been passed ceding rights to capital and eroding or removing those for everyone else. Laws made labor a commodity, gave civil rights to corporations but not to workers, and abandoned job creation to the fickle whims of the market. Corporate monopsony unleashes a reign of terror on small business, unions and working families as “Always Low Prices” masks unspeakable destruction below the surface.

Market Fundamentalism has corrupted our economy. Government no longer has the duty to allocate economic resources for the common good. Jobs providing social utility are sacrificed to create greater private profit. The market has no morals and imperial global capital rules with no morality.

“I Got Mine” economic and social policy is a zero-sum game. As CEO pay and retirement packages skyrocket, average worker wage rates stagnate and pension plans are destroyed. Meanwhile, minimum wage rates keep workers in poverty instead of helping them out.

Global corporate policies are decimating regions of the world. In the race to the bottom, corporate trade policies are eviscerating laws controlling capital. Nations are forced to lower their wages and environmental standards to stay alive. Jobs have no security, companies have no loyalty.

What You Can Do

Work to stop the extension of neoliberal trade agreements. Encourage your representatives to vote No on trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. Insist that presidential candidates deal with US trade policies during their campaign and when they become president. Push for the US to practice foreign aid that builds self-reliant, strong, local economies around the world.

Help build strong alternative economies throughout the world. Support NGOs developing self-reliant economies that create sustainable life-styles for people across the planet. Buy fair-trade products that give an equitable return to workers throughout the world. Withhold support from multinational corporations that are dependent on an abused and manipulable labor force to maximize bottom line profits.

Ensure that US immigration policies are fair and equitable. Educate yourself about the various factors involved with immigration policy and contact your representatives to make sure that they support policies that are reasonable and humane for all peoples and not based on political attitudes, racial bias or economic motives.

Promote universal rights for all workers. In order to ensure that migrant workers are not abused and enslaved, push for recognition of universal human rights and the rights proclaimed by the International

Labor Organization in 1949 that workers have a right to organize unions. Every worker is entitled to citizenship and a full slate of rights in whatever country they are living so they will not be susceptible to manipulation by employers.

Help establish community economic security. Join a group to insure that economic opportunity stays in your community by helping to localize the economy and insure that ownership and control rests with local people. Help start cooperatives or worker-owned businesses.

Join a group to define a moral economy. Decide what is a moral good. Research the anti-elitist movements of biblical times to support the social gospel and economic and social justice inherent in a moral economy.

Join a spiritually activist group. Contact legislators about your moral concerns with the injustice of our economic system. Help stop the global corporate decimation of our planet by protesting unfair trade treaties.

Become involved in guaranteeing a living wage for all workers. All that is “lacking is hard work and a social vision to pay an adequate wage to every American.” Educate yourself about the myths and history of wage laws, then educate others.

Questions for the Grassroots Solutions to Corporate Power 2015 Workshops

Global Governance: Who Or What Will Rule The World?

World Citizenry and Human Values

1 What roles do corporations take on in the Immigration debates

Employer Corporations win in many ways

Better with no fix

For cheap wages

As machines driving down wages

Corps head up all the Presidential commissions & NGOs

National Immigration Forum

Promotes immigration rights

Chaired by the John Gray of the National Restaurant Assoc

US CoC & the American Nursery & Landscape Assoc. on Board

National Council of La Raza has had board connections with

Wal-Mart, State Farm, McDonald's, Kraft Foods, and JC Penney.

Corps make millions on Border security

Homeland Security giving out huge corporate contracts

Advisory Committees for Immigration & Customs Enforcement

& Homeland Security

CEO of Lockheed Martin,

Vice President of Dow Chemical &

Vice President of Boeing.

Secure Borders and Open Doors Advisory Committee

Sybase Chair, CEO USCoC, President of NAB, Boeing, Disney and others

2. How do corporations divide the labor force against each other

Creating narratives

Think Tank vocabulary

Alien, illegal

Citizen vs illegal immigrant

Middle class immigrants vs working poor immigrants

Since the beginning

Keep legal immigrants on edge

Reduce their participation in society

3. How do corporations induce immigration

- Roving transnational capital needs roving transnational labor
- New production facilities is a magnet for labor
- undocumented workers create a super exploitable labor force
- Peace Corps story
- I came Not Alone
- Pachijal
- Alfonso

4. How have trade agreements impacted immigration

- Subsidized ag products from the north make peasant farming untenable
- Elimination of Ejidos
- Agribiz buying up 3rd world farms
- Tyson Dumping of chicken legs – Laura Carlsen article
- Forces migrations
- Migrants end up as cheap labor for Tysons in the US
- Accused of running an illegal labor smuggling ring

5. What is the corporate connections to border violence

- Guns from the US smuggled cross the border
- Prominent citizens involved
- Unemployment & Low salaries drive people into the drug trade

6. How do corporate coyotes work

- Corporations snatch up GUEST WORKER VISAS H-1B
- Make false promises
- Underpay workers
- Pipefitters
- Welders
- Computer workers

8. Are H-1B Visas slave labor filling jobs that Americans need?

- Need more education
- It may be an issue of wages

7. How do the maquiladoras work

- Logs from the North Coast
- Processed at a maquiladora
- Imported back into the US tax free
- Borderlinks trip to Nogales
- Attract migrant labor
- Subject workers to unsafe working conditions
- Women attacked
- Wages low
- No union
- Forbidden by trade agreements

9. Where should the immigration struggle be centered?

- Nation State Paradigm can not solve these problems
- In the long run everyone has to care
- We are all connected
- Organize the migrant workers
- Coalition of Immokalee Workers
- Fair Food Campaign penny a pound victory

Worker Driven Social responsibility

Unionize

As voters or community activists

Renegotiate the trade agreements

Build thriving local economies throughout the planet

Stop the rush of capital around the world

Community rights to live free of

Economic violence

Military occupation

Environmental destruction

Zapatista demands

13 demands:

land, work, education, housing, health, food, peace, communication,

culture, independence, democracy, justice, and freedom.

Co-ops are organized resistance

The Alternative Economy Program of the Mexico Solidarity Network

Struggles are linked in both countries

William Robinson

All global workers need to be able to participate in policy making

and be protected by global human rights

UN Declaration of Human Rights

Can Send that to you

10. How have religious practitioners viewed the capitalist system?

Quaker & Unitarians

Goes back to religious thinking at the time of the rise of Capitalism

Capitalist Covenant that everything is for sale

Divine judgement & Guidance not allowed

as empire conquered the planet

Great commentary on the changing world

"trading has become a trap, to captivate men in deceitful dealings and vain customs and fashions, to serve the adulterous eye and vanity. In this trap the just become a prey to the insatiable, the obsessively self-interested."

Vainglorious clothing and amusements "have lost the man of the heart through vanity." Consumerism "destroys the creation."

Flattering merchandisers "cheat poor country people."

"What traps there are in laws, which should protect the simple."

Lawyers & Judges should not be paid.

Separation of Church & State

"England's rise to world dominance, built upon militarism, imperialism, colonial slavery, and ruthless exploitation of domestic labor demanded" this separation of church and state in order to allow corporate empire to rule without moral constraint.

The Social Gospel

Early 20th Century Protestant US & Canada

Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:10): "Thy kingdom come..."

Thomas Berry

dominion over nature.

Jewish-Christian tradition is the belief that humans were created to have

dominion over nature and all its creatures. In the earliest chapters of Genesis there is reference to this human dominance, accompanied by a divine proclamation for humans to subdue nature. Nature is there to serve humans and be subordinate to human manipulation.

11. How did Descartes set our corporate/industrial world off on its present narrative?

Early 1600s

Dutch Republics

declared that nature is inert, lifeless, devoid of soul or consciousness and animals have no emotions, feel no pain, and are, essentially, machines. Such ideas helped redefine the natural world as a collection of mere resources ready to be exploited.

Corporations are like fire

Corporations do not have a soul

Approaching the churches

Octopus – It's the system

AEI : Things go better with God

Religious workshops relating

religious fundamentalism,

market fundamentalism and the corporate system

12. How does Thomas Berry see “the old Story?”

Dominion over nature & Science

Autistic – no feeling for nature

13. What does Thomas Berry inspired the new story look like

Realize the misuse of science & technology

the world is alive, it is alive in us

We are the eyes, the minds, and the hearts that the cosmos is evolving

We are here to be the consciousness of the earth

Astronaut –

“everything that exists is part of one intricately interconnected whole.”

quantum physics

“group selection.”

Groups that work together survive better than groups that do not

“Science and religion ... should come together to save the Creation.”

IONS

Pope Francis

Chinese Constitution –

rooted in harmony between humans, Earth, and Heaven.

14.. Do we need a Revolution of values?

MLK

Riverside Church Anti Vietnam War Speech, April 1967

Exactly one year before he was assassinated

Ending racism, materialism and Militarism.

Japan's new maturity

15. What is the developing global religion?

Out of Yes magazine

global family, -unites ancient indigenous wisdom with other faith and cultural traditions— essential to overcome climate change.

Hopi, Ojibwe, and Maori and

from religious traditions as Sufi, Jewish, Christian, and Buddhist

Ethic of responsibility
For the earth and nature

16. How is the new global religion confronting corporate power?

Pachamama Alliance

Tie had come to heal the world
sumak kawsay—Kichwa for “living well”—
living in harmony with the natural world and
insisting that nature has rights deserving of protection.

CONAIE

Stories from my trip in 2002

Sarayuko

Protecting itself from oil development

Our trip 1994

Changing the narrative the narrative

Is nature an “IT”

Using “it” absolves us of moral responsibility
and opens the door to exploitation.

Ki” and “kin” are revolutionary pronouns.

Bioregions as our distinguishing political units

Ridge Review

Russian River movie

an entity with rights

Present narrative that “money is wealth” is killing us

Money, like science, like fire needs to be a tool of the well being of all

17. How do we atone for the sins of our corporate past to make a just future?

Embrace community

corporate abandonment be turned into community gain?

Abandonment - depreciation write off

Community acquisition

Wendell Berry

We all know the right thing to do

Right livelihood

Stop abusing the world & each other

Small solutions – Blessed unrest

Margaret’s idea of our personal assignment

[JR - Spring 2008, Vol 3 #4: Emigrants - World Citizens or Corporate Slaves?](#)

Combined JR w Yes Magazine