



## WHAT ARE GLOBALIZATION AND NEOLIBERALISM?

**Globalization** is an ongoing economic process that connects workers and consumers the world over through the exchange of goods and services. Left unchecked it takes on a life of its own and corporations—rather than nations—can eventually become stewards of the world and everything in it.

**Neoliberalism**—which is not “liberal” at all but in fact refers to a relaxing, or “liberalizing” of regulations so that corporations have free rein—can combine with globalization to promote global corporate rule if we as citizens aren’t vigilant in establishing boundaries. Neoliberalism promotes “*free market*” capitalism.

Men and women who live and work in nations the world over are reduced to being nothing more than a commodity—labor—factored into the production cost of goods and services—and/or consumers of goods and services. Human rights, communities and the common good take a back seat to corporate profits. Often, privatization of public resources—such as the very water we drink—becomes the new normal as communities lacking funds to provide necessary services, fall prey to excessive corporate influence.

## WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH “FREE TRADE?”

Neoliberal “Free Trade” agreements such as NAFTA and TPP, drive globalization by cutting through the pesky red tape we call democracy. Multilateral (many country) trade deals can enable *a single corporation* to replace *multiple governments* as decision-maker on matters that affect the common good, replacing democracy—the rule of law—with corporatocracy—corporate rule.

## HOW DOES ANY OF THIS AFFECT ME, MY JOB, AND MY COMMUNITY?

Laws passed by nations to protect the health and well-being of their citizens and the world in which we live can be challenged if they interfere with corporate profits. Communities, states and nations can be sued if laws they’ve passed to protect the common good threaten corporate profits.

As more jobs and wealth are transferred offshore, communities become starved for the very funds they need to pay for basic public services and infrastructure—schools, libraries, roads, bridges, utilities—which forces communities to either cut back on these services, or makes them vulnerable to privatization—that is, takeover by for-profit corporations. When for-profit corporations provide public services they want to make money. That means, we all pay more for things that should be provided by our tax dollars at no extra cost. How does *that* make sense?

## SO WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

**SPEAK UP! JOIN THE CAMPAIGN:**

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