

Call to Action Against Global Corporate Imperialism

The US is currently negotiating three massive international trade treaties. Few people have heard of them but, if passed, these agreements will destroy our democracy and harm the planet and people everywhere.

The three are the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), and the Trade In Services Agreement (TISA). Although referred to as “trade agreements,” they affect far more than trade. They are corporate power grabs that will impact every one of us.

"Just as the commandment 'Thou shalt not kill' sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say 'thou shalt not' to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses 2 points?"

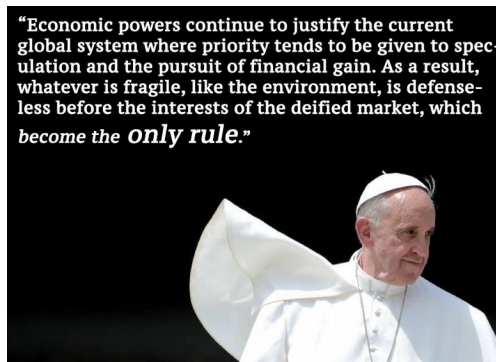
Pope Francis



What is the TPP?

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is the most pressing of the three agreements. It is being negotiated with eleven other foreign governments: Mexico, Peru, Chile, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Brunei.

Even though the deal will impact 800 million people, we, the people are not permitted to read the draft agreement. Hundreds of corporate lawyers and advisors have unfettered access to the negotiations and have helped write the terms, but the access of our own elected Senators and Representatives to read the draft is severely restricted.



Little was known about the TPP until recently when chapters were leaked via the internet. From these leaks, it is clear that the TPP is not about trade to protect our nation's citizens. Instead, it is a corporate power grab that circumvents domestic judicial systems and undermines national and local sovereignty.

How will these agreements impact me and my family?

TPP, TTIP, and TiSA could block such national initiatives as immigration reform, consumer protection laws, or climate action. They could also increase the cost of medicines and healthcare, overturn worker protections, or prevent increases in the minimum wage.

These trade “deals” will drive greater and permanent privatization of public services, from education, health care and prisons, to management and ownership of essentials such as municipal water.

Under these treaties, trade “tribunals” would allow corporations to sue federal, state and local governments over laws that hurt their expected future profits. These tribunals will be more powerful than US courts, taking precedence over even the US Supreme Court.

History shows that trade agreements, such as NAFTA, for example, have resulted in lost jobs, lower incomes, and expansion of the wealth divide, hurting our American families. The agreements currently being negotiated will give massive, transnational corporations greater control over the global economy.

"While the earnings of a minority are growing exponentially, so too is the gap separating the majority from the prosperity enjoyed by those happy few. This imbalance is the result of ideologies which defend the absolute autonomy of the marketplace and financial speculation. Consequently, they reject the right of states, charged with vigilance for the common good, to exercise any form of control. A new tyranny is thus born, invisible and often virtual, which unilaterally and relentlessly imposes its own laws and rules ... In this system, which tends to devour everything which stands in the way of increased profits, whatever is fragile, like the environment, is defenseless before the interests of a deified market, which become the only rule."

– Pope Francis

The TPP, TTIP, and TISA trade “deals” will take away each nation’s sovereign right to fully govern and improve conditions for its people. These treaties will demand that our nation’s laws take a backseat to the rules of the agreements. These treaties are a bad deal and the world is rising up against them.

In many countries, thousands are taking to the streets to stop these agreements and call for a new system that puts human needs before corporate greed. In the US, a movement of more than 2,000 organizations has come together to fight this corporate imperialism.

These deals must be stopped. Only then can we negotiate – in a transparent and democratic way - an alternative international economic system that puts people and the planet first.

These new trade deals are being negotiated under unprecedented secrecy precisely because previous attempts to pass similar agreements generated widespread opposition. We, the people, successfully stopped the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the expansion of the World Trade Organization, among others. We can do it again!

The U.S. Congress will vote soon whether to approve the TPP –

We must act NOW to stop it!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

--- Call your Senators and Representative (202-224-3121) and tell them to oppose the TPP, TTIP and TISA

--- Join us in Washington, DC, Nov. 14-18 for the National Mobilization to Stop TPP

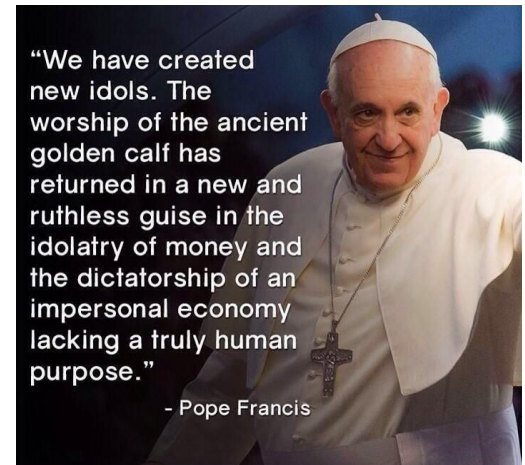
--- Sign up for email updates at <http://tradejustice.net/elists>

--- Learn more at <http://tradejustice.net>

--- To learn more or to find out how you can volunteer, call (718) 218-4523 or email info@tradejustice.net

TRADEJUSTICE
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HIS HOLINESS NEEDS YOUR HELP



**Stop the corporate
power grab!**

**Tell Congress to
REJECT
trade agreements
now in negotiation**

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