

S17: Global Solidarity for Global Justice!

Stop TPP & TAFTA - Backroom Power Grabs for the 1%! Get Corporate Money Out of Politics!

November 30, 1999 - the people unite to say no to corporate rule at the Seattle Round of WTO talks
September 17, 2011 - Occupy Wall Street is born, joining a global wave of protest demanding popular power.
September 17, 2013 – The global 99% unite to stop TPP, TAFTA, and the global neoliberal agenda!

On September 17th, 2011, we came together to Occupy Wall Street to resist the destructive impact of unchecked corporate power and greed on our quality of life.

Two years later, instead of responding to the outrage of the 99%, the megacorporations are mounting a counterattack.

Companies like American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC); Halliburton; Monsanto; Chevron; Cargill; Pfizer; Exxon Mobil; Citi; Gap, Inc.; Goldman Sachs; and Wal-mart – deregulation-happy banksters, union busters, polluters, human rights violators, factory farmers, outsourcers and sweatshop barons, big box killers of mom and pop retailers, GMO seed pushers, big pharma and war profiteers, have united as the [US Business Coalition for TPP](#) to launch a stealth assault on democracy itself – one that will leave our courts and elected officials virtually powerless to reign in their greed-driven attack on the 99%.

What is TPP?

Disguised as merely an international trade agreement, TPP, the Trans-Pacific Partnership is, in fact, a corporate rights agreement, designed to make corporations more powerful than national governments and to roll back generations of environmental and social progress. TPP is being negotiated between the US, Japan, Mexico, Canada, Peru, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei Darrusalam, and Malaysia with other countries expected to join over time. TPP negotiations are taking place behind closed doors. The public is denied access to the negotiating texts of the agreement, but approximately 600 corporate advisers have full access and are using their influence to craft an agreement that will:

- create [a system of global corporate governance](#) that will supersede local, state/provincial, and national law -- allowing corporations to appeal to unelected tribunals of trade lawyers when our laws prevent them from damaging the environment or selling unsafe products.
- [roll back and prevent further regulations on the financial industry](#) designed to prevent another financial meltdown, and empower corporations to attack financial mechanisms that reinvest in the 99%, including public banks and “Robin Hood” financial transaction taxes.
- [offshore even more good-paying jobs to hyperexploitative sweatshops](#), in the process reducing organized labor's negotiating power.
- [disproportionately affect communities of color](#) – forcing migration, violating indigenous rights, exacerbating environmental racism, driving unemployment, and increasing poverty.
- [attack internet freedom](#) and privacy and threaten freedom of speech
- [limit access to lifesaving generic drugs](#) and medical procedures.
- [increase corporate control of our food](#) - lowering food safety standards, eliminating bans on genetically modified Frankenfoods and dangerous livestock drugs, and globalizing industrial plantations and cruel, polluting animal factory farms, while wiping out farming communities.
- [endanger ecosystems, wildlife, food, and water](#) by deregulating environmentally destructive mining, oil, natural gas fracking, logging and agriculture.

TAFTA: NAFTA FOR EUROPE

The 1% intend to stop at nothing short of total global domination. In July, negotiations began on the [Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement](#) (TAFTA - also called the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)), yet another 1% attack on the public interest. TAFTA will expand the job-killing, democracy-destroying environment contaminating, anti-democratic NAFTA/TPP model to a continent of 500 million people, with Europe's high regulatory standards on the chopping block.

MONEY IN POLITICS: A POISONING INFLUENCE

TPP represents an about-face by President Obama, who in 2008 pledged to break with the NAFTA model and forge a US trade policy that protected workers and the environment. Unfortunately, US Business Coalition for TPP members were among his top donors in 2012, with companies like Microsoft (\$814,645), Time Warner (\$442,271), and Walt Disney(\$369,598) ensuring that President Obama would sing a very

different tune once in office. The same corporations who back TPP and TAFTA for its potential to override democracy in their interest already exploit an out of control campaign finance system that allows corporate interests and the 1% to pull the strings of many elected officials in both major parties. These corporations intend to use the influence they paid for to ensure that TPP and TAFTA are ratified into law.

The need for national solidarity to **get corporate money out of politics** has grown more and more evident. The obscene influence that is wielded by Big Business to see that its agenda is adopted and forwarded by federal, state and local governments is the source of the laws and enforcement statutes that violate all sane rules of socioeconomic justice. Almost-daily media reports spotlight the erosion of fair elections, fair trade, fair taxation and our heretofore inalienable civil rights corporate money by bought-and-paid for politicians.

Occupy Wall Street stands with a broad coalition of citizens and activist to bring about public campaign financing reform to diminish the influence of corporations over the democratic process, public policy initiatives and our civil rights. On S17, we will point to TPP as an illustration of how many of our elected officials are betraying our interests in service to their campaign donors.

GLOBAL SOLDIARITY VS. NEOLIBERALISM: CLASS WARFARE BY THE 1%

TPP and TTIP are the latest salvo of neoliberalism, a policy based on “the rule of the market, cutting public expenditure for social service, deregulation, privatization, and eliminating the concept of “the public good” or “community”¹.” Around the world, from Turkey to Greece to Brazil people are rising up, taking to the streets to say YES to solidarity, YES to the commons, NO to neoliberalism! History has proven that when we join in solidarity as a global 99% movement, victory is ours!

In 1999, an unprecedented coalition of social movements [converged in Seattle](#) to shut down the [World Trade Organization's](#) Millenium Round talks – an earlier attempt at global domination by the 1%. Galvanized by [protesters in the streets](#) facing riot police and tear gas, WTO negotiators representing developing countries refused to cave to pro-corporate demands from the US and Europe that would have resulted in even more desperate poverty for some of the world's poorest people. When the WTO met again in [Cancun in 2003](#), it was again met with massive [resistance in the streets](#). As a result, WTO negotiations have failed to advance significantly since 1999. In the early 2000s, another 1% power grab, the [Free Trade Area of the Americas](#), fell apart amidst massive popular resistance in Latin America and mass protests in [Quebec City](#) and [Miami](#). In 2013, a united global movement of the 99% can STOP TPP and TAFTA and roll back austerity policies and other neoliberal attacks worldwide!

S17: THE GLOBAL 99% UNITE AGAINST TPP, TAFTA, AND NEOLIBERALISM

On September 17th, 2013, our 2nd anniversary, Occupy Wall Street calls for a global day of resistance to neoliberalism!

We call on our allies in TPP and TAFTA nations and in nations that may join these agreements in the future to organize actions and take to the streets on S17 to say NO! to TPP, TAFTA, and neoliberalism and YES! to global justice!

And finally, we welcome the 99% in Brazil and other non-TPP/o take to the streets on S17 for a worldwide day of resistance to neoliberalism!

Please visit <http://tradejustice.net/s17forms> to endorse this call to action, to sign up to volunteer, or to register an action. Visit <http://s17ows.org>, to read more about TPP, TTIP, global struggles for democracy and against attacks on the commons, and the corrupting influence of money in politics. Join our email list and learn more about our local organizing in NYC. If you'd like to speak to someone directly, you can call (347) 676-0717 or email s17@tradejustice.net.

WITH GLOBAL SOLIDARTY WE CAN STOP TPP AND TAFTA, DEFEAT THE NEOLIBERAL AGENDA, AND END THE CORRUPTIVE INFLUENCE OF CORPORATE MONEY ON OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM!

¹ Martinez, Elizabeth, and Arnoldo Garcia. "What is Neoliberalism? A Brief Definition for Activists." *Corpwatch.org*. Corpwatch. Web. 22 Aug 2013. <<http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=376>>.