



THE TPP & IMMIGRATION

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a massive new trade and investment pact for the Pacific Rim currently being pushed by the U.S. government at the behest of large corporations.

Negotiations are currently taking place between the United States, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Canada, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Japan, New Zealand and Australia — which together represent approximately 40% of the global economy. The TPP is also being specifically negotiated as a “docking agreement” that other countries can join over time, so it has the potential to become even bigger.

While behind-closed-door negotiations are still ongoing, the TPP is said to include some 29 separate chapters, covering broad areas of public policy affecting agriculture, indigenous sovereignty, food safety, banking regulations, energy exports, medicine patents, public procurement, consumer labeling programs, environmental protections and more.

The History of Trade and Migration

Smaller pacts on which the TPP is modeled — such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) — have contributed greatly to global inequality and forced migration.

Under NAFTA, the Mexican government was forced to remove tariffs and quotas on many agricultural products from the United States. This resulted in a flood of taxpayer-subsidized corn, wheat and other crops from the United States into Mexico, undercutting the livelihoods of literally millions of small Mexican farmers.

During the initial NAFTA debate, President Bill Clinton’s attorney general Janet Reno claimed that NAFTA would be so beneficial to Mexican workers that immigration would reduce by two-thirds by the year 2000. She argued, “NAFTA is our best hope for reducing illegal migration over the long haul. If it fails, effective immigration control will become impossible.”



Instead, over the first eight years of NAFTA, while Mexican productivity increased by 50%, real wages for Mexican workers actually declined. U.S. Census data showed that, rather than decreasing, the number of Mexican-born people living in the United States increased by more 80% between 1990 and 2000.

How the TPP Will Impact Migration

If negotiations continue on their current course, the TPP would further entrench the unfair economic rules already established in pacts like NAFTA and the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) by further obligating Mexico and other Latin American nations to them, and by expanding them throughout the Pacific Rim.

Even more so, by easing transnational corporations’ ability to offshore jobs to countries like Vietnam — where the average minimum wage is just one-third of that found in China — the TPP is expected to greatly undercut jobs, wages and working conditions in North America and throughout the world.

Big agricultural middlemen are reportedly also pushing for Mexico to weaken its food safety standards under the TPP in order to allow even greater agricultural imports from the U.S., and some have suggested that the TPP may even require the privatization of Mexico’s oil industry.



TAKE ACTION NOW

Please call your Senators and Representative (find their names at <http://tradejustice.net/leg>) at (202) 224-3121 and leave this message:

“My name is _____ and I’m calling from _____ to urge my Representative to publicly oppose Fast Track for the TPP.”

More Info: TradeJustice NY Metro, 219 Carlton Terrace, Teaneck, NJ 07666
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