

SOCI 360

**SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
AND
COMMUNITY CHANGE**

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H. Global Justice Movements

- ▶ 1. The term “global justice movement” refers to many movements, including those which stand for economic rights, lands rights, indigenous rights, rights to political autonomy (self-control), and similar refrains coming from all who are opposed to the policies and actions of *neo-liberalism*.
- ▶ What is neo-liberalism?

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- ▶ **2. Neo-liberalism** involves the use of classical liberal political philosophy -- the same that supported (and continues to support) the end of dynastic regimes around the world (i.e. the philosophy of liberty, or individual freedom) -- to prop up global corporations and cede government functions increasingly to private business.
 - Neo-liberalism is completely affiliated with “late” modern capitalism (in the second half of the 20th century) and fully emerged in the 1990s after many former socialist nations collapsed under the weight of their government controlled economies.

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- ▶ **2.a. Liberal democracies led to the establishment of a larger proportion of citizens in the new republics, and fewer subjects (*Schaeffer 2013*).**
 - **Citizen** = a legally recognized subject of a state or commonwealth, with attendant rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
 - **Denizen** = an inhabitant or occupant of a particular place (second-class citizen; not fully legally represented, or exposed to stigma/profiling).
 - **Subject** = a person brought under the control or jurisdiction of the state, typically by using force.
- ▶ Unfortunately, as more people have become citizens in the democratic republics, so has ***basic social inequality increased.***

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- ▶ **2.b. Social change is a function of social movements** which arise as citizens, denizens, and subjects attempt to gain greater rights and freedoms, or attempt to protect the status quo (*Schaeffer, 2013*).
- ▶ **Three types of movements:**
 - **Aspirational:** actors (usually subjects or denizens) see change as necessary to remediate inequality; example: *the Zapatistas*
 - **Altruistic:** relatively more powerful citizens attempt to aid aspirational actors; example: *Subcomandante Marcos*
 - **Restrictionist:** actors attempt to bolster the (often unequal) status quo; example: *PRI-led paramilitary groups*

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▶ 3. Terms important to neo-liberal policies:

a. Privatization

The transfer of ownership, property or business from the government to the private sector;

b. Deregulation

The process of removing or reducing state regulations. It is therefore opposite of regulation, which refers to the process of the government regulating certain activities;

c. Protectionism

the theory or practice of shielding a country's domestic industries from foreign competition by taxing imports.

d. Corporate welfare

Government support or subsidy of private business, such as by tax incentives;

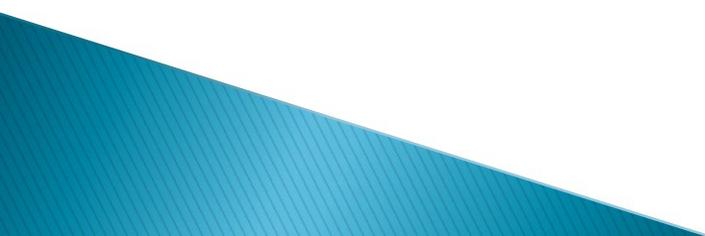
e. WTO – World Trade Organization – 1995

IMF – International Monetary Fund –

World Bank

Global institutions that control how wealth is distributed internationally; commonly use loans and grants as leverage to establish trade policy and resource use in low-income nations.

NAFTA – the North American Free Trade Agreement (1994);



2008

(YAWN!)
I'VE BEEN ASLEEP
FOR THE LAST
7 1/2 YEARS...
HAVE I MISSED
ANYTHING BIG?



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▶ 4. How is Neo-liberalism spreading today?

The “Shock Doctrine” (Naomi Klein)

Global corporations today are using natural and manufactured crises to impose their business models and government policies on unsuspecting and vulnerable nations and their populations.

Examples:

Hurricane Katrina, *New Orleans* (1 million disrupted)

Rebuilding included recommendations to privatize of the N.O. school system

The Iraq War (1 / 2 million killed);

Served the interests of multinationals Bechtel and Halliburton who were given billion dollar no bid gov't. contracts;

The Sumatran Tsunami (1 / 4 million killed);

Rebuilding agreements included resort hotel contracts to build in coastal areas where the poor had lived (creating large migrant populations and refugees).

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▶ 5. How is Neo-liberalism being combated?

Many social movements have started to protest against the institutions of corporate domination:

- a. 1994: [The Zapatistas](#), Chiapas/Mexico (see Castells)
- b. 1999: [The Battle of Seattle](#)
- c. 2003: [WTO Meeting, Cancun, Mexico](#)
- d. 2007: [WTO Meeting, Rostock, Germany](#)
- e. 2011: [The 15 October 2011 Global Protest](#)
- f. Today: [The Zapatistas](#); [2](#); [3](#); [4](#)

See Wikipedia, [List of anti-globalization protests](#)

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g. The YES MEN win the internet!

Jacques Servin (also known as Andy Bichlbaum) and Igor Vamos (using the alias Michael "Mike" Bonanno) are the leading members of The Yes Men, a "culture jamming" activist group. Their exploits in "identity correction" are documented in the films The Yes Men, The Yes Men Fix the World and The Yes Men Are Revolting.

And now YOU can participate!
Go to the YES LAB

<http://yeslab.org/>

