

## **CORPORATE-LED GLOBALIZATION** **КОРПОРАТИВНАЯ ГЛОБАЛИЗАЦИЯ**

Economic globalization has passed from colonialism and imperialism through post-colonial, export-led development models over the past five centuries. The driving force of economic globalization since World War II has been several hundred large private corporations and banks that have increasingly woven webs of production, consumption, finance, and culture across borders.

Economic globalization (sometimes referred to as corporate-led globalization), features several key ingredients:

Corporate deregulation and the unrestricted movement of capital;

Privatization and commodification of public services, and remaining aspects of the global and community commons, such as bulk water and genetic resources;

Integration and conversion of national economies (including some that were largely self-reliant) to environmentally and socially harmful export-oriented production;

Promotion of hyper-growth and unrestricted exploitation of the planet's resources to fuel the growth;

Dramatically increased corporate concentration;

Undermining of national social, health and environmental programs;

Erosion of traditional powers and policies of democratic nation-states and local communities by global corporate bureaucracies;

Global cultural homogenization, and the intensive promotion of unbri-dled consumerism.

The corporate-led globalization is a means of creating new world order designed to protect the rights and freedoms of transnational capital, not the basic human and democratic rights of people.

The Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank and the IMF, along with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/World Trade Organization (GATT/WTO)) have a wholly distorted view of economic progress and relationships. Their embrace of unlimited expansion of trade and foreign investment as measures of economic progress suggests that they consider the most advanced state of development to be one in which all productive assets are owned by foreign corporations producing for export; the currency that facilitates day-to-day transactions is borrowed from foreign banks; education and health services are operated by global corporations on a for-profit, fee-for-service basis; and most that people consume is imported.

So, the actual beneficiaries of this model have become all too obvious. When placed in such stark terms, it becomes clear whom such policies serve. Rather than enhance the life of people and planet, they consolidate and secure the wealth and power of a small corporate elite, the only evident beneficiaries, at the expense of humanity and nature.

Such world order must be reversed. Creating a world that works for all must begin with an effort to undo the enormous damage inflicted by the corpo-

rate globalization policies that so badly distort economic relationships among people and countries.

За последние пять веков экономическая глобализация прошла путь от колониализма и империализма к экспортно ориентированной модели. Ведущей силой экономической глобализации всегда являлись несколько сотен крупных частных корпораций и банков, которые распространили свое влияние через государственные границы. Политика, проводимая этими корпорациями и банками, наиболее ярко проявляется в программах, разработанных ВМФ и Мировым Банком для развивающихся стран, и своим результатом имеет экономический дисбаланс, выгоду от которого получают все те же ведущие мировые корпорации. Существующая глобализационная политика ВМФ, Мирового Банка и ГАТТ/ВТО полностью извращает понимание экономического прогресса. Она направлена на усиление экономической власти транснациональных корпораций за счет местного населения и природных ресурсов.