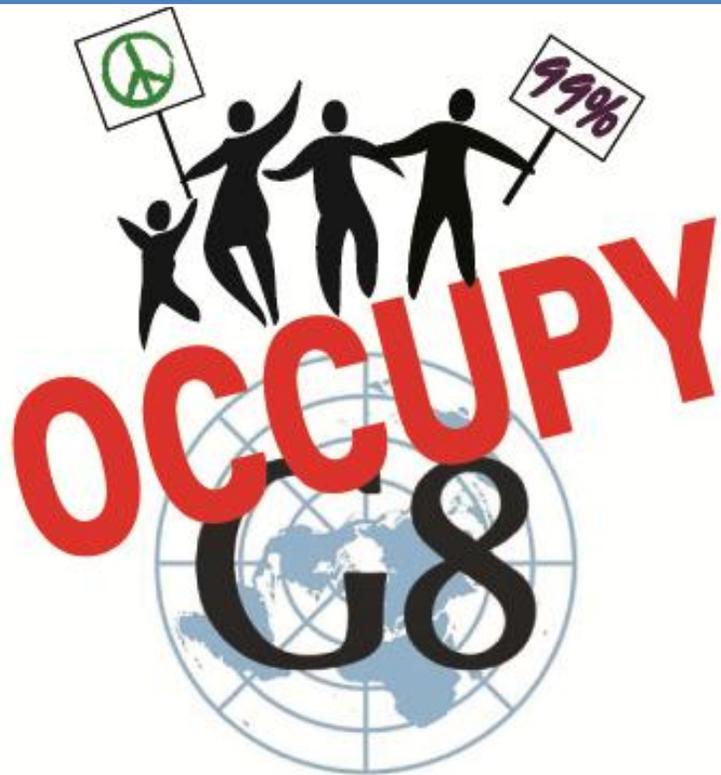


2012

# Occupy G8 Peoples' Summit Report: An Economy for People and the Planet



May 18, 2012

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Based on testimony by Sam Pizzigati, Jeremy Weyl, Brooke Harper, Brent Blackwelder, Alexis Baden-Mayer, Ruth Caplan, Rob Kall, James Riker and Emily Kawano

Organized by [October2011.org/OccupyWashington,DC](http://October2011.org/OccupyWashington,DC), Occupy Frederick and Occupy Baltimore

\*See online report at [ItsOurEconomy.us](http://ItsOurEconomy.us)

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# Executive Summary

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The history of the G8 is one of preventing an inclusive and transparent process for economic development. Instead the G8 has served to put in place economic policies that funnel money to the wealthiest people in the wealthiest nations, many of whom were colonial powers in another era. It is time to end the era of trade agreements that empower corporations, debt that is used to control developing nations, and the wealthiest nations using their economic and military power for cheap labor and theft of raw materials.

The Occupy G8 Peoples' Summit questions the legitimacy of the G8 leaders' control of the global economy and seeks an alternative vision for a just and sustainable global economy which includes the voices of all nations.

In this report we provide data on the wealth divide, explain policy changes that would create an economy for people and the planet and describe models of alternative systems that are already in place around the world.

Highlights of the report include:

- The human race has never been as wealthy as it is right now. The total global wealth continues to grow. Since 2007, total world wealth increased by \$10 trillion. If the world's economic growth had been distributed equally, the average household income worldwide would have risen 14% since January, 2010.
- Despite record wealth, there is also record poverty with many nations claiming deficits and the need for austerity measures. The fundamental problem is that most people are not benefiting from the growth in wealth because the wealth is concentrated at the top. Additionally, money is flowing from the global South to the Northern countries.
- A Global Jubilee movement based on a biblical term meaning that all debt is erased every fifty years, has succeeded in cancelling over \$100 billion in debt. However, the poorest nations are still paying \$23 million per day on their loans, so the movement continues to work for debt cancellation and an international debt court to neutralize the power of creditors.
- The Trans Pacific Partnership, a new corporate trade agreement, is being negotiated in complete secrecy except for six hundred corporate advisers who are helping to shape the agreement. Congress, the media and the public have no access to the draft texts of the agreement. This agreement makes corporations more powerful than governments. Trade agreements need to be negotiated in public so that civil

society can participate and the impact on the environment, workers and consumers are included in a process of participatory democracy.

- The global economy must be based on the rights of people and nature. The commodification of natural resources like water needs to stop as does speculators' control of food and energy prices. There needs to be an end to corporate welfare and the privatization of government services.
- There needs to be a paradigm shift in the global economy to one that is from the bottom up with the involvement of all nations, such as the growing solidarity economy. The principles of the solidarity economy are the participation of all nations as well as sustainability, participatory democracy, equity in all dimensions and pluralism.
- It is not the quantity of economic growth that is important, but the quality of growth, and the levels of equality and sustainability associated with that growth. There are many activities already happening that are creating the necessary economy for people and the planet.

# Occupy G8 Peoples' Summit Report

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**The world economy is collapsing, raising voices of protest across the planet against the small group of economic and political elites that are blocking real solutions. The world is facing numerous crisis situations: a food and water crisis, an extreme wealth divide, ecological disasters and an unsustainable economic model based on outdated, damaging and expensive energy sources. This report provides an alternative to the Group of 8 (G8), an economy that is sustainable, just and inclusive of all nations.**

## Introduction

On May 18th, 2012, the G8, leaders from the US, Canada, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia, gathered for their annual summit. The summit was initially planned to be held in Chicago just prior to the NATO Summit, but was moved to Camp David near Frederick, Maryland because of massive protests being planned by the peace, social justice and occupy movements. The combination of the G8's economic policy and NATO's military planning highlighted the control of global resources based on domination by a small number of nations.

The Occupy G8 People's Summit was held on May 18th in Frederick, Maryland to present an alternative to the G8. The Summit was a day-long conference held in the Frederick Public Library. The free and open to the public event was attended by approximately 60 people. Some mentioned that they had been warned not to come because the event 'would be dangerous'. Although the day progressed peacefully, it was in fact a dangerous event because the brutal truth about the G8 and the current global power struggle was told. The event questioned the legitimacy of the G8 as a decision-making body for global economic policy affecting more than 190 nations and six billion people.

Despite clear plans for peaceful actions by protesters in Maryland, security and secrecy were at historic levels around Camp David for the G8 Summit. Cunningham Falls State Park, which surrounds Camp David, was closed for the first time. Unlike previous Camp David events no "Free Speech Area" was allowed for protests. Federal law enforcement officials were brought in to control protesters. The local media cooperated by issuing frightening warnings about protesters and urging people to take precautions such as boarding up their shop windows in case of violence.

In this report<sup>1</sup> we will describe the history of the G8, examine the influence that

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<sup>1</sup> The Occupy G8 Peoples' Summit was organized by members of It's Our Economy, October2011, Occupy Frederick and Occupy Baltimore. This report from the summit is

concentrated wealth has on global policies and the consequences of wealth inequality for people and the planet. The report puts forward an alternative vision for a shift to an economic system that is just and sustainable.

The information contained in this report is taken in part from the testimony of the panelists at the Occupy G8 Peoples' Summit. There is a resource list at the end of the report for more information. Three panels, moderated by Margaret Flower and Kevin Zeese, co-directors of ItsOurEconomy.US, were held at the Peoples' Summit:

1. Global Wealth Inequality – Sam Pizzigati of TooMuchOnline.org; Brooke Harper of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch and Jeremy Weyl of JubileeUSA.

2. Creating a Global Economy Based on Sustainable Resources - Brent Blackwelder of Friends of the Earth; Ruth Caplan of the Alliance for Democracy's Campaign to Defend Water for Life and Alexis Baden-Mayer of the Organic Consumer's Association Millions Against Monsanto campaign.

3. Building a New Economy from the Bottom Up - Rob Kall of The New Bottom Up; James Riker of the Forum on Democratic Global Governance and Emily Kawano of the Center for Popular Economics.

Shortly before the G8, on May 12<sup>th</sup>, the international Occupy Movement held a day of action and released a Global May Manifesto. Their statement was created by an international occupy assembly using a consensus process and outlines the type of world the Occupy Movement is working to create, one based on real democracy and human rights, not corporate power and exploitation.

## **History of the Group of 8**

The story of how the G8 rose to a position of dominating the world economy is also the story of Empire. Colonial nations, chiefly European nations and the United States, used their wealth and influence to redefine and dominate modern global economic policy as the Colonial Era ended. This small number of nations found ways to control the world economy, including corporate trade agreements, the creation of debt, direct manipulation of governments and occupation of foreign lands, to guarantee their access to markets, cheap labor and raw materials.

The formal economic structures that are responsible for the current global economic and climate crises arose after World War II when there was tremendous destruction in Europe and resultant poverty. This was also a time when there was a powerful memory of the Great Depression in the US and the need to control access to oil, the lifeblood of the industrial economy.

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intended to provide information on alternative solutions. The report is not conclusive and does not represent the views of the Occupy Movement as a whole.

In July, 1944, representatives of the 44 Allied Nations met in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire for three weeks to discuss rebuilding the international economy. At this time, the dominant empires of the US and UK controlled over half of the world's trade and 70% of the world's nations controlled only 30% of trade. The UK was significantly weakened by the war. As a result, the US was able to dominate the meeting and shape the rules to favor expansion of US access to world markets and resources. Most nations of the world had no input into these discussions.

The system that emerged from the conference, known as the Bretton Woods System, created a method to link international currencies and was based on shared support for capitalism and private ownership. Out of the conference, two new institutions emerged: the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development which later became the World Bank. The US originally held 1/3 of the voting power in the IMF and dominated the World Bank.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) followed and was signed into existence in 1947. The purpose of the GATT, which became the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, was the "substantial reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers and the elimination of preferences, on a reciprocal and mutually advantageous basis." Multiple rounds of trade negotiations occurred around the world, mainly focused on reducing tariffs in order to increase trade. As usual, wealthy nations controlled the negotiations and exploited developing nations.

Then using the WTO, which differs from the GATT in that it is an institution with the ability to enforce rules, the US and corporations pushed an aggressive global agenda of deregulation and neoliberalism. Countries who participate in the WTO are required to make their national policies conform to WTO rules or face litigation. For example, the WTO Financial Services Agreement included a commitment to reform the Glass-Steagall Act, which separated traditional banking from investment banking. When the FSA took effect in 1999 the Glass-Steagall Act was repealed.

In the 1970's, some developing nations promoted an alternative international economic structure that would protect and benefit them. This resulted in passage of the Declaration for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) by the United Nations in 1974. The Declaration called for an end to exploitation of developing nations by wealthy nations. The NIEO would allow all nations to regulate multinational corporations operating within their borders, to nationalize or expropriate property in a way that benefited them and to be free from foreign intimidation. The NIEO also called for trade policies that created sustainable and equitable access to resources and technology without strings attached.

Following the declaration, the United Nations adopted a resolution outlining a Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The charter was based on fundamental principles of equal rights for all states, respect for human rights and peaceful coexistence.

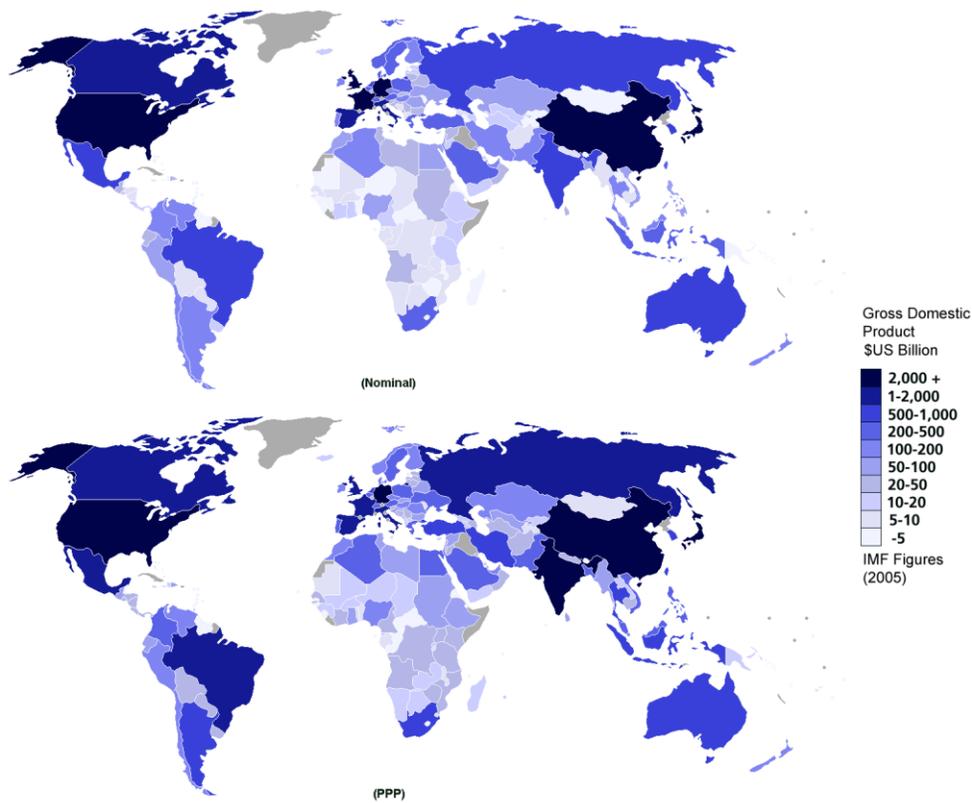
The declaration for the NIEO and Charter of Economic Rights came at a time when nations around the world were in revolt against capitalism and were calling for democracy, similar to our global environment today. As a direct response, wealthy nations circled their wagons

and created the G6 which first met in France in 1975. The G6 was a way for wealthy nations to create a unified front to protect concentrated economic power. Leaders of the G6 nations, which is now the G8 with the addition of Canada and Russia, meet regularly to discuss the global economy. They are then able to use their combined wealth and strength to shape policy in their favor.

At present, while the G8 nations only represent 14% of the world's population, they hold 60% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Seven of the eight have the highest military expenditures in the world and they include nations that hold nearly all active nuclear weapons.

Starting in the 1990's and continuing today, "Free Trade Agreements" such as NAFTA and CAFTA are being forced onto nations that then destroy their economies and cause suffering of their people and poisoning of their environment. At first these trade agreements were created in the open and the public was encouraged to view them in a positive way. However, because more people are aware of the devastating effects of these policies, they are now called the innocuous-sounding 'partnerships' and are being written in secrecy as is the TransPacific Partnership discussed later.

The maps below show the range of global GDP for the year 2011 from the CIA World Factbook. The top graph is nominal (current dollar) GDP and the bottom graph reflects purchasing power parity. Note that the G8 nations are in the top brackets but that not all nations in the top bracket are included in the G8 (e.g. China, India and Brazil are not included). The G8 is both a political and economic entity.



While global GDP continues to rise, the benefits continue to go to the wealthiest people in the wealthiest nations. And transnational corporations are growing in size and power. This has resulted in a global economic crisis.

In 2008, the American economist and Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz chaired a United Nations' Commission of Experts appointed to reform of the international monetary and financial system. In their 2009 report, they stated:

As the Commission stresses with considerable frequency, the present crisis demonstrates failure at many levels – of theory and philosophy, of institutions, policies and practices, and, less overtly, of ethics and accountability. The essential insight of the report is that our multiple crises are not the result of a failure or failures of the system. Rather, the system itself – its organization and principles, and its distorted and flawed institutional mechanisms – is the cause of many of these failures.

It is a habit of contemporary speech to refer to the global economy that we have today as “the economy” and, more insidiously, to present it as a natural phenomenon whose putative laws must be regarded with the same deference as the laws of physics. But, as the enclosed report argues cogently, our global economy is but one of many possible economies, and, unlike the laws of physics, we have a political choice to determine when, where, and to what degree the so-called laws of economic behavior should be allowed to hold sway.

An economy is a man-made ecology, or rather the man-made part of our larger ecology of interaction between the man-made and natural worlds. Together the man-made ecology and the natural ecology sustain – or destroy – the conditions of life. It is essential today, as the UN Outcome and this Report both recognize, to view economic and ecological issues as tightly interrelated, and recognize that our global economic system must be adjusted to the requirements of an era in which the risks engendered by centuries of neglect have reached a point of extreme danger and the costs of adjustment must be borne by the present and succeeding generations. The Commission's Report is forceful on this point: 'The conjunction of huge unmet global needs, including responding to global warming and the eradication of poverty, in a world with excess capacity and mass unemployment, is unacceptable.'

This commission of experts called for the United Nations, the “world's only legally constituted and globally inclusive intergovernmental body” which has a clear directive to engage in the world economy and is the only body in which all member states have an equal voice, to take on the task of transforming the world's monetary and financial system. This call has been met with relative silence or ridicule by the Northern nations and with support from the Global South.

This conflict continued at the Rio+20 meeting held in June, 2012 when a number of countries criticized the document that came out of the conference for “greenwashing” and failing to compensate poor nations for damage caused by climate change. They and a multigenerational group of civil society organizations criticized the document as a continuation of the neo-liberal economic policies and commodification of resources under cover of a green economy. These groups refused to sign onto the document and demanded that their names be removed from it. In a letter sent to the Rio +20 officials, the groups write, "We urge our fellow 99% citizens of the world to stand up for the future we really want, and not this one, imposed by a few: the 1% negotiators and their elite constituencies."

In summary, the G8 is an artificial creation formed to protect capitalism from perceived threats such as the United Nations' 1974 Declaration for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. The UN charter laid a path towards a healthier planet and a fairer economy. The G8 leaders have instead taken the world in the opposite direction, fostering looting by concentrated wealth at the cost of impoverishing and exploiting people while destroying and poisoning the planet. For these reasons, the Occupy G8 Peoples' Summit questioned the legitimacy of the G8 leaders to control global economic policy and brought together people who propose an alternative vision for a just and sustainable global economy which includes the voices of all nations.

## **Humans have never been so Wealthy as a Species, But Inequality Reigns**

The human race has never been as wealthy as it is right now. A simple look at the numbers shows that total global wealth continues to grow. Since 2007, total world wealth increased by \$10 trillion. If the world's economic growth had been distributed equally, the average household income worldwide would have risen 14% since January, 2010. Despite record wealth, we also have record poverty with many nations claiming deficits and the need for austerity measures.

The fundamental problem is that most people are not benefiting from the growth in wealth because the wealth is concentrated at the top. Additionally, money is flowing from the global South to the Northern countries. Those who have the wealth are using their resources to control the global economy to their own benefit through loans, trade agreements and direct influence on public policy.

Nations that are in debt are forced to enact austerity measures. However, economist Ha-Joon Chang writes in *Austerity Never Works*, that in addition to seeing austerity and cuts to social spending failing in Europe, there is “plenty of historical evidence showing that they have never worked. The same happened during the 1982 developing world debt crisis, the 1994 Mexican crisis, the 1997 Asian crisis, the Brazilian and the Russian crises in 1998, and the Argentinian crisis of 2002. All the crisis-stricken countries were forced (usually by the IMF) to cut spending and run budget surpluses, only to see their economies sink deeper into recession.

Going back a bit further, the Great Depression also showed that cutting budget deficits too far and too quickly in the middle of a recession only makes things worse.” On the other side, he notes, “there is no historical evidence to support” the idea that cutting social spending will revive growth, nor that “tax cuts and deregulation is good for investment and growth.” This has been tried “in many countries . . . with very poor results.” So he asks, with all this factual and historic experience:

What are our political and economic leaders doing? Perhaps they are insane – if we follow Albert Einstein’s definition of insanity as ‘doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.’ But the more likely explanation is that, by pushing these policies against all evidence, our leaders are really telling us that they want to preserve – or even intensify, in areas like welfare policy – the economic system that has served them so well in the past three decades.

Sam Pizzigati, editor of TooMuchOnline.org, explained the impact of concentrated wealth and wealth inequality on politics, the economy, the environment and people’s health:

- The more that wealth concentrates at the top, the less democratic our societies become.
- The more unequal our societies become, the less they grow economically as we see more risky speculation and less healthy growth.
- We will only survive as a species if we evolve an ethic of sustainability which means fewer consumer goods and a lighter carbon footprint. This is more likely to happen in societies that are more equal because consumer goods matter less in such societies.
- The more unequal our societies are, the shorter and less healthy are our lives.

There is a tremendous amount of information on global wealth. Most of this data comes from private firms like Credit Suisse who track wealth in order to identify potential clients. As the number of people who are ‘super rich’ grows, private bankers, financial consultants and wealth managers compete for their business. There are now eight global firms that generate wealth scorecards.

The data show that:

- The share of global wealth for adults worth more than \$1 million rose from 35.6% in 2010 to 38.5% in 2011.

- The average increase in wealth for those worth more than \$1 million rose by 29% (double the worldwide average).
- The United States has the greatest share of rich and super rich. Of the global millionaires, 34% are in the US and the next highest country is Japan with 11%. Of those with a net worth of more than \$50 million, 42% are in the US. And the US has 425 billionaires. The next highest country is Russia with 96.
- Worldwide, there are 1.1 billion people with a net worth of less than \$1 thousand and 3 billion people with a net worth of less than \$10 thousand. Together they make up 68.5% of the world's population but hold only 4.2% of the world's wealth.
- Those who have over \$100,000 in net worth make up 8% of the world's population but hold 90% of the world's wealth. And those with over \$1 million in net worth make up 0.05% of the world's population but hold 39% of the world's wealth.

If wealth were distributed evenly, every two adult household in the world would have over \$100,000. And there is enough money in the pockets of the very rich for them to solve the world's standing national debt problems and still have enough money and material goods to live very comfortably.

Though there has been a lot of attention given lately to nations such as Greece that are facing major problems with national debt, debt has been a problem at the level of a public crisis in developing nations for decades. There have been intentional efforts to drive developing nations into debt as a way for banks to generate income and as a way for corporations to create profits.

In the 1960's, many banks were looking for new places to make loans. At the same time, developing nations were interested in borrowing money to develop their infrastructure and economies. Large projects such as power plants, bridges and highways were pushed on developing nations and they were given loans to pay for them. As a result, not only were developing nations placed in the vulnerable position of having debt, but there were also some cases in which nations were left with tremendous ongoing financial commitments to the corporations that built the projects even when the projects did not function.

In "War Talk," the author Arundhati Roy documented the cases of hydroelectric dams built in India by corporations such as Bechtel that displace hundreds of thousands of farmers without compensation, do not function well and have high continuing costs. The World Bank loaned money to the Philippines under Ferdinand Marcos to build a nuclear power plant. Marcos embezzled money from the project and left his country with the debt despite the fact that the plant was built on an earthquake fault and is therefore unable to operate.

Following the recession in the 1970's, some countries began having difficulty repaying their loans. The IMF stepped up starting in the mid-1980's and offered to assist nations struggling with debt, but only if they agreed to two conditions (1) cut all of their social services such as education, healthcare and food subsidies, and (2) liberalize their economies by opening their markets to privatization by multinational corporations. By the mid-1990's, some nations were spending one-third of their national revenues to repay loans instead of using that money to invest in their people and needed infrastructure.

In the mid-1990's, a Global Jubilee movement arose. Jubilee is a biblical term meaning that all debt is erased every fifty years. So far, the movement has succeeded in cancelling over \$100 billion in debt. However, the poorest nations are still paying \$23 million per day on their loans, so the movement continues to work for debt cancellation.

The Jubilee movement is also pushing for an international debt court that is available to all nations. Such a court would neutralize the power of creditors who control the loans and would allow debt to be dealt with on a case by case basis. Some loans are reckless, illegitimate or unsustainable. An example is Egypt which has \$30 billion in debt while the former dictator Hosni Mubarak left office with billions of dollars of personal wealth.

If debt is cancelled and nations are permitted to have economic self-determination without exploitation by foreign governments, banks and multinational corporations, then they can invest in their people and communities and move towards a more just and sustainable economic system which we will describe in the final section of this report.

## **A New Secret Trade Agreement may set the Terms of Globalization**

One way that wealthy governments and multinational corporations have exploited other nations and driven their public policy is through free trade agreements. These agreements are designed to remove tariffs and allow greater trade across borders; however, they go much farther than that in their impact through requirements and restrictions which determine the public policy of nations included in the agreement. Free trade agreements have required participating nations to deregulate their financial services. And restrictions in the agreements have an impact on environmental protection, reduction of greenhouse gases, land use, education, labor laws, consumer protection and health care. These restrictions give more power to multinational corporations so that they can pollute the environment, undervalue labor and privatize public goods and the commons.

Right now a global trade agreement is being negotiated that will have a far-reaching and lasting impact on the planet. It is called the Trans-Pacific Partnership "free trade agreement" (TPP) and it could serve as a docking agreement to which other countries could later join

on. Current countries include the US, Vietnam, Singapore, Peru, Chile, New Zealand, Australia, Brunei, and Malaysia. Following the G-20 summit, the Obama administration announced that Canada and Mexico will join the negotiations. The TPP could serve to set globalization policy for years to come.

The TPP is being negotiated in complete secrecy except for six hundred corporate advisers who are helping to shape the agreement. Congress, the media and the public have no access to the draft texts of the agreement. In fact, there was a worldwide outcry because of this secrecy and the response of the trade advisers was to release a memorandum stating that they would not release the draft text until four years after an agreement is reached or the talks are concluded.

Despite the secrecy, some information has leaked about what is in the agreement:

- It would incorporate investor-state provisions that allow corporations to bring claims against a sovereign nation to change its laws or face sanctions for 'loss of expected future profits.' This would be used if laws such as those around environmental protection would hamper a corporation's ability to make profit. For example, attempts to stop teen smoking have been ruled as a restraint on trade in that it hampers the tobacco industry's ability to make profit. The tribunal would be staffed by private lawyers who would rotate between serving as 'judges' and advocating for the corporations that are on trial.
- It would allow pharmaceutical corporations to hold monopolies on drugs for a longer period of time which would prevent lower cost alternatives from being produced.
- It would incentivize the off-shoring of jobs, lower wages and control how public dollars are used by banning Buy America and by waiving preferences in local communities.
- It would require the importation of food that does not meet US standards and would restrict food labeling.
- It would curtail Internet freedom by requiring corporations to 'police' their users and by imposing high fines on individual violators.
- It would further deregulate financial services and impede efforts to prevent risky investments and the failure of financial institutions.

In summary, the overall wealth of the world is growing but at the same time wealth inequality is also growing. Those who have concentrated wealth are using their resources to control public policies in their favor. There are some global efforts to reverse this trend;

however, if the TPP is finalized, there will be significant obstacles to these efforts.

The bad news is that the degree of wealth concentration and inequality are great and the consequences are severe. The good news is that we are aware of the problems, who is responsible for them and we know that there are real solutions to create a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

## **The Global Economy must be based on the Rights of People and Nature**

The global economy is failing not only for people, but also for the planet. The world's oceans are being devastated by overfishing, forests are being obliterated, mountains are being blown apart to get at the coal, and rivers around the world are being dammed, diverted, and drained of their water. A quarter of the species on the planet are headed toward extinction. Compounding these effects, the earth's climate is being destabilized by emissions of greenhouse gases, with rising temperatures and oceans.

Large multinational corporations are privatizing water around the world, turning it into a commodity rather than a public good. The same is happening with food as more control of food prices is in the hands of speculators who have nothing to do with food production and everything to do with global starvation and the destruction of small farms.

Brent Blackwelder describes “cheater economics, casino economics, and futureless economics” as driving this scenario. Currently, the global economy treats natural resources as if the Earth were a business in a liquidation sale. The global economic system of today is undermining the life support systems of our planet.

**Cheater economics:** One major shortcoming of capitalism is that it does not reveal the real ecological costs of commercial products. Furthermore, today's concentrated corporate capitalism allows corporations to externalize the damaging health and environmental costs of their activity and seeks massive taxpayer handouts for highly polluting corporations.

**Casino Economics:** In this casino economy, billions in profits are made without providing any goods or services—they are made with complex financial instruments such as derivatives. Complex financial instruments enable the avoidance of taxes. Hand-in-hand with cheater economics, many huge corporations put their profits in offshore tax havens to escape paying billions of dollars. Worse still, these financial instruments threaten to destabilize the global economy.

Futureless Economics: In current economic practice, corporations are evaluated on their quarterly return. There is little long-range thinking. Mainstream economists tell us future 100 years from now is not worth worrying about. But such thinking runs counter to the values of most people. Parents are concerned about the future of their families and what kind of world their children and grandchildren will live in.

We require a bold paradigm shift in our economy. We need an economics for the Earth, its people, and all the life on this planet. One model is the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth which was adopted by the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, in Bolivia and was submitted to the United Nations for consideration. And one step that can be taken toward an economics for the Earth and all life on the planet is by adopting a steady state economy as the macroeconomic policy goal. That means an economy with stabilized levels of production and consumption, including stabilizing population and per-person consumption. It means an economy that operates within the carrying capacity of the Earth and does not threaten present and future generations by rapping the earth of future productive capacity.

An economy that recognizes water as integral to the survival of living creatures and the planet, not as a commodity to be privately owned and priced according to the market is also essential. And we need an economy that promotes healthy and sustainable food production, produced and distributed locally so that all may eat.

Current practices with respect to energy production, food production, access to water, forestry and mineral extraction are not sustainable. To elaborate in more detail:

**Energy production:** As the supply of carbon-based fuel sources becomes more limited, extractive industries are going to the most remote and riskiest places to obtain oil and are using practices to obtain gas and coal that are causing mass environmental destruction. Oil drilling in the Arctic will result in oil spills that cannot be cleaned up. Some of the most biologically diverse areas of the planet such as the tropical rainforest are being decimated by oil drilling and deforestation. Oil and gas companies are exploiting the dirtiest of fuels, such as the Tar Sands in Alberta, Canada; and many of the 60,000 natural gas drillers, operating in a regulatory vacuum, are jeopardizing water supplies with their wreckless use of fracking techniques here in the U.S. And coal companies are obliterating forested green mountains and disrupting the entire hydrological cycle through mountaintop removal in places like West Virginia and Kentucky. Rather than being ended, most of these extractive industries receive substantial subsidies from governments. The U.S. will provide \$110 billion over the next decade to the oil and coal industries many of which pay no taxes.

The health and environmental costs of oil extraction in places like Nigeria over the last 50

years are huge, but oil and gas companies like Shell have not cleaned up the more than 5000 spills that have wrecked fisheries, polluted drinking water, and harmed the health of local people who have borne the brunt of the contamination.

**Food production:** The great majority of our food, 70%, is produced by two billion small farmers. But there are one billion people who are chronically hungry. That is because 35% of food goes to feed meat and dairy animals, 10% of global vegetable oil is used to produce biodiesel and 6% of grain is used to produce ethanol, and 30% to 50% of food produced is wasted.

The G8 has presented a view of private investments as a way of solving poverty. Powerful agribusiness giants like Monsanto are trying to patent all seeds and control agriculture from top to bottom. Major meat companies like Smithfield operate gigantic animal factory slums that cause serious water pollution, load the air with noxious fumes that harm people's health, displace local family farmers and produce unhealthy meat. Many of these industrial producers also receive government subsidies while the small farms are left to fend for themselves.

At the beginning of the G8, President Obama announced that agricultural behemoths including Dupont, Monsanto and Cargill will make \$3 billion in private investments in a poverty-and hunger-relieving plan for Africa. This will create massive profits for giant agribusiness, but will shut out small farmers. Ronnie Cummins, the director of Organic Consumers Association says: "To help the world's two billion small farmers and rural villagers survive and prosper we need to help them gain access, not to genetically engineered seeds and expensive chemical inputs; but rather access to land, water, and the tools and techniques of traditional, sustainable farming: non-patented open-pollinated seeds, crop rotation, natural compost production, beneficial insects, and access to local markets."

As governments have cut back their development aid, investment from private corporations have been used in their place. But, the idea that private investment will solve the world's economic problems is put into doubt by a May 31, 2012 report by the European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad), "*Private profit for public good? Can investing in private companies deliver for the poor?*". Rather than money going into development of countries, it found that most of the recent development investments went to tax havens and private companies from rich countries, while half of total private investments went directly into the financial sector. According to the report: "There is a lot of money (floating around), but we don't know where it is going or whether it is being used effectively."

The share of the food market that is owned by speculators has risen from 12% in 1996 to 61% today. Speculators cause food prices to rise which reduces access to food. Four large

corporations control 75% to 90% of global grain trade and take \$2 to \$3 billion in profit each year.

**Access to water:** Children die every day from water-borne diseases. Women and children walk miles each day to reach water. And private corporations both pollute water and take ownership of water, demanding money from people in poor communities to have access to their own water.

Water and water systems are being privatized throughout the world. In 1997, the World Bank offered debt relief to Bolivia which held \$600 million in debt under the condition that it allow privatization of its water system in Cochabamba. By 1999, a Bechtel-led consortium took over their water and even asserted ownership of the rain falling on people's roofs that they were using for themselves. As water prices rose, people took to the streets and were met with violence that resulted in the death of a teenage boy. The people prevailed after three months of protest and the water was returned to the public.

In South Africa in 1994, although water was declared to be a right in the Constitution, the African National Congress gave control over the water to Suez, a private corporation. They placed pre-pay water meters on public water taps resulting in skyrocketing water-borne illnesses when people could not pay for the water and had to drink contaminated surface water.

In the United States, local communities in New Hampshire and Maine have passed local ordinances which assert the right to water for people and ecological systems and which ban corporations from taking their water. Further these laws deny corporations the rights of people under the US and state constitutions. These laws follow in the footsteps of local laws passed in Pennsylvania to ban corporate hog farms and the spreading of toxic sludge on farmland.

Internationally, the United Nations General Assembly passed a declaration in 2010 stating that access to water and sanitation are fundamental rights. Now it is up to member countries to act in keeping with the declaration.

**Forestry:** The world's forests are rapidly being destroyed. The greatest tropical rainforest on the Earth, the Amazon, is a rain-making machine and regulates the climate for Brazil. But Brazil's power elite have decided that the nation's future lies in becoming a dominant world player in export crops and biofuels. Thus, the Amazon rainforest will be sacrificed. The US Forest Service is notorious for providing "below cost timber" sales in US National Forests. Corruption and bribery characterize logging operations around the world.

**Minerals:** A major problem with mining operations that seek gold, copper, diamonds,

vanadium and other minerals are extraction practices that cause damage to the environment and danger to workers. The use of cyanide to extract gold causes major water contamination all over the world. As with oil, coal, and gas extraction the damages to health, crops, and the air, land, and water are externalized on the public.

There are public policy changes that are being taken and that can be taken to move towards an economy for people and the planet. (More information is available at [SteadyState.org](http://SteadyState.org), [thealliancefordemocracy.org](http://thealliancefordemocracy.org) and [organicconsumers.org](http://organicconsumers.org).) Here are some examples:

- End neo-liberalization policies – the World Bank, IMF and other institutions should not extort developing countries that are in debt by insisting that they privatize public goods such as water and services such as education and health care.
- End polluter subsidies – give subsidies only to clean energy and sustainable practices rather than to fossil fuel and agribusiness. Germany uses a Feed-in Tariff system to invest in renewable energy sources and has decentralized energy production so that there are solar panels on roofs and highway walls throughout the country.
- Shift to a clean energy basis for the global economy - it is technically feasible to run the global economy on a carbon free and nuclear free basis. Amory Lovins has a new eloquent description of his plan on the Rocky Mountain Institute website (see [rmi.org](http://rmi.org)). Arjun Makhijani in *Carbon Free, Nuclear Free* provides another (see [www.ieer.org](http://www.ieer.org)). California physicists Jacobson and Delucchi offer a slightly different plan in *Scientific American* (Nov, 2009) as does Lester Brown in *World on the Edge*.
- Create real clean energy jobs - clean energy strategies would provide vastly more jobs per dollar than the fossil fuel industry. These jobs materialize from dispersed renewable energy projects while our energy dollars remain in the community. Adopting a four-day work week can help reduce unemployment, spread the work, and provide time for people to spend with their families and in their communities.
- Declare that access to water is a fundamental right – in 2010, the United Nations General Assembly passed a declaration stating that access to water and sanitation are fundamental rights. In towns and cities throughout Maine, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, ordinances have been passed stating that water is essential for life for people and ecological systems and that no corporation shall engage in water control. [Ruth Caplan makes the important point that ordinances are more powerful than regulatory and permit processes which make it easier for corporations to say they will comply and then continue their destructive practices.]

- Money for food relief should go directly to local small food producers – instead of to ‘public-private partnerships.’ Supporting local small food producers creates a sustainable food supply and prevents starvation. And the best way to support small farmers is with science rather than expensive technology. Studies show that organic farming (the ecological method) improves crop yields more than technology does.
- Ban speculators from participating in the commodity market to end speculation on food prices.
- End foreign land-grabbing – countries like China, Saudi Arabia and South Korea are buying up fertile farmland in places like Africa for their own use. Visit [Grain.org](http://Grain.org) to learn more about this.
- Adopt the best environmental practices already in use throughout the world as outlined in the Foundation Earth Report “The Economic Rethink: Who Does It Well?”
- End tax dodging for large corporations and institute a financial transactions tax to generate hundreds of billions of dollars in new revenue that can be invested in clean sustainable practices, ending poverty and creating a sustainable economy. Visit [ItsOurEconomy.US](http://ItsOurEconomy.US) and [RobinHoodTax.org](http://RobinHoodTax.org).
- Transform corporate welfare into taxpayer investment so that people share in the wealth created and thereby develop a guaranteed national income and reduce the wealth divide.
- Change the indicators - The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is taken as the measure of society’s well-being, but in reality it measures how fast a nation is converting its natural resources into products and profits. It fails to account for the depletion of natural resources. Some states like Maryland have adopted the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) which measures the quality of economic growth in terms of what has been done to rebuild communities, ensure health, protect the environment and create prosperity. The nation of Bhutan approved a National Happiness Index as a better measure of well-being.
- Dramatically reduce military spending which now exceeds \$2 trillion annually. In comparison, it would cost only \$175 billion annually to end world poverty. In contrast, Lester Brown estimates that it would cost only \$200 billion annually to end world poverty, shift to clean energy, and restore degraded ecosystems.

## **Building a New Economy from the Bottom Up**

There are more than 190 nations in the world, yet the leaders of eight nations who hold most of the wealth meet to determine economic policy without input from or respect for the other nations. The G8 essentially functions as an exclusive club that plays outside the rules of the United Nations international body of law. The G8 has led us down a path of inequality, environmental degradation and economic collapse.

Fortunately, there is an opportunity at present to change this paradigm and a global movement and foundation exists to accomplish this shift. History has shown that in times of economic crisis, the existing dominant economic model is replaced with a new model.

In the US, the Great Depression ended the neoclassical model, which believed that markets self-regulate and that government should not interfere with markets, and brought in a Keynesian model that legitimized the role of government in stabilizing and regulating the economy and legitimized the social safety net. This ushered in an era of economic prosperity and the lowest degree of wealth inequality in the US until the mid-1970's when 'Stagflation' occurred. This was a combination of high unemployment and high inflation caused in part by the rising cost of oil. The Keynesian model was replaced with "trickle-down economics," a form of neo-liberalism which includes belief in a small government role and deregulating markets.

Now that neo-liberal economics is so clearly failing, we have a strong foundation globally upon which to build a collaborative economy, some call a solidarity economy, for people and the planet. Brazil already has a ministry of solidarity economy and huge forums are held in every state in Brazil on solidarity economics. Ecuador and Bolivia have enshrined solidarity economy into their Constitutions. A Solidarity Economy Network was created in the US in 2007, adding to the existing international solidarity economy network known as RIPESS.

The principles of the solidarity economy are, of course, solidarity, but also sustainability, participatory democracy, equity in all dimensions and pluralism. Pluralism means that there are many paths to the same goal. A solidarity economy is a bottom up rather than a top down approach.

The bottom up way of doing things is the way that most people related to each other in indigenous cultures throughout history. A bottom up approach is decentralized, local, horizontal, cooperative, interdependent, and is based on equality and transparency. The G8 exemplifies the top down approach which is hierarchical, centralized, autocratic, large and exclusive. There is little cooperation and transparency in the top down approach. Examples of bottom up approaches to policy are:

- Cash for clunkers – instead of the government giving money directly to the auto industry, the money came from thousands of people who were given funds to trade in their old cars.
- Instead of giving a large sum of money to a financial institution, the institution such as a bank would only receive funds when it was using them directly for a loan.
- If large corporations want to bring the money they are holding overseas back into the US and pay a lower tax rate, they would only be given that lower tax rate if the money was used directly to create more jobs.

It is not the quantity of economic growth that is important, but the quality of growth, and the levels of equality and sustainability associated with that growth. If the Tar Sands project continues to move forward, it will generate economic growth but at the cost of destroying the planet.

There are many activities already happening that are creating the necessary economy for people and the planet. Indeed, the volume of such activity is remarkable. They are laying a strong foundation for a democratized economy in which people have more input into and control over the economy and have greater benefit from it.

Through a combination of protest and building alternative systems outside of the current corporate structure, citizen movements will be successful in achieving the changes required to start meeting the needs of people and the planet. Protest exposes harmful practices, provides visibility to important issues and pressures lawmakers and other institutions to change their ways. The Jubilee Movement was successful in securing debt relief because in 1998 thousands of people surrounded the building where the World Bank and IMF were meeting and refused to leave until debt was addressed.

And as the old economy crumbles, a new economy which is just and sustainable is replacing it. Below is a list of some of the new systems that are being created to address urgent problems, meet human and planetary needs and move towards a more democratized and high quality economy.

1. **Clean Energy** – Public ownership of energy utilities provides public oversight of energy production and distribution. Of the more than 2,000 public energy utilities in the United States, 68% are investor-owned. There are, however, nearly 900 rural electric energy co-operatives which are owned and run by their members. This allows members of the community to push for higher environmental standards and investment in renewable energy. Many communities around the world are creating local energy cooperatives for solar, wind and hydro-electric power.

Worldwide, the amount of energy being produced by renewable sources is increasing. Germany is leading the way in solar energy due to the decreasing cost of solar panels and subsidy programs. The European Parliament has embraced the concept of the Third Industrial Revolution (TIR) put forth by Jeremy Rifkin. They committed to “20/20/20”: a 20% increase in renewable energy production and a 20% decrease in total energy use by 2020. TIR marries decentralized renewable energy production and storage with internet technology to create an interconnected and more efficient electric grid. Buildings are becoming energy producers and storage facilities. The TIR system will create jobs and also make it more feasible to switch to electric cars.

In the US, there are 28 states with Biodiesel Co-operatives. Many of these co-operatives hold classes on producing biodiesel at home from waste oil and transforming vehicles to run on straight vegetable oil.

Car sharing programs are more common so that car ownership is not necessary. Commuter bike programs are also becoming more common in large cities.

**2. Food Security** – Most of the food in the world is produced on small farms. Progress is being made to connect these small farms to local buyers through farmer’s markets, Community Supported Agriculture arrangements (CSA’s) in which people buy shares in a farm in exchange for a certain amount of the food produced each week and distribution networks that get local food to community schools, restaurants and grocers. Food co-operatives, which are owned by members and function to make affordable healthy food available, are growing. There were over 300 grocery co-operatives in the US in 2011 with another 250 under development. Community and urban gardens are also ways to produce food locally.

There is a growing ‘slow food’ movement worldwide. Slow food started in 1989 and now has 1,300 local chapters in 153 countries. Their mission is to preserve food biodiversity by preserving seeds, to promote local and sustainable food production and to connect all who are involved in food, from growers to chefs to consumers, to work collaboratively to improve the food system.

More people are moving towards a plant-based diet. Growing food to feed to animals that become food is an inefficient way to create food energy. If we had a strictly vegetable diet, we could produce 50% more food on the same amount of land being used to produce food at present.

**3. Community Investment** – People are learning the power of using their dollars to invest in their own communities. Many are voting with their dollars by choosing organic and local

products. Some are boycotting corporations that engage in environmentally unsafe practices or that privatize public goods such as water and are 'boycotting' or supporting businesses that have socially and environmentally responsible practices.

The 'Move Your Money' campaign provides resources that assist people in transferring their money from corporate financial institutions to community banks and credit unions. There are also many states pushing for state-owned public banks which keep and invest money in the local community.

Maryland and Vermont are the first two states to pass legislation allowing the creation of a new category of corporation, the Benefit Corporation or B Corp. This allows businesses to incorporate with public benefit as one of the purposes in the corporate charter. The corporate charter requires them to use a portion of their profits for socially or environmentally responsible causes in their communities.

Michael Shuman's new book *Local Dollars, Local Sense: How to Shift Your Money from Wall Street to Main Street* provides evidence that local investment does better than stock purchases from Wall Street. Numerous studies have shown that spending and investing locally can broaden wealth and provide several times as many jobs compared to investments in nationwide business.

**4. Affordable Housing** – There is a growing Take Back the Land movement in the US that occupies homes to prevent families from being evicted. They are also demanding that public housing be preserved, that vacant houses and buildings be used to shelter those who have lost their homes and that those who are displaced from their communities due to natural disasters or government actions are given the right to return to their land.

This movement is also promoting Community Land Trusts (CLTs) which create permanently affordable housing for low to moderate income families. There are over 200 CLT's in the United States. They create a trust to own the land which is then leased to the homeowner. This allows the cost of the house to be significantly lower. When homeowners sell, they agree to take a smaller profit and to sell to another low to moderate income family. The houses in CLT's are removed from the pressures of the housing market. In addition, there is shared governance of the CLT so that the needs of the community are balanced with the needs of individuals. They develop community facilities, preserve open space and work with other groups to develop economic opportunities for residents. CLT's provide other types of affordable living space such as apartments and housing co-operatives. There are city-wide CLT's in Chicago and Irvine, CA.

**5. Democratized Workplaces** – The number of worker-owned businesses is growing. There are several models in operation. More than 13 million employees in the United States

participate in an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) in which they have an ownership interest in their company through shares of stock. Rules require that stock shares be given equally to workers. Employees receive the stock when they retire, so it functions as a type of pension plan. In fact employees who have an ESOP end up with three to five times more funds upon retirement than those who have traditional 401(k) plans. And employees who are part of an ESOP have greater dedication to the business resulting in greater productivity and profit. In some cases, ESOPs have allowed employees to gain ownership of a company altogether.

Worker-owned co-operative businesses are also increasing, especially in communities that have been hit hard by the economic crisis. People are working together to share information and help each other create worker co-operatives. Worker co-ops are structured so that workers invest in and own the business. They create democratized institutions in which all workers have equal votes. In the United States, there are over 300 worker co-ops, primarily in retail and service, which employ over 3,500 people and generate \$400 million in revenue each year. Worldwide there are 100 million people employed in worker co-ops. 2012 is the United Nations International Year of the Cooperative.

A type of top-down worker cooperative is exemplified by the Evergreen Model in Cleveland, Ohio. A group of 'anchor institutions,' in this case universities and hospitals, joined together to raise capital and fund worker-owned cooperatives in their community to serve their needs for laundry, energy and food. Many of the employees from the surrounding low income community do not have business experience. Many are ex-felons who would otherwise find it difficult to gain employment. The Evergreen Model stabilizes the community by bringing local jobs, training and community wealth. The Evergreen cooperative system, like the Mondragon System in Spain, is required to use part of its profits to open new businesses. Many other cities are now looking at the possibility of using the Evergreen Cooperative Model too.

The Mondragon Corporation is a federation of worker-owned cooperatives based in the Basque region of Spain. Founded in 1956, it is the seventh largest Spanish company in terms of asset turnover and the leading business group in the Basque Country. At the end of 2011 it was providing employment for 83,869 people working in 256 companies in four areas of activity: Finance, Industry, Retail and Knowledge. The Mondragon Co-operatives operate in accordance with a business model that is highly participatory. The companies, owned by their workers, are rooted in solidarity, social responsibility and innovation. Mondragon Co-ops have become an international force with 73 corporations in 18 countries around the world. In October 2009 they announced an agreement with the United Steelworkers to create co-ops in the United States.

**6. Alternative Currencies** – Alternative currencies were first used during the Great Depression. Now communities are again developing alternative currencies to create a local

economy that keeps wealth in the community and encourages the use of local producers. Some local currencies, such as Berkshares in Massachusetts and B Notes in Maryland, are tied to federal dollars. Local dollars are purchased at a discount, the value of the local dollar is greater than that of the federal dollar, to create an incentive to use them. The local dollars are then used just like federal dollars to purchase items at participating vendors or are traded for federal dollars.

Another type of local currency is based on time and is known as a Time Bank. This system was started in Ithaca, New York, the Ithaca Hours, in 1991 by Paul Glover. It is a growing movement in cities across the US. Time dollars are not backed by US currency and cannot be traded for federal dollars. Time dollars build networks of interdependent services within communities. One person may pay in time dollars for a person to repair their house, that person can then use the time dollars to get a haircut or have their bike fixed.

Another type of alternative economic exchange is bartering. In Spain, there are swap meets where people bring things they don't need and trade them for things they do need. There are websites that facilitate bartering transactions. Bartering is promoted as a way to help the environment by reusing items that are no longer needed by the owner.

Other ways that items are reused are through Repair Cafes. The idea of the Repair Cafe started in the Netherlands in 2010. People in a community get together once a month to drink coffee and help each other repair household items. This started because of a desire to reduce consumerism and to keep items out of the landfill. Some groups create shared ownership of items that are not used all of the time such as tools and bicycles in order to reduce the amount of resources being used and save money.

**8. Participatory Democracy** – Gar Alperovitz writes in “America Beyond Capitalism” that democracy cannot exist unless people are engaged in making decisions at the local level. A growing way that people are becoming engaged is through participatory budgeting in which a specific portion of public funds are given to the community to decide how they will be spent. A process is used in which community members meet to decide on needs and priorities, then specific proposals are made to meet the needs and the community votes on the proposals. With greater community involvement, there is more transparency and accountability and less corruption.

Participatory budgeting began in Brazil in 1989. There are now over 1200 cities around the world that use a participatory budgeting for part of their capital expenditures. In North America participatory budgeting began in Chicago and now is spreading to other cities including New York and Toronto. In 2012, Vallejo, California approved the first city-wide participatory budgeting process. The first international conference on participatory budgeting was held in March in New York City.

Venezuela is leading the way in participatory democracy. Their Constitution was drafted and approved by the people and provides citizen participation as a basis for their governing structure. In Iceland, the new constitution was drafted through online crowdsourcing and social media to maximize citizen involvement. In the US, states, cities and towns are also seeking citizen input for other areas of decision-making such as land use and community planning. Public institutions such as hospitals, schools and energy regulators routinely employ citizen advisory boards.

## **The Time has Come**

We are living in a time of great peril, but also of great potential. Confronting the challenges the world economy faces will present new opportunities to create an economy that benefits more than the financial elites. We know those with concentrated wealth are dominating the world economy and pushing us towards a bleak future of poverty and massive environmental destruction. However, they are the minority.

Already, people around the world are waking up to the seriousness of the situation and demanding solutions. All over the world, people are creating models for systems that move us towards a more just and sustainable future.

We, the people, are the majority. It is time for us to recognize the illegitimacy of the G8 as a body that makes global economic decisions and expose their irresponsible behavior. It is time for us to call for a legitimate decision-making body that is inclusive of all nations and promotes economic self-determination, equality and sustainability. And it is time to work together across the planet to educate ourselves about the solutions that currently exist and create new systems.

If we are successful in creating lasting change, we may see a future of food and water security, of clean renewable energy, of cooperative international relations and planetary peace and of genuine prosperity for generations to come.

## **Biographies of the panelists**

**Alexis Baden-Mayer** is a lawyer and activist working in Washington, D.C., as the political director for the Organic Consumers Association. She writes the group's weekly newsletter *Organic Bytes*, with 363,000 subscribers, and leads its Millions Against Monsanto campaign. OCA is part of the California Right to Know/Label GMOs coalition, which just gathered over 970,000 signatures for a November 2012 ballot initiative for labels on

genetically engineered food.

**Brent Blackwelder** is President, Friends of the Earth 1994-2009, Environmental advocate for 40 years; worked to save rivers including expansion of the National Scenic Rivers Program to include over 250 rivers; helped defeat over 200 boondoggle dam and dredge river-destroying projects; promoted clean water and clean energy; in 1983 helped launch a campaign to reform the World Bank & the IMF; testified over 100 times before Congress. A founder of the Environmental Policy Center (1972) and the Environmental Policy Institute (1974). Founding Chairman, American Rivers 1973. Chairman of the Board, League of Conservation Voters 1980s. Board Member: Tax Justice Network US, Gender Action, Potomac RiverKeeper, Foundation Earth, International Rivers, Center for the Advancement of a Steady State Economy, monthly blogs: [www.steadystate.org](http://www.steadystate.org).

**Ruth Caplan** is the National Coordinator for the Alliance for Democracy's Defending Water for Life Campaign. She worked with town of Barnstead NH to pass the first ordinance in the country to declare water to be a fundamental right, to deny corporations the right to take the water for profit, and to deny corporations constitutional rights in the town. She has organized around the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services to oppose the privatization of water services and wrote "Trading Away Our Water: How Trade Agreements Promote Corporate Water Profiteering." She appears in the documentary Tapped and wrote the discussion guide for the documentary Thirst.

**Margaret Flowers** is a pediatrician and mother of 3 teens from Baltimore, MD who left medical practice in 2007 to advocate full-time for single payer health care. She was an organizer of October2011/OccupyWashingtonDC at Freedom Plaza, served as Congressional Fellow for Physicians for a National Health Program, is on the board of Healthcare-Now.org, is co-director of ItsOurEconomy.us and has organized and participated in protests for health care, peace and economic justice. She is co-host of "Clearing the FOG: Speaking truth to expose the Forces of Greed" on WeActRadio.com, WPWC 1480 am out of Anacostia in Washington, DC.

**Brooke Harper** is Senior Field Organizer for Global Trade Watch and oversees its national campaigns grassroots outreach. Prior to joining Global Trade Watch, she was the National Field Organizer for Jubilee USA Network where she organized for expanded debt cancellation and international financial institution reforms. She also worked for Moveon.org on their clean energy and healthcare campaigns and campaigned with Obama for America in 12 states. She has also worked on political and anti-war campaigns.

**Rob Kall** is executive editor, publisher and website architect of [OpEdNews.com](http://OpEdNews.com). Host of the Rob Kall Bottom Up Radio Show (WNJC 1360 AM), and publisher of [Storycon.org](http://Storycon.org), President of [Futurehealth, Inc](http://Futurehealth, Inc), and an [inventor](http://inventor). He is also published regularly on the [Huffingtonpost.com](http://Huffingtonpost.com). [Mediate ranks Rob Kall](http://Mediate ranks Rob Kall) among the top 150 print/online columnists. With his experience as architect and founder of a [technorati top 100 blog](http://technorati top 100 blog), he is

also a new media / social media consultant and trainer for corporations, non-profits, entrepreneurs and authors. Rob is a frequent Speaker on the bottom up revolution, politics, the art, science and power of story, heroes and the hero's journey and Positive Psychology. He is a campaign consultant specializing in tapping the power of stories for issue positioning, stump speeches and debates, and optimizing tapping the power of new media.

**Emily Kawano** is the Director of the Center for Popular Economics and the U.S. Solidarity Economy Network, received her Ph.D in economics from the Univ of Massachusetts, Amherst, a member of the CPE collective for more than twenty years and has served as the director since 2004, taught economics at Smith College and worked as the National Economic Justice Representative for the American Friends Service Committee. In N. Ireland, she founded a popular economics program with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, served on the N.I. Social Economy Network Working Group developed a social economy training program for community groups seeking to start up social enterprises.

**Sam Pizzigati** is an associate fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, edits *Too Much*, a weekly online newsletter on inequality and excess, has edited publications for four different national American unions, and his articles on income and wealth maldistribution have appeared in a host of major American dailies, magazines, and journals. His most recent book is *Greed and Good: Understanding and Overcoming the Inequality that Limits Our Lives* (Rowman & Littlefield), and his new book, *The Rich Don't Always Win: The forgotten triumph over plutocracy, 1900-1970, that created the classic American middle class*, will be forthcoming this fall from Seven Stories Press.

**James V. Riker** is Director of the Beyond the Classroom Program at the Univ of Maryland, College Park, has led multi-stakeholder consultation processes involving civil society leaders, scholars, and policy-makers, and served as a consultant to the International Food Policy Research Institute, the Ford Foundation, New Rules for Global Finance Coalition, the Asian Pacific Development Centre and the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, is the author of *Promising Visions and Strategies to Advancing Global Democracy* (FIM, 2005), co-editor of *Restructuring World Politics: Transnational Social Movements, Networks, and Norms*, editor of *A Program to End Hunger*, and co-editor of *Government-NGO Relations in Asia: Prospects and Challenges for People-Centered Development*. He is a board member for the Forum International de Montréal (FIM): Forum on Democratic Global Governance based in Canada; and is chair of the board of Citizens for Global Solutions' Education Fund in Washington, D.C.

**Jeremy Weyl** the Outreach and Congregations Fellow for the Jubilee USA Network, an alliance of more than 75 religious denominations and faith communities, human rights, environmental, labor, and community groups working for the definitive cancellation of crushing debts and transformation of international financial institutions to fight poverty and injustice in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. He received his undergraduate degree in International Development and Social Change, and his Masters in Community Development

and Planning from Clark University. At his university, he organized various student wide campaigns around climate change, against corporate globalization, and university-labor issues. In the city of Worcester, he worked with the Worcester Roots Project to address environmental justice issues around lead-poisoning.

**Kevin Zeese** is a lawyer from Baltimore, MD with more than 30 years of experience of writing, speaking and advocacy across a broad range of issues around peace, justice and democracy, was an organizer of October2011/OccupyWashington,DC at Freedom Plaza, organized the Sounds of Resistance concert and protest against Bank of America and Stop These Wars/Expose the Lies/Free Bradley Manning in December 2010/March 2011, co-director of ItsOurEconomy.us, director of ComeHomeAmerica.us and in the steering committee of the Bradeley Manning Support Network, serves on the boards of Velvet Revolution and Common Sense for Drug Policy. He is co-host of “Clearing the FOG: Speaking truth to expose the Forces of Greed” on WeActRadio.com, WPWC 1480 am out of Anacostia in Washington, DC.

## Resources

### Introduction

#### **1. The ‘Global May Manifesto’ of the Occupy Movement –**

<http://october2011.org/blogs/kevin-zeese/global-may-manifesto-occupy-movement>

### History of the Group of 8:

#### **2. Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order -**

<http://www.un-documents.net/s6r3201.htm>

#### **3. Bretton Woods System - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bretton\\_Woods\\_system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bretton_Woods_system)**

#### **4. GATT/WTO - <http://www.law.duke.edu/lib/researchguides/gatt.html>**

#### **5. Trade Agreements Cannot be Allowed to Undermine Needed Financial Service-Sector Reregulation -**

<http://www.citizen.org/documents/FinanceReregulationFactSheetFINAL.pdf>

#### **6. Declaration of the Establishment of a International Economic Order –**

<http://www.un-documents.net/s6r3201.htm>

#### **7. International Capital and Its army Head for Chicago: The G8 and NATO -**

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2011/07/29/the-g8-and-nato/>

#### **8. Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States - <http://www.un-documents.net/a29r3281.htm>**

#### **9. G8 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G8>**

#### **10. UN Commission of Experts Report -**

[http://www.un.org/ga/econcrisissummit/docs/FinalReport\\_CoE.pdf](http://www.un.org/ga/econcrisissummit/docs/FinalReport_CoE.pdf)

### **Humans have never been so Wealthy, But Inequality Reigns:**

#### **11. The End of Poverty, Jeffrey Sachs**

<http://www.earth.columbia.edu/pages/endofpoverty/index>

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