



our developing world's voices fall 2012
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Sorry we're late. SO much to do and so many issues!

WE ARE STILL OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS TO DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS: YOUTH WHO GAIN KNOWLEDGE AND COMPASSION BY PARTICIPATING IN *odw* REALITY TOURS! TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

WE ALSO HAVE GIFTS OF GIVING CERTIFICATES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EVERYTHING! \$30 EACH, 2 FOR \$50 WE'LL MAIL THEM FOR YOU.

Thanks for Your GIFT of GIVING In the name of

that will help low income person to participate in an *odw* Reality Tour to become knowledgeable about a poor country and gain compassion as future leaders!

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El Salvador: The Minister of Education, a teacher, understands the importance of education. Thus the Literacy Campaign. Salvadoran students got credit for being volunteer teachers. It wasn't just about learning to read and write, but bringing different generations together, rural and urban, developing respect and trust to work to build stronger communities!

"My name is Rosa Elena Hidalgo...I would like to thank the Ministry of Education, the mayor's office, and the teachers. Thanks to their effort, we adults are learning to read and write since, as children, for various reasons, we didn't. Today, our dreams are coming true."

At an *odw* potluck UCSC students spoke about that transforming experience for themselves!

"US Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte: Any renewal of the Millennium Challenge Fund (FOMILENIO), a US development aid program, was dependent upon the Salvadoran Assembly's approval of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Law..."

That's happened to Honduras. That government says: Honduras is open for business! P 1



Honduras: Free Trade [Click here to view the report.](#) America Didn't Abolish Slavery After the Civil War -- It Got Moved Offshore

- After 29 years of Free Trade agreements with Central America, Lear workers in Honduras producing Hyundai and Kia auto parts for export to the U.S. continue to earn below-subsistence wages of just 99 cents an hour, while being illegally fired and blacklisted for daring to exercise their legal rights, including the right to organize a union at Lear.
- The Lear, Hyundai and Kia joint venture in Honduras enjoys windfall tariff and other breaks amounting to tens of millions of dollars. These corporations pay no income tax, no state, county or municipal taxes, and are exempt from all import and export duties.
- Lear's workers in Honduras are trapped in makeshift, dirt-floored huts, lacking potable water, relying on primitive outhouses and cooking with wood, since they cannot afford gas. The workers' children go barefoot to save their shoes for church and school. Lear workers subsist on rice and beans, and even so, they often must turn to loan sharks to survive.
- Lear, Hyundai and Kia workers are on their feet the entire shift, constantly rushing to keep up with the moving rotary tables and typically performing 6,160 operations per shift, or one operation every 4.82 seconds, connecting circuits on the wire harnesses and binding them together with tape.
- The workers are drenched in sweat, since factory temperatures routinely exceed 95 degrees. Supervisors threaten and curse at the workers to move faster or face dismissal. Many workers report they experience sharp pains in their wrists, hands and fingers from repeating the same motions, nonstop, throughout the day.
- Recently management unilaterally increased the workers' production quota by 17 percent — with no wage increase.
- Workers have to bring their own toilet paper to work.
- The Honduran Ministry of Labor is not acting in good faith. When corporations like Lear deliberately and arbitrarily block Honduran labor inspectors from entering the KyungshinLear factory in San Pedro Sula, the Labor Ministry's only "recourse" is to fine the \$14.2-billion Lear Corporation between \$10.23 and \$102.30 in penalties — which amounts to a pitiful slap on the wrist. When it comes to enforcing labor rights, the system is broken.
- The U.S. Government's ironclad commitments to the multinational corporations have blossomed under 29 years of free trade agreements. The multinationals have been lavished with massive tariff and tax breaks, while workers' real wages are slashed and the workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively are suppressed.

- The State Department is now pushing a privatization law in Salvador to replicate this tragedy. We must pressure the State Department to change.



odw Reality Tour to Cuba May 8-15 \$3000 Check our website soon for itinerary

Cuba: James Abourezk, a former United States Senator from South Dakota Open Letter to President Obama (edited)

“An important case of injustice that you can easily remedy. It has to do with a group



called the Cuban 5.

After years of terrorism against Cubans-bombing tourist hotels, blowing up a Cuban airliner, and other criminal acts, Fidel Castro sent five of his people to Miami to collect evidence on those committing such terrorism. They turned the information they had gathered over to the FBI, whose agents promptly arrested the Cubans. They were convicted by an intimidated Miami jury, then sent to American prisons. That action showed the world the duplicity of our war on terror.

If you would pardon these five men, it would be a first step toward restoring relations with Cuba as a close neighbor to the United States. Our 50 year embargo against Cuba has caused a great deal of suffering to a people we say we want to help.

Back in the 1970s, my colleague, George McGovern and I separately traveled to Cuba and met with Fidel Castro. We did so again together in 1977 and fostered an exchange of basketball teams from South Dakota. We played three games in Havana, and the Cuban team returned to South Dakota for three games here. President Carter approved of the exchange, and his administration was on the way to normalizing relations, a step that was halted by the actions of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC).

The Cuban government was open to normalizing relations back then, and I believe are still interested in doing so.

Freeing the Cuban Five I believe would be a first step in normalizing relations with Cuba. I also believe that such a step would result in the release to his family of Alan Gross, who was carrying out US policy in Cuba when he was imprisoned there.” P3



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Guatemala A mining struggle against pollution and environmental degradation !

On October 4th, 15,000 protesters gathered to block the highways around the town of Totonicapán. They took this drastic step because they saw no other way to be heard by the Government of Otto Pérez Molina. As has been characteristic of this administration, the government responded to the protests by sending both police and soldiers, a decision which had deadly consequences.

While the police hung back miles away from the roadblocks, one Colonel ignored police orders and advanced. In the ensuing conflict, at least six people were killed and over 33 wounded. At the same time that Guatemalan soldiers were firing indiscriminately at protesters, U.S. Marines were running joint missions with the Guatemalan military off the South Coast of the country.

According to the military's own sources, the result of these missions, with almost 200 US marines deployed for two months, was only 14 arrests and 10 drug seizures. The cost: any moral authority the US might have had to condemn the use of the military against civilians. How can the US tell Guatemala that the military shouldn't act as police when we're sending down US soldiers to fight crime?



The eastern end of the Northwest Passage near Greenland, where in 2010 five Inuit villages blocked a German icebreaker that was about to test for oil, gas and minerals. Photograph: Christopher Debicki/Getty Images

Climate Change: Norwegian ships now sail through freed Arctic waters to Japan! Not frozen any more! We MUST seriously address this MOST VITAL issue.

New Orleans and Haiti taught us the aftermath of a disaster like Sandy will last a long, long time and have far-reaching impact on things like public housing, privatization of government, and civil and human rights. We need to hold the government accountable to a people's recovery, meets people's needs P4



Thomhartmann.com / By [Thom Hartmann](#), [Sam Sacks](#) November 10, 2012

How America Is Turning into a 3rd World Nation in 4 Easy Steps

Step 1: Destroy Manufacturing

From 1791, when our nation's first Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton created an 11-point plan for American manufacturers, all the way until just the last few decades, the United States protected its manufacturing base with high tariffs on imports and government support for domestic industries.

This "protectionist" approach transformed the US into the world's largest exporter of manufactured goods, which built and sustained an enormous middle class of Americans working in factories collecting high wages. Then the forces of globalization crept in, extolling the virtues of a world economy free from national boundaries and protections for domestic manufacturing. Over the last decade, 50,000 manufacturing plants in the United States have closed down and five million manufacturing jobs have been lost. They didn't disappear, they just moved away to low-wage factories like Foxconn, producing Apple products, in foreign nations. Before Pres. Reagan, the United States was the world's largest importer of raw goods and exporter of manufactured goods as well as the world's largest creditor. But today, we're the world's largest exporter of raw materials and importer of manufactured goods. No surprise, we're also the world's largest debtor. When manufacturing dies, the economy goes with it.

Step 2: Harvest the Middle Class

America's working class no longer builds TVs or computers or furniture on assembly lines; they flip burgers at McDonalds and turn down the sheets at Holiday Inns. And high-skilled workers who used to design the marvels of manufacturing now make credit default swaps and mortgage-backed securities on Wall Street. In the 1950's when our economy still embraced Hamilton's 11-point plan: manufacturing used to account for a 1/4 of GDP, but today it accounts for 1/10th, replaced by the low-wage service sector and Wall Street. This economy can't support a middle class. A service sector can't create lasting wealth, nor can Wall Street. Before NAFTA, the average American taxpayer earned an inflation-adjusted income of \$33,400 a year. By 2008, it dropped to \$33,000. Working Americans maxed out their credit cards and took out a second mortgage to make ends meet. Even that wasn't enough. On top of that, new financialized industries specialize in harvesting even more wealth from the middle class. So-called private equity firms like Bain Capital execute a business model that depends on taking over American businesses, loading them with debt, laying off workers, and outsourcing labor to low-wage nations. Mitt Romney himself described Bain's strategy as "harvesting companies for a profit."



American factories that were more profitable than ever, like the Sensata plant in Freeport, Illinois, aren't safe from this outsourcing. Thanks to globalization, it's cheaper to employ labor in low-wage nations even if that means laying off 170 American workers and devastating an entire local economy.

Today upwards of fifty million Americans are living in poverty and depend on food stamps. The middle class devolved into the working class, which further devolved into the working poor class. Local economies are collapsing, states are going bankrupt, and workers are being tenderized for colonization in the near future

Step 3: Export American Wealth

The hefty price tag with transitioning from the world's largest exporter of manufactured goods to the world's largest importer of manufactured goods is trade deficits.

In 2011, the US trade deficit of over a half-trillion dollars with the rest of the world. \$558 billion U.S. dollars is being pocketed every single year by developing nations that are now manufacturing the goods that used to be manufactured right here in the US.

With their pockets overflowing with U.S. dollars, foreign investors begin buying up American industries. Every single second, more than \$4,000 of American industry is being sold off to foreign investors.

In a virtuous economy like the US used to run, wealth is recycled within the community. Revenue earned by the local grocery store is invested in the local bank, which then hands out loans to local businesses to hire local workers who collect paychecks to shop at the local grocery store and so on and so forth.

But when foreign investors are injected into the equation, increasingly larger chunks of wealth are not re-invested in the local economy, but are instead invested overseas in the developing world.

One reason President Obama's stimulus package may not have had quite the bang for the buck as anticipated: When Americans buy a new LED television, or new clothes, or home improvements, there's a good chance that a lot of the profits are actually going to overseas investors, stimulating their economy instead of ours.

Step 4: Re-colonize

With American workers desperate for any kind of opportunity to work, Foxconn and other foreign corporations now have access to a brand new pool of cheap labor.

Other companies take advantage of these new low-wage American workers:

Ikea opened a factory in Virginia, a right-to-work for less state not hospitable to labor unions. In Sweden, where Ikea is based, workers earn at least \$19 an hour, enjoy a P 6



minimum of 5 weeks paid vacation every year, fairly high labor costs. Executives at Ikea came to the US, where they pay workers \$8 an hour and give away just 12 days of vacation a year. German auto manufacturer Volkswagen moved manufacturing back to the United States. They recently opened a plant in Chattanooga, TN,- another right-to-work for less state. Unlike in Germany, where all the workers at major manufacturing firms P7 are unionized, collect high wages, have good benefits, can go on strike, and sit on the company board and have a say in decisions about the company's future, none of that exists in Chattanooga where workers are not unionized and make just \$14.50 an hour. It's pretty clear we're becoming the world's latest cheap labor source.

And it's cheaper to send goods to American consumers when you don't have to ship from halfway around the world. Plus, with growing attention paid to the fact that nothing is made in America anymore besides bombs and warplanes, foreign corporations would be delighted to be able to stamp "Made in the USA" on the bottom of their products, even if they were made by low-wage Americans.

Which is why Foxconn might come over here, too. It's hard to imagine American workers having to endure the same working conditions that Chinese workers endure at Foxconn, where nets prevent workers from committing suicide by jumping out of windows.

Given the agenda of House Republicans, that tragic reality may not be so far-fetched.

Generations of labor law that produced a minimum wage, a forty-hour workweek,

And if they succeed, then there is absolutely nothing protecting American workers from suffering the same fate as sweatshop workers overseas.

The reason this fourth stage is terminal is because there are few treatment options available anymore. If the US were to suddenly rethink its trade policies and enact tariffs again, they would have little impact since these foreign corporations have already implanted their manufacturing centers here in the United States. The profits would continue to go overseas rather than being circulated in the local economy.

Yes, in the end, we might get a lot of the jobs that were lost in Step One, but they won't be good-paying jobs at American-owned companies. They'll be low-wage jobs at foreign-owned companies, with all the profit going out of the US. At its core that's a form of colonization. Look up King Leopold's extractive economy in Congo for a reference.

The US is rapidly un-developing in a way never before witnessed in the history of the world. And it would be a remarkable spectacle to behold, if it weren't so damn tragic to our fellow citizens.

Let your elected representatives know that Ross Perot was right, and it's time to end this so-called "free trade" insanity.



Amy Goodman, Democracy Now! Nov. 7, 2012

President Obama is a former community organizer himself. What happens when the community organizer in chief becomes the commander in chief? Who does the community organizing then? Interestingly, he offered a suggestion when speaking at a small New Jersey campaign event when he was first running for president. Someone asked him what he would do about the Middle East. He answered with a story about the legendary 20th-century organizer A. Philip Randolph meeting with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Randolph described to FDR the condition of black people in America, the condition of working people. Reportedly, FDR listened intently, then replied: "I agree with everything you have said. Now, make me do it." That was the message Obama repeated.

There you have it. Make him do it. You've got an invitation from the president himself.

Please email us to let us know if you read our voices. Would you rather have shorter ones more often? What would you find more interesting and helpful?

Many many thanks to all who volunteer: Mei Yu Chen our incredible webmaster, John Wytmans who can figure how to make whatever we think of, our mailers, our tech trouble shooters: Antoni Drudis and Mike Cook and to Elizabeth Orr who spends so much time trying to solve glitches with the Mac! And to Gay Lyn who does everything from display boards to filing and shredding. We couldn't do it without you!!! And to Yasmin Vanya who has been there for us in planning the Burma tours!

And to all who donate to keep us going and help make the scholarship opportunities!!!

Mil Gracias, Cam On, Jayzutin Bahday! Obrigada, Merci beaucoup! Tusind Tak! Thank you! Thank you! Thanks so much!