# Neolib K

## Links

### WTO link

#### The Aff endorsement of the WTO as the actor in the plan text is bad- The WTO was created to further entrench us in Neolib- and values everything that’s wrong w Neolib

Martin Hart-Landsberg, 4-1-2006, "Monthly Review," Monthly Review, https://monthlyreview.org/2006/04/01/neoliberalism-myths-and-reality/ (LHS IB)

Agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have enhanced transnational capitalist power and profits at the cost of growing economic instability and deteriorating working and living conditions. Despite this reality, neoliberal claims that liberalization, deregulation, and privatization produce unrivaled benefits have been repeated so often that many working people accept them as unchallengeable truths. Thus, business and political leaders in the United States and other developed capitalist countries routinely defend their efforts to expand the WTO and secure new agreements like the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) as necessary to ensure a brighter future for the world’s people, especially those living in poverty.

For example, Renato Ruggiero, the first Director-General of the WTO, declared that WTO liberalization efforts have “the potential for eradicating global poverty in the early part of the next [twenty-first] century—a utopian notion even a few decades ago, but a real possibility today.”1 Similarly, writing shortly before the December 2005 WTO ministerial meeting in Hong Kong, William Cline, a senior fellow for the Institute for International Economics, claimed that “if all global trade barriers were eliminated, approximately 500 million people could be lifted out of poverty over 15 years….The current Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations in the World Trade Organization provides the best single chance for the international community to achieve these gains.”2

Therefore, if we are going to mount an effective challenge to the neoliberal globalization project, we must redouble our efforts to win the “battle of ideas.” Winning this battle requires, among other things, demonstrating that neoliberalism functions as an ideological cover for the promotion of capitalist interests, not as a scientific framework for illuminating the economic and social consequences of capitalist dynamics. It also requires showing the processes by which capitalism, as an international system, undermines rather than promotes working class interests in both third world and developed capitalist countries.

The Myth of the Superiority of ‘Free Trade’: Theoretical Arguments

According to supporters of the WTO and agreements such as the FTAA, these institutions/agreements seek to promote free trade in order to enhance efficiency and maximize economic well being. This focus on trade hides what is in fact a much broader political-economic agenda: the expansion and enhancement of corporate profit making opportunities. In the case of the WTO, this agenda has been pursued through a variety of agreements that are explicitly designed to limit or actually block public regulation of economic activity in contexts that have little to do with trade as normally understood.

For example, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) limits the ability of states to deny patents on certain products (including over living organisms) or control the use of products patented in their respective nations (including the use of compulsory licensing to ensure affordability of critical medicines). It also forces states to accept a significant increase in the length of time during which patents remain in force. The Agreement on Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) restricts the ability of states to put performance requirements on foreign direct investment (FDI), encompassing those that would require the use of local inputs (including labor) or technology transfer. A proposed expansion of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) would force states to open their national service markets (which include everything from health care and education to public utilities and retail trade) to foreign providers as well as limit public regulation of their activity. Similarly, a proposed Government Procurement Agreement would deny states the ability to use non-economic criteria, such as labor and environmental practices, in awarding contracts.

These agreements are rarely discussed in the mainstream media precisely because they directly raise issues of private versus public power and are not easily defended. This is one of the most important reasons why those who support the capitalist globalization project prefer to describe the institutional arrangements that help underpin it as trade agreements and defend them on the basis of the alleged virtues of free trade. This is a defense that unfortunately and undeservedly holds enormous sway among working people, especially in the developed capitalist countries. And, using it as a theoretical foundation, capitalist globalization advocates find it relatively easy to encourage popular acceptance of the broader proposition that market determined outcomes are superior to socially determined ones in all spheres of activity. Therefore, it is critical that we develop an effective and accessible critique of this myth of the superiority of free trade. In fact, this is an easier task than generally assumed.

### Innovation Link

#### The Neoliberalism approach the aff takes in by restricting IP’s for competition, the invisible hand, and by restricting IP’s is a myth- further entrenches us in neoliberalism and causes meaningless death and drives less innovation and distribution.

Ognian Kassabov, 1-20-2021, "What the vaccine debacle tells us about predatory capitalism," No Publication, https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/2/21/the-vaccine-debacle-shows-the-predatory-nature-of-capitalism (LHS IB)

Myth one: The private sector is the best innovator

One foundational myth of global capitalism is that private entrepreneurship is the only effective source of innovation and progress. But Big Pharma has long demonstrated this is not necessarily so.

For decades, vaccines have been de-prioritised by the industry as insufficiently profitable. For example, despite the persistence of deadly outbreaks of the Ebola virus in West Africa, there were no serious efforts to develop a vaccine against it until after the epidemic of 2014. And up until the coronavirus pandemic, companies like BionNTech – which partnered with Pfizer to develop a COVID-19 vaccine – were mostly focusing on the application of the mRNA technology in drugs rather than vaccines.

The swift development of COVID-19 vaccines came only in the wake of significant financial support by governments, combined with massive buyout contracts using taxpayers’ money. For instance, US government agencies gave Moderna alone some $2.5bn to help develop the vaccine and buy doses.

That is, the public sector was a key driver of COVID-19 vaccine development and public funds are used to finance the process. In effect, pharmaceutical companies secured a cost-reduced development and risk-free launch of a new product.

The claim that private companies are best at innovation is further eroded by the fact that at least two state-owned companies, Russia’s Gamaleya Institute and China’s Sinopharm, **were successful in developing effective vaccines.**

All of this is not to question the efficacy of available vaccines or the devoted work of the researchers who developed them. Rather, it is to point out the fact that privatising the vaccine development effort not only is too costly and exploitative, but it is also inefficient, as it prevents scientists from collaborating and sharing research to come up with the best possible vaccine.

Myth two: The invisible hand of the market is effective

Another capitalist myth is that competitive markets are the best regulators of supply and demand and the best at achieving the optimal distribution of goods. In early 2020, we witnessed the dark side of this fable, as countries started to outbid each other for vital medical equipment, such as PPE and ventilators.

Demand was high across the board, but supply only went to the wealthy few, at the price of many human lives. This is now happening again, as, amid severe undersupply of vaccines, governments are scrambling to secure enough doses for national use.

Israel has achieved its spectacular vaccination rate by paying higher prices for the vaccines. The US is trying to follow suit. Even within the European Union, where a coordinated response and fair distribution of vaccines in proportion to member states’ populations was negotiated, it emerged that wealthier countries like Germany have managed to secure more vaccines for themselves.

If the present situation continues, where the highest bidders can buy as much as they want, even if it is more than they need, supply will continue to fall short of global demand. The World Health Organization (WHO) has called it “vaccine nationalism”, but what it really is is vaccine capitalism. Countries are rushing to outbid each other on vaccines because there is an inadequate supply, and there is inadequate supply because pharmaceutical companies are allowed not to share their inventions with the world.

As Scottish economist Adam Smith has pointed out, any trade secret is a form of monopoly, and in this sense, pharmaceutical patents enable the supplier to impose a monopoly. Keeping vaccines the exclusive intellectual property of companies renders deployment not only too costly, but also inefficient, as it severely limits production capacities.

Myth three: Capitalist globalisation is fair

The third key myth of late-stage capitalism that is now unravelling portrays globalisation as equally beneficial for all. But a cursory look at the global distribution of vaccines shows that this is far not the case.

As Western countries are able to acquire vaccines, albeit at different pace, many other parts of the world have not even started their vaccination campaigns. Even emerging economies – some of which served as the testing ground for the vaccines – are struggling with limited supply.

As a result of this global inequality in vaccine distribution, we are not only facing what WHO Director General Tedros Ghebreyesus has called a “catastrophic moral failure”, but also an inevitable global economic disaster. Economists are already warning that an uneven global vaccine roll-out would be much costlier for wealthy countries than a coordinated deployment of vaccines.

If the current immunisation inequality persists, the deployment of vaccines in wealthier countries can become close to useless. Even if herd immunity is achieved in some countries, persistent outbreaks in others will continue to disrupt travel and global supply chains. One study suggests that if there is no serious global effort for an equitable vaccination campaign, this could cost developed countries $4.5 trillion.

Immunity cannot function as the privilege of the few. Immunised wealthy countries may try sealing themselves off from the rest, but the sustainability of this global apartheid will be questionable and the human cost – surely appalling.

### Root Cause

#### Neolib is the root cause of Covid and all pandemics- multiple warrants- the aff attempts are just a hopeless attempt and an example of disaster neolib to solve through restricting IP’s- when in reality they can’t since they’re dependent on free markets sacrifices which proliferates the virus

Miloš ŠUmonja, 21- June"Neoliberalism is not dead – On political implications of Covid-19," PubMed Central (PMC), https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/ (LHS IB)

The neoliberal pandemic – the causes of crisis

From the viewpoint suggested above, the results of capital’s totalising effort to commodify and eat away its own social and natural preconditions appear as the structural causes of the pandemic, which thus represents a potentially fatal internal crisis of neoliberalism. The crisis is not, as one might conclude from the establishment’s ‘going back to normal’ narrative, an exogenous shock to an otherwise functional system. A Black Swan-type event ([Smith 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr54-0309816820982381)), or a meteorite of history which can only be ascribed to a foreign entity is how capitalism’s ideological defence in the West already projects its own contradictions: to the contingency of nature ([Joye 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/" \l "bibr31-0309816820982381)); then to virus-producing China (on 1 February, the German newsmagazine Der Spiegel run a cover page with a headline ‘Coronavirus – Made in China’; Der Spiegel [2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr17-0309816820982381)); to a virus-carrying immigrant; and in a final act of inversion of reality, to the class enemy within (as in the case of Amazon warehouse employee, Chris Smalls, who organised his coworkers to demand safer working conditions amid the pandemic, only to find himself fired because of – breaching of the safety measures; see [Bellafante 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/" \l "bibr6-0309816820982381)).

The interventions from the Left highlight at least three constitutive connections between neoliberalism and the pandemic. According to [Rob Wallace (2020a](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr62-0309816820982381), [2020b](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr63-0309816820982381)) evolutionary biologist and phylogeographer, the increased appearance of corona viruses like SARS, MERS or Covid-19 in the human population is a predictable outcome of agroindustry’s devastating impact on natural ecosystems rather than a series of isolated incidents. What is seen is an interplay between industrial production of food and a growing market for exotic wild food. The multinationals’ land-grab and deforestation push the increasing capitalised wildlife deeper into the remaining primary ecosystems. This enables the spillover of previously boxed-in pathogens to human communities that are forced to breach the natural barrier between them while working:

Capital is spearheading land grabs into the last of primary forest and smallholder-held farmland worldwide . . . As industrial production – hog, poultry, and like – expand into primary forest, it places pressure on wild food operators to dredge further into the forest for source populations, **increasing the interface with, and spillover of, new pathogens, including Covid-19.** ([Wallace 2020a](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr62-0309816820982381)).

As for the speed at which the virus has spread, the unprecedented physical connectivity in the word of global supply chains and low-cost flying was not the only contributing social factor. It should not be forgotten that the initial reaction from most governments to the outbreak was an exercise in ‘epidemiological neoliberalism’ ([Frey 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr20-0309816820982381)). This policy bluntly exposed the politics of the whole project: pretend to do nothing while making sure that the ‘natural laws’ of markets keep functioning, even if it means allowing people to get sick and die from ‘just another flu’. Encapsulated in social-Darwinian ‘survival of the fittest’ notion of ‘herd immunity’, this solution in practice consisted of voluntary behavioural guidelines – business as usual, just wash your hands and keep your distance. This, in effect, turned a social problem into an individual matter, thus shaking off any responsibility the authorities had for the public health crisis.

However, with the numbers of infected inevitably rising in consequence, the genocidal charade backfired, not just because the public lost faith in neoliberal crisis management but also because the markets lost confidence in it. In the United States, for example, President Donald Trump changed his approach only during the March stock crash. Then, in the wake of what was becoming the greatest pandemic since the Spanish Flu, the disastrous effects of 40 years of neoliberal privatisation of public health institutions were revealed. That is, the lack of staff and material capacities in underfunded state hospitals, and the complete inability of the private for-profit health industry to provide even the most basic medical equipment and treatment in the time of social need. To illustrate the point: in Italy, one of the countries hardest hit by the pandemic, austerity cuts in the national health system resulted in an extraordinary 50% reduction in hospital beds between 1997 and 2015, and 46,000 less hospital employees from 2009 to 2017 ([Autore & Corizzo 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/" \l "bibr3-0309816820982381)). Add the outsourcing of medical production in search for cheap labour and that health companies have no commercial interest in preparing for or preventing emergency situations – in keeping hospital beds empty and magazines stocked with face masks and gloves, or investing in vaccine development – and you get a centennial public health crisis.

In response to the crisis, the resources of national states have been mobilised in full force, mandatory lockdowns imposed, and branches of industry told what to produce. However, with the majority of workers not working, global supply chains broke, demand collapsed, production fell, company revenues sharply dropped and stock markets plunged. The IMF projects global growth to fall to -3%, a downgrade of over 6 percentage points from January 2020, which makes the ongoing capitalist crisis ‘the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression’ ([Gopinath 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr24-0309816820982381)). Indications of what awaits the working classes are clear: in the United States, the world epicentre of both neoliberalism and the pandemic, unemployment rose to 14.7% in April, again the worst rate since the Great Depression ([BBC 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr5-0309816820982381)). Moreover, in August, the real unemployment rate, which includes underemployed and marginally attached to the labour market, reached 16.8% ([Hindery 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/" \l "bibr28-0309816820982381)), with a significant number of disproportionately women and minority workers facing permanent job loss ([Data Speaks 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr14-0309816820982381)).

A number of authors on the Left, who have warned of this crisis even before Covid-19 detonated it, argued that the pandemic has brought to light the underlying weaknesses of the neoliberal capital accumulation model in terms of investment, productivity and growth. These had all been left unresolved in the aftermath of the 2008 Recession ([Harvey 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr26-0309816820982381); [Lapavitsas 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/" \l "bibr32-0309816820982381); [Roberts 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr45-0309816820982381)). While delivering harsh austerity to people across the globe, the last decade has seen the transformation of failed ‘privatised Keynesianism’ policy regime ([Crouch 2009](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr13-0309816820982381)), reliant on private debt, to a policy of a ‘quantitative easing ad infinitum’. Simply put, central banks provided cheap money to commercial banks for loans to big corporations, which used them, not to create jobs, but to buy back their own stock and so enrich their shareholders. The gravity of an increasingly exhausted real economy was bound to kick in. The gap between promised value of financial capital gains and the insufficient production of surplus value has become unsustainable even in the eyes of the investor class ([Toussaint 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr61-0309816820982381)). In fact, during the last quarter of 2019, the US Federal Reserve had to calm the financial markets with massive injections of liquidity. German industrial production fell to its lowest levels since 2008, as did China’s economic growth.

So, states intervened and started acting as buyer, employer and creditor of last resort. No neoliberal taboo was left unbroken: from a 1,200 dollars per person government giveaway in the United States; nationalisation of payrolls across the Europe; different credit guarantee schemes suspension of mortgage payments and additional funding (48.5 billion pounds) for the NHS, public services and charities in the United Kingdom; expanded childcare benefits for low-income parents and basic income support for the self-employed in Germany; tax and utility bill holidays, and nationalisations of ailing companies in France ([International Monetary Fund [IMF] 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr29-0309816820982381)); to government takeovers of Alitalia airline in Italy ([Roberts & Leali 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr46-0309816820982381)) and hospitals in Ireland ([TheJournal.ie 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/#bibr60-0309816820982381)). In a passage summing up ‘the return of the state’ interpretation of these developments, one author writes:

The age of neoliberalism, in terms of the primacy of market interests over all other social interests, is coming to an end . . . After four decades of neoliberal scepticism about the state, a long-forgotten fact is coming to the light: that nation states still have enormous creative power, if only they are willing to use it. ([Saxer 2020](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7770495/" \l "bibr52-0309816820982381))

### Impact

#### Neolib capitalism is the greatest impact—root cause of Covid-- it’s the greatest existential threat and the biggest affront to human rights and causes catastrophic healthcare crises, climate change, structural racism, and value to life deprivation. Litany of recent studies prove that transition is possible and would save humanity, but requires urgent divestment from current modes of politics

Ahmed 20 (Nafeez Ahmed -- Visiting Research Fellow at the Global Sustainability Institute at Anglia Ruskin University's Faculty of Science & Technology + M.A. in contemporary war & peace studies + DPhil (April 2009) in international relations from the School of Global Studies @ Sussex University, “Capitalism is Destroying ‘Safe Operating Space’ for Humanity, Warn Scientists”, https://www.resilience.org/stories/2020-06-24/capitalism-is-destroying-safe-operating-space-for-humanity-warn-scientists/, 24 June 2020, EmmieeM)

The COVID19 pandemic has exposed a strange anomaly in the global economy. If it doesn’t keep growing endlessly, it just breaks. Grow, or die.

But there’s a deeper problem. New scientific research confirms that capitalism’s structural obsession with endless growth is destroying the very conditions for human survival on planet Earth.

A landmark study in the journal Nature Communications, “Scientists’ warning on affluence” — by scientists in Australia, Switzerland and the UK — concludes that the most fundamental driver of environmental destruction is the overconsumption of the super-rich.

This factor lies over and above other factors like fossil fuel consumption, industrial agriculture and deforestation: because it is overconsumption by the super-rich which is the chief driver of these other factors breaching key planetary boundaries.

The paper notes that the richest 10 percent of people are responsible for up to 43 percent of destructive global environmental impacts.

In contrast, the poorest 10 percent in the world are responsible just around 5 percent of these environmental impacts:

The new paper is authored by Thomas Wiedmann of UNSW Sydney’s School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Manfred Lenzen of the University of Sydney’s School of Physics, Lorenz T. Keysser of ETH Zürich’s Department of Environmental Systems Science, and Julia K. Steinberger of Leeds University’s School of Earth and Environment.

It confirms that global structural inequalities in the distribution of wealth are intimately related to an escalating environmental crisis threatening the very existence of human societies.

Synthesising knowledge from across the scientific community, the paper identifies capitalism as the main cause behind “alarming trends of environmental degradation” which now pose “existential threats to natural systems, economies and societies.” The paper concludes:

“It is clear that prevailing capitalist, growth-driven economic systems have not only increased affluence since World War II, but have led to enormous increases in inequality, financial instability, resource consumption and environmental pressures on vital earth support systems.”

Capitalism and the pandemic

Thanks to the way capitalism works, the paper shows, the super-rich are incentivised to keep getting richer — at the expense of the health of our societies and the planet overall.

The research provides an important scientific context for how we can understand many earlier scientific studies revealing that industrial expansion has hugely increased the risks of new disease outbreaks.

Just last April, a paper in Landscape Ecology found that deforestation driven by increased demand for consumption of agricultural commodities or beef have increased the probability of ‘zoonotic’ diseases (exotic diseases circulating amongst animals) jumping to humans. This is because industrial expansion, driven by capitalist pressures, has intensified the encroachment of human activities on wildlife and natural ecosystems.

Two years ago, another study in Frontiers of Microbiology concluded presciently that accelerating deforestation due to “demographic growth” and the associated expansion of “farming, logging, and hunting”, is dangerously transforming rural environments. More bat species carrying exotic viruses have ended up next to human dwellings, the study said. This is increasing “the risk of transmission of viruses through direct contact, domestic animal infection, or contamination by urine or faeces.”

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the COVID19 pandemic thus emerged directly from these rapidly growing impacts of human activities. As the new paper in Nature Communications confirms, these impacts have accelerated in the context of the fundamental operations of industrial capitalism.

Eroding the ‘safe operating space’

The result is that capitalism is causing human societies to increasingly breach key planetary boundaries, such as land-use change, biosphere integrity and climate change.

Remaining within these boundaries is essential to maintain what scientists describe as a “safe operating space” for human civilization. If those key ecosystems are disrupted, that “safe operating space” will begin to erode. The global impacts of the COVID19 pandemic are yet another clear indication that this process of erosion has already begun.

“The evidence is clear,” write Weidmann and his co-authors.

“Long-term and concurrent human and planetary wellbeing will not be achieved in the Anthropocene if affluent overconsumption continues, spurred by economic systems that exploit nature and humans. We find that, to a large extent, the affluent lifestyles of the world’s rich determine and drive global environmental and social impact. Moreover, international trade mechanisms allow the rich world to displace its impact to the global poor.”

The new scientific research thus confirms that the normal functioning of capitalism is eroding the ‘safe space’ by which human civilisation is able to survive.

The structures

The paper also sets out how this is happening in some detail. The super-rich basically end up driving this destructive system forward in three key ways.

Firstly, they are directly responsible for “biophysical resource use… through high consumption.”

Secondly, they are “members of powerful factions of the capitalist class.”

Thirdly, due to that positioning, they end up “driving consumption norms across the population.”

But perhaps the most important insight of the paper is not that this is purely because the super-rich are especially evil or terrible compared to the rest of the population — but because of the systemic pressures produced by capitalist structures.

The authors point out that: “Growth imperatives are active at multiple levels, making the pursuit of economic growth (net investment, i.e. investment above depreciation) a necessity for different actors and leading to social and economic instability in the absence of it.”

At the core of capitalism, the paper observes, is a fundamental social relationship defining the way working people are systemically marginalised from access to the productive resources of the earth, along with the mechanisms used to extract these resources and produce goods and services.

This means that to survive economically in this system, certain behavioural patterns become not just normalised, but seemingly entirely rational — at least from a limited perspective that ignores wider societal and environmental consequences. In the words of the authors:

“In capitalism, workers are separated from the means of production, implying that they must compete in labour markets to sell their labour power to capitalists in order to earn a living.”

Meanwhile, firms which own and control these means of production “need to compete in the market, leading to a necessity to reinvest profits into more efficient production processes to minimise costs (e.g. through replacing human labour power with machines and positive returns to scale), innovation of new products and/or advertising to convince consumers to buy more.”

If a firm fails to remain competitive through such behaviours, “it either goes bankrupt or is taken over by a more successful business. Under normal economic conditions, this capitalist competition is expected to lead to aggregate growth dynamics.”

The irony is that, as the paper also shows, the “affluence” accumulated by the super-rich isn’t correlated with happiness or well-being.

Restructure

The “hegemonic” dominance of global capitalism, then, is the principal obstacle to the systemic transformation needed to reduce overconsumption. So it’s not enough to simply try to “green” current consumption through technologies like renewable energy — we need to actually reduce our environmental impacts by changing our behaviours with a focus on cutting back our use of planetary resources:

“Not only can a sufficient decoupling of environmental and detrimental social impacts from economic growth not be achieved by technological innovation alone, but also the profit-driven mechanism of prevailing economic systems prevents the necessary reduction of impacts and resource utilisation per se.”

The good news is that it doesn’t have to be this way.

The paper reviews a range of “bottom-up studies” showing that dramatic reductions in our material footprint are perfectly possible while still maintaining good material living standards.

In India, Brazil and South Africa, “decent living standards” can be supported “with around 90 percent less per-capita energy use than currently consumed in affluent countries.” Similar possible reductions are feasible for modern industrial economies such as Australia and the US.

By becoming aware of how the wider economic system incentivises behaviour that is destructive of human societies and planetary ecosystems critical for human survival, both ordinary workers and more wealthy sectors — including the super-rich — can work toward rewriting the global economic operating system.

This can be done by restructuring ownership in firms, equalising relations with workers, and intentionally reorganising the way decisions are made about investment priorities.

The paper points out that citizens and communities have a crucial role to play in getting organised, upgrading efforts for public education about these key issues, and experimenting with new ways to work together in bringing about “social tipping points” — points at which social action can catalyse mass change.

While a sense of doom and apathy about the prospects for such change is understandable, mounting evidence based on systems science suggests that global capitalism as we know it is in a state of protracted crisis and collapse that began some decades ago. This research strongly supports the view that as industrial civilization reaches the last stages of its systemic life-cycle, there is unprecedented and increasing opportunity for small-scale actions and efforts to have large system-wide impacts.

The new paper shows that the need for joined-up action is paramount: structural racism, environmental crisis, global inequalities are not really separate crises — but different facets of human civilization’s broken relationship with nature.

Yet, of course, the biggest takeaway is that those who bear most responsibility for environmental destruction — those who hold the most wealth in our societies — urgently need to wake up to how their narrow models of life are, quite literally, destroying the foundations for human survival over the coming decades.

#### Global Capitalism is the root cause of ecological crisis and makes extinction and ongoing violence inevitable – only total rejection of the system solves

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Capitalism is the Root Cause of Ecological Crisis Before the birth of the capitalist mode of production, environmental problem was but a regional one, which, in most cases, had only a minor and partial negative impact on the human society. But, in several hundred years of capitalist globalization and in the process of “conquering nature” by the capitalist mode of production, the environmental problem has been becoming more and more serious and ravaging the world. Nature occasionally brings up its sword of Damocles and retaliates on humanity. With the progress of the Western-dominated globalization, some global environmental problems become increasingly serious. According to 1998 data from World Wide Fund For Nature, the Earth lost 1/3 of the natural resources from 1970 to 1995; freshwater index decreased by 50%; the marine ecosystem index fell by 30%; the world's forest area declined by 10%.According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization statistics, the annual tropical deforestation rate is about 0.7% and still in constant acceleration. Rain forest reduction results in floods and climate change, especially the rampant El Nino Phenomenon, as well as the destruction of biodiversity, and so on. The extensive use of Freon and other substances results in the growing Antarctic ozone hole, which makes creatures on earth facing more and more serious threat from solar ultraviolet radiation; massive emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases exacerbate the existing “greenhouse effect”, causing global climate to rise and making glaciers melt and sea levels rise; the earth’s organisms are being destroyed and desertification is developing rapidly. In this case, human beings are probably losing natural respiratory organs and their survival base. That Hundreds of years of capitalist accumulation of capital has damaged or destroyed the natural ecological environment is obvious. No one has made specific statistics of this destruction. Today’s economic and technological achievements the Western world has reached, result, in a certain sense, from the plundering of the Third World resources and destruction of the Third World ecology by the West monopoly bourgeoisie for several centuries. The Western capitalist industrial civilization has created a global economy and brought the world into an unprecedented new era of rapid economic development, and has also brought unprecedented “ecological deficit” and “environmental overdraft” to humans, especially to the Third World. The price the Third World countries have paid for the development and prosperity of the West is innumerable. In a world with limited supply, the more the West demands, the less the Third World will be left, either in natural resources or social needs. The irrational and unlimited expansion of social product demands of the West has not only caused a lot of pressure on their own environment, but also lead to the destruction of the environment of the third world countries by recklessly plundering natural resources. Currently, the West, with 20% of the world's population, consumes 80% of the world's total resources and continues to leave the major negative impacts of ecological damages to the Third World. According to a World Wide Fund For Nature report on October 1, 1998, the world lost nearly 1/3 of the natural wealth from 1970 to 1995.Human production activities and consumption on natural resources such as land, minerals, fish, timber and fresh water, as well as emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants, have led to natural environment pressures, most of which have been caused by the Western countries. The British magazine New Statesman issued an article on October 16, 1998 saying that “It’s the poor that do the suffering...while the rich do all the protesting”. The environmental toll of poverty is enormous and growing. All over the world, the poor account for the most deaths from pollution, and are by far the greatest victims of the degradation of the natural world. The wood consumption in papermaking in the 1990s only was twice as much as that in the 1950s. The consumption of paper products in U.S., Japan and Europe accounts for 2/3 of the world's total, while the lumber used comes almost entirely from the Third World. The best example might be that Japan has the highest forest coverage rate in the world, while its needs for woods are being met mainly through the rain forest deforestation of Southeast Asia. With the enhancement of environmental protection consciousness and the improvement of environmental standards, some sunset industries with high energy consumption and heavy pollution in the Western countries are difficult to survive, so the Western developed countries capitalize the desires of the third world countries to eagerly develop the economy, to make cross-border transfers of pollution industries, resulting in the global expansion of contamination. The Third World countries thus become the “pollution havens”. In order to pursue development, the Third World countries are forced to swallow the bitter pill of the ecological crisis ∂ both at home and abroad. They have already got into trouble because of lack of resources and environmental pollution before achieving a highspeed, high-quality development. U.S. futurist Alvin Toffler made a profound description of the capitalist ecological crisis caused by the capitalist civilization: “Never before did any civilization create the means for literally destroying not a city but a planet. Never did whole oceans face toxification, whole species vanish overnight from the earth as a result of human greed or inadvertence; never did mines scar the earth's surface so savagely; never did hair-spray aerosols deplete the ozone layer, or thermo pollution threaten the planetary climate”. Toffler’s description shows us the devastating ecological consequences brought about by the capitalist-led globalization. Numerous facts have proved that the capitalist system is the real root cause of human environmental crisis. Awareness of this issue will affect the prospects for mankind. As the American scholar Paul Sweezy said: “Already, a very large section of the world’s scientific community is fully aware of the seriousness of the ecological threat facing the planet, but what is not widely recognized is that the cause of the threat is capitalism itself. Bourgeois economics seeks to hide or deny this fact. No wonder. If it were generally understood, capitalism would soon be identified for what it is, the mortal enemy of human kind and many other forms of life on the planet. In these circumstances, our responsibility is not only to help the ecologists to get their message across, important as it is, but to convince the ecologists themselves as well as the public at large of the truth about capitalism, that it must be replaced by a social system that puts the life giving capacity of the earth as its first and highest priority. As the unfolding of capitalism's deadly consequences proceeds, more and more people, including 'bourgeois ideologists who have raised themselves to the level of understanding the historical movement as a whole,' will come to see what has to be done if our species is to have any future at all. Our job is to help bring this about in the shortest possible time”. A New Social Order is needed Capitalism is an economic system that pursues endless growth, which requires the use of ever-greater quantities of resources. Thus, the tendency of capital is to violate the natural conditions, undermining the base on which ecological and human sustainability depends. The global reach of capital is creating an ecological crisis all over the world. But, capitalism can't solve this problem by itself. Just as Brett Clark and Richard York (2008) clearly revealed: “A fundamental structural crisis cannot be remedied within the operations of the system”. This is because that “capital shows no signs of slowing down, given its rapacious character. The current ecological crisis has been in the making for a long time and the most serious effects of continuing with business as usual will not fall on present but rather future generations”. “Capitalism is incapable of regulating its social metabolism with nature in an environmentally sustainable manner. Its very operations violate the laws of restitution and metabolic restoration. The solution to each environmental problem generates new environmental problems (while often not curtailing the old ones). One crisis follows another, in an endless succession of failure, stemming from the internal contradictions of the system”. In this case, “if we are to solve our environmental crises, we need to go to the root of the problem: the social relation of capital itself, given that this social metabolic order undermines the vital conditions of existence.” Brett Clark and Richard York, then, came to a conclusion that to resolve the ecological crisis “requires a complete break with the logic of capital and the social metabolic order it creates”. They are not alone in this conclusion. Professor Fred Magdoff (2013) stated more categorically that capitalism, “the system of the accumulation of capital, must go—sooner rather than later.” He further pointed out: “just radically transcending a system that harms the environment and many of the world’s people is not enough. In its place people must create a socio-economic system that has as its very purpose the meeting of everyone’s basic material and nonmaterial needs, which, of course, includes healthy local, regional, and global ecosystems.” This system, without doubt, will has the creation of a harmonious civilization as its goal; it will get rid of all the troubles and problems capitalism causes. In Fred Magdoff's opinion (2012), the harmonious civilization exactly consists in socialism, in which economy and politics are under social control. It’s characteristic of this civilization and socialism that communities strive for self regulation by meaningful democratic processes; self sufficiency for critical life needs; economic equality in which everyone has their basic human material needs—but no more—met; and application of ecological approaches to production, living, and transportation. In construction of a harmonious civilization, to correctly handle the relationship between man and nature is closely related to human survival and development, and also involves the country's sustainable economic development. One of the main problems of the highly developed western countries is that they can't effectively handle the conflict between the boundless demands of man and the environmental carrying capacity and the finiteness of natural resources. Only by properly handling the relationship between man and nature, and scientific development and planned control, could we find a way out for the ∂ future. This, indeed, is the very reason why humans take socialism as the necessary and inevitable alternative to capitalism. Conclusion Contemporary ecological crisis has caused a series of serious global problems: global warming, ozone depletion, acid rain, water shortages, soil degradation, solid waste pollution, species extinction, loss of forests and so on; All these problems have threatened human survival and development. The harsh reality forces people to re-examine the relationship between man and nature, rethink the behavior of human beings, to explore the root causes of the ecological crisis. The appearance of the ecological crisis is not only linked with natural relations in practice, but also with social relations. In the primitive communist society, people lived in the original relationship of equality and there was no interest differentiation. People worked together and enjoyed things together. In this social relationship, antihuman phenomenon generally didn't occur in nature, so there existed no ecological crisis. With the emergence of private ownership, the society split up into a variety of social classes, strata and groups, and each person could do anything for his own interests, thus inevitably strengthening nature's anti-human tendency and leading to ecological crisis. This situation has developed to its peak under capitalism. By its very nature, capitalism is an expansive system, so capitalism's pursuit of capital and value accumulation is limitless. To eliminate the ecological crisis, human beings must try to eliminate private ownership, class divisions, and interest antagonism. In such a social relationship, all the people's activities will be aimed at human free and allaround development, resulting in a harmonious relationship between man and nature, and in the long run, the ecological crisis will be controlled and overcome.

#### Our critique independently outweighs the case - neoliberalism causes extinction and massive social inequalities – the affs single issue legalistic solution is the exact kind of politics neolib wants us to engage in so the root cause to go unquestioned. Farbod 15

( Faramarz Farbod , PhD Candidate @ Rutgers, Prof @ Moravian College, Monthly Review, http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2015/farbod020615.html, 6-2)

Global capitalism is the 800-pound gorilla. The twin ecological and economic crises, militarism, the rise of the surveillance state, and a dysfunctional political system can all be traced to its normal operations. We need a transformative politics from below that can challenge the fundamentals of capitalism instead of today's politics that is content to treat its symptoms. The problems we face are linked to each other and to the way a capitalist society operates. We must make an effort to understand its real character. The fundamental question of our time is whether we can go beyond a system that is ravaging the Earth and secure a future with dignity for life and respect for the planet. What has capitalism done to us lately? The best science tells us that this is a do-or-die moment. We are now in the midst of the 6th mass extinction in the planetary history with 150 to 200 species going extinct every day, a pace 1,000 times greater than the 'natural' extinction rate.1 The Earth has been warming rapidly since the 1970s with the 10 warmest years on record all occurring since 1998.2 The planet has already warmed by 0.85 degree Celsius since the industrial revolution 150 years ago. An increase of 2° Celsius is the limit of what the planet can take before major catastrophic consequences. Limiting global warming to 2°C requires reducing global emissions by 6% per year. However, global carbon emissions from fossil fuels increased by about 1.5 times between 1990 and 2008.3 Capitalism has also led to explosive social inequalities. The global economic landscape is littered with rising concentration of wealth, debt, distress, and immiseration caused by the austerity-pushing elites. Take the US. The richest 20 persons have as much wealth as the bottom 150 million.4 Since 1973, the hourly wages of workers have lagged behind worker productivity rates by more than 800%.5 It now takes the average family 47 years to make what a hedge fund manager makes in one hour.6 Just about a quarter of children under the age of 5 live in poverty.7 A majority of public school students are low-income.8 85% of workers feel stress on the job.9 Soon the only thing left of the American Dream will be a culture of hustling to survive. Take the global society. The world's billionaires control $7 trillion, a sum 77 times the debt owed by Greece to the European banks.10 The richest 80 possess more than the combined wealth of the bottom 50% of the global population (3.5 billion people).11 By 2016 the richest 1% will own a greater share of the global wealth than the rest of us combined.12 The top 200 global corporations wield twice the economic power of the bottom 80% of the global population.13 Instead of a global society capitalism is creating a global apartheid. What's the nature of the beast? Firstly, the "egotistical calculation" of commerce wins the day every time. Capital seeks maximum profitability as a matter of first priority. Evermore "accumulation of capital" is the system's bill of health; it is slowdowns or reversals that usher in crises and set off panic. Cancer-like hunger for endless growth is in the system's DNA and is what has set it on a tragic collision course with Nature, a finite category. Secondly, capitalism treats human labor as a cost. It therefore opposes labor capturing a fair share of the total economic value that it creates. Since labor stands for the majority and capital for a tiny minority, it follows that classism and class warfare are built into its DNA, which explains why the "middle class" is shrinking and its gains are never secure. Thirdly, private interests determine massive investments and make key decisions at the point of production guided by maximization of profits. That's why in the US the truck freight replaced the railroad freight, chemicals were used extensively in agriculture, public transport was gutted in favor of private cars, and big cars replaced small ones. What should political action aim for today? The political class has no good ideas about how to address the crises. One may even wonder whether it has a serious understanding of the system, or at least of ways to ameliorate its consequences. The range of solutions offered tends to be of a technical, legislative, or regulatory nature, promising at best temporary management of the deepening crises. The trajectory of the system, at any rate, precludes a return to its post-WWII regulatory phase. It's left to us as a society to think about what the real character of the system is, where we are going, and how we are going to deal with the trajectory of the system -- and act accordingly. The critical task ahead is to build a transformative politics capable of steering the system away from its destructive path. Given the system's DNA, such a politics from below must include efforts to challenge the system's fundamentals, namely, its private mode of decision-making about investments and about what and how to produce. Furthermore, it behooves us to heed the late environmentalist Barry Commoner's insistence on the efficacy of a strategy of prevention over a failed one of control or capture of pollutants. At a lecture in 1991, Commoner remarked: "Environmental pollution is an incurable disease; it can only be prevented"; and he proceeded to refer to "a law," namely: "if you don't put a pollutant in the environment it won't be there." What is nearly certain now is that without democratic control of wealth and social governance of the means of production, we will all be condemned to the labor of Sisyphus. Only we won't have to suffer for all eternity, as the degradation of life-enhancing natural and social systems will soon reach a point of no return**.**

### Alt

#### The alternative is to decentralize global trade. A pluralistic global system allows for flexible industrial development while avoiding the pitfalls of centralized neoliberalism. Alternative indicts are unfounded fearmongering.

Bello 99 [(Walden, Filipino academic, environmentalist, and social worker who served as a member of the House of Representatives of the Philippines.) “Why Reform of the WTO is the Wrong Agenda” Focus on Trade, No. 43, December 1999, <https://www.tni.org/my/node/6851>] TDI

Building a More Pluralistic System of International Trade Governance

If there is one thing that is clear, it is that developing country governments and international civil society must not allow their energies to be hijacked into reforming these institutions. This will only amount to administering a facelift to fundamentally flawed institutions. Indeed, today's need is not another centralized global institution, reformed or unreformed, but the deconcentration and decentralization of institutional power and the creation of a pluralistic system of institutions and organizations interacting with one another amidst broadly defined and flexible agreements and understandings.

It was under such a more pluralistic global system, where hegemonic power was still far from institutionalized in a set of all encompassing and powerful multilateral organizations that the Latin American countries and many Asian countries were able to achieve a modicum of industrial development in the period from 1950-70. It was under a more pluralistic world system, under a GATT that was limited in its power, flexible, and more sympathetic to the special status of developing countries, that the East and Southeast Asian countries were able to become newly industrializing countries through activist state trade and industrial policies that departed significantly from the free-market biases enshrined in the WTO.

The alternative to a powerful WTO is not a Hobbesian state of nature. It is always the powerful that have stoked this fear. The reality of international economic relations in a world marked by a multiplicity of international and regional institutions that check one another is a far cry from the propaganda image of a 'nasty' and 'brutish' world. Of course, the threat of unilateral action by the powerful is ever present in such a system, but it is one that even the powerful hesitate to take for fear of its consequences on their legitimacy as well as the reaction it would provoke in the form of opposing coalitions.

In other words, what developing countries and international civil society should aim at is not to reform the WTO but, through a combination of passive and active measures, to radically reduce its power and to make it simply another international insitution coexisting with and being checked by other international organizations, agreements, and regional groupings. These would include such diverse actors and institutions as UNCTAD, multilateral environmental agreements, the International Labor Organization (ILO), evolving trde blocs such as Mercosur in Latin America, SAARC in South Asia, SADCC in Southern Africa, and ASEAN in Southeast Asia. It is in such a more fluid, less structured, more pluralistic world with multiple checks and balances that the nations and communities of the South will be able to carve out the space to develop based on their values, their rhythms, and the strategies of their choice.

### Other cap cards

#### Even if they win our alt doesn’t solve you vote negative – capitalism and neolib frames decision making – radically breaking away from the way the status quo produces knowledge is key to solving oppression

**De Angelis 3** (Massimo, Dept of Economics at East London, The commoner, http://www.ainfos.ca/03/jan/ainfos00479.html)

Once we acknowledge the existence of the galaxy of alternatives as they emerge from concrete needs and aspirations, we can ground today's new political discourse in the thinking and practice of the actualization and the coordination of alternatives, so as each social node and each individual within it has the power to decide and take control over their lives. It is this actualization and this coordination that rescues existing alternatives from the cloud of their **invisibility**, because alternatives, as with any human product, are social products, and they need to be **recognized** and **validated socially**. Our political projects must push their way through beyond the existing forms of coordination, beyond the visible fist of the state, beyond the invisible hand of competitive markets, and beyond the hard realities of their interconnections that express themselves in today forms of neoliberal governance, promoting cooperation through competition and community through disempowerment. As I will argue, this new political discourse is based on the project of defending and extending the space of commons, at the same time building and strengthening communities through the social fields.