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Why You Should Care

Free Trade Economics is a fraud

The present economic meltdown has exposed the corporate globalization/financial deregulation/trickle-down economic model as a fraud perpetrated on the peoples of the world so a few can get rich by exploiting workers, communities and the earth.

Happiness is on the Decline

It's a lie that our consumer culture creates happiness. Over the past fifty years, as World Gross Domestic Product has risen, self-rated happiness has decreased and rates of depression, suicide, and anti-depressant drug use by our youth have increased, while massive poverty has remained a chronic problem.

Free Traders are Pushing Deregulation

Citicorp, AIG, American Express and the US Coalition of Service Industries is pushing the US Trade Representative and the World Trade Organization to forbid regulation of financial industries. They have also gotten the US to propose to its global trading partners that it will never repeal the Glass Steagall Act, which means that commercial banks will always be able to trade in risky financial instruments while still being protected by the taxpayers.

No One is Responsible for the Earth

Free market theory absolves everyone of responsibility for their actions and proposes that an invisible hand guarantees an optimum outcome for all. This practice forbids anyone from being a responsible steward of the land and prohibits concerned citizens from taking actions to either support the maintenance of a healthy atmosphere or stop the depletion of natural resources.

Community is Fun

We can live lightly on the earth and be happier by spending more time with friends and family, by treasuring nature's gifts, and by breathing deeply with the breath of Gaia.



What You Can Do

On a Personal Level

- Take a moment and think about what really makes you happy. How can you create more time for more of those happy moments?
- Take up the motto, "More fun, less stuff."
- Buy your food from local farmers and eat by the season; Grow some of your own food, digging in the soil with your grandkids or neighbor kids.
- Put your money in a community bank.

On a Community Level

- Learn more about local currencies. Begin with time dollars to build a core of people thinking locally and exchanging local services. Then when you have a good local exchange going, begin to explore a local currency and invite speakers from towns where they have local currencies. For list, go to www.smallisbeautiful.org/local_currencies/currency_groups.html
- Find out where the closest consumer or worker cooperative is located; arrange a field trip.
- Invite your neighborhood to a meeting to talk about your dreams for your neighborhood. What's missing? Would time dollars or a cooperative enterprise help realize your dreams?

On a State Level

- Tell your state legislature and your governor that you want:
- A state bank like North Dakota;
 - More support for local economies from community gardens to farmers' markets;
 - More support for de-centralized alternative energy.

On a National Level

- Tell your Congressional delegation and President Obama that you want:
- No more banks too big to fail;
 - Reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act;
 - More funding for cooperative banks;
 - A stop to all negotiations on WTO/GATS financial services.