Free Trade: Alternatives, Actors and Resistance

Modern world trade has its roots in colonialism and is determined by the economic interests of powerful governments and transnational corporations. Free trade is a trade policy that is supposed to bring more growth and prosperity for everyone involved. But who really benefits from it and at what cost? We examine how and why free trade came about, how trade could be made fairer and highlight movements that oppose the current world trade order.

Overview

Global Trade and Its Colonial Legacy

When trading on the global market, one question is crucial: who actually sets the rules? Because whoever has the say can use this to their advantage. Over the last 500 years, the Global North has created a world economy in which the needs of the Global North determine the economic activities of the Global South. Colonial trade relations are therefore not an issue of the past - they can still be observed in international trade today. Free trade agreements and bilateral investment agreements are an important instrument used by transnational corporations to assert their interests in the Global South at the expense of people and their environment.

What is Free Trade?

Free trade initially sounds as if trading partners are free to set their own rules. However, free trade means that there are no trade restrictions on the exchange of goods between two different partners. This means, for example, that there are no tariffs when goods are imported or exported acros a border.

However, which rules make trade more difficult or easier is always a question of perspective and power. Some countries use protectionism as a trade policy. In a way, it is the opposite of free trade because the government uses it to protect domestic industries from foreign competition, e.g. by imposing taxes.

What Is Problematic About Free Trade?

For the Global South, free trade agreements force countries to compete with each other to attract foreign investors by deregulating their markets; in the process sacrificing people's rights and lowering the costs of production which only benefits corporations.

Explore the history of free trade and invest agreements, from its colonial roots all the way until its neoliberal form in the following timeline.

Free Trade: From Colonialism to Neoliberalism

1300 — 1400

The rise of merchants and domestic markets

The linkage between local and international trade in Western Europe towards the end of the Middle Ages was very different compared to today. Local markets primarily focused on the basic needs of the local population with almost 90% of wat the rural population consumed was produced within a five kilometers radius. Only 1% came from abroad even though this was the part that was most profitable. Trade serves mainly two purposes: it allows people to

exchange goods for other products that aren’t available to them and it is also a means by which profit gains can be made on initial investments. Growing markets help achieve those ends by providing a space where more and more can be sold. Bourgeois merchants therefore wanted to abolish barriers preventing them to trade freely and hindering the growth of domestic markets, so that they could sell and exchange goods they purchased from faraway lands. At the same time, the feudal system was transitioning to a centralized state under a ruler. To maintain their private wealth and power, it was in the interest of the bourgeoisie to align themselves with emerging states, who in turn were looking to to assert their authority nationally.

1400 - 1500

An alliance between capitalists and the state emerges

Around the 15th century, European states came upon the idea that they had to export more than they imported in order to pour in gold and silver into the country and increase their national wealth and power. This is called mercantilism and served the interests of the states as well as those of the merchants. The Lords therefore promoted domestic companies in order to manufacture export goods while imports were banned or subjected to high tariffs. The unification of the state also opened up local markets for the merchants and enabled the private ownership of capital goods and its distribution by competition in a free market. In the 17th century, as some of the big European powers of England, France and Netherlands were involved in conflicts, they were in need of money and international networks which the merchants and financiers could provide. Thus, capitalists acquired more influence in the state and through international trade, the lords of the states could assert their power internationally. The invasions of new lands being carried out by European states benefited both the states and the merchants.

1500 - 1700

European powers and large corporations set off to conquer new territories

From the 15th and 16th centuries, Europe spread it’s political and commercial supremacy through conquests of foreign territories. Then, an international body of law was created by the colonizers, establishing new legal regimes for trade and investment in the conquered territories and giving them extensive powers. Colonialism was primarily driven by large corporations in the colonizing states, such as the East India Company, the Dutch East India Company and the

Hudson Bay Company. Major colonial companies were granted sovereign powers and privileges to carry out their activities in conquered territories. The colonial companies carried out their commercial objectives, which were primarily the trade of goods, products and other riches found in the colonized regions. The companies also acted as agents of their home states and fulfilled their imperial interests of maintaining and extending economical and military power and controlling the local indigenous populations. In the process, there was almost no distinction between private and state interests on the one hand and trade and war on the other hand.

1700 - 1800

Europe establishes it's dominance and control globally

In the 18th century, the expansion of colonialism was used to secure the protection of foreign-owned property and trade, and thus enabling Europe to remain powerful and control resources and wealth globally. Colonial powers made sure ‘freedom to trade’ was a internationally binding legal right and that the use of military force was legitimate in case of violations. While imperial law settled disputes in favor of the colonizer who had made the investment, the use of force was another means of protecting commercial interests and investments. This resulted in unequal treaties, the predecessor of free trade agreements, being imposed on non-European states by colonial powers. The understanding of Europeans of the colonized lands and the indigenous people could be seen in their military invasion and expansion. Local people were excluded from the rules of international law that prevented them from addressing the damage and suffering caused, for example, by imperial resource extraction and the displacement of indigenous communities. These perceptions can still be witnessed today in the way foreign investment is regulated in the Global South, as the grievances of local communities are largely ignored.

1750 - 1820

Free trade theory emerges in Britain

In the late 18th and early 19th century, free trade economic theory was founded and advocated by two British economists Adam Smith (1723-1790) and David Ricardo (1772-1823), as a critique to mercantilism. For Smith, free trade was a variant of the division of labor. Each country should specialize in those products that it could produce best and cheapest. The question that

came up was: How can it be explained that industrialized countries tend to exchange goods that both regions produce? Ricardo addressed this question in his theory of “comparative cost advantage”, which is the basis of modern free trade. Ricardo suggested that trade is supposed to generate wealth for countries in an economic relationship by reducing or abolishing tariffs on imported goods, thus leading to a win-win situation for all. He concluded that countries should specialize in the export of goods, which they can manufacture most productively and at comparatively cheaper prices and purchase other goods in exchange.

1760 - 1900

Free trade: an instrument for the powerful

The Industrial Revolution began from 1760 onward in England, bringing rapid technological progress. Neighboring European states and the USA wanted to catch up technologically as quickly as possible. They started poaching British technicians and secretly importing and copying British machines. At the same time, high customs barriers ensured that their own industrial companies were protected against the superior British competition. Protectionism, not free trade was the way forward for these countries. The Americans only reduced their tariffs from 1950s when they were the global economic superpower. Free Trade thus became an ideology and instrument used by powerful countries. Tariffs were only abolished when one's own industry was among the global market leaders and no longer had to fear market competition. The British were therefore the first to switch to free trade in the middle of the 19th century. Smaller developing countries are dependent on global free trade to find sufficiently large markets for their products, but because they are technologically inferior and have to compete with each other, they cannot protect themselves against competition from industrialized countries. Asymmetric power relations forces developing countries to sign free trade agreements and WTO treaties that provide for lower tariffs and further perpetuates an asymmetrical system.

1890 - 1920

New legal mechanisms give private companies exclusive rights

In the late 19th and early 20th century, Western legal systems were imposed with concession contracts. Under these contracts, which were sometime signed for long periods of time, private companies or individuals were given exclusive rights to extract resources or to carry out economic activities in the colonies on behalf of the colonial state. In return, colonial powers received a percentage of the profits which was protected by colonial laws of the investors host state and by military intervention. Foreign investors had many rights but no obligations, just like today. Such agreements were criticized by local communities because of their negative impact on the environment and livelihoods and also because all the profits went to the colony without benefiting them.

1940 - 1960

Western powers and companies look to protect their property and investments

As colonies gained independence, foreign investment contracts made their way into international agreements and were used by industrial countries in Europe and the US in bilateral and international trade treaties. They included stabilization clauses, also used today, preventing states from using their legislative or administrative rights in a manner that would adversely affect the investments. Countries in Africa and Asia wanted sovereignty of their national resources and foreign investment, and just like Latin American countries demanded that disputes should be resolved by domestic laws. Companies in former colonial powers and the US feared the expropriation of their investments and did not trust the rule of law in overseas territories, thus demanding a “neutral” forum to apply international law. Through international investment agreements, companies and foreign investors had the right to sue a sovereign state in a forum outside of that nation’s domestic courts. This kind of arbitration allowed legal systems to be compromised and showed that the interests of private companies were favored by rules in the international legal regime. In 1965, the International Center for Settlement and Disputes was formed for disputes between investors and states. It was criticized by Global South countries for the lack of transparency, the lack of attention to health or environmental protection and the bias towards investors.

1980 - 1990

Global North exerts their power and control with the help of neoliberalism

In the 1980s, structural adjustment programs by the World Bank and IMF aimed to liberalize economies of countries affected by debts and economic hardships, while promoting neoliberal capitalism. In the context of economic structures and processes, Western interest and control was exercised like in colonial times with the help of these institutions, by forcing countries to shift to free market programs and policies. The collapse of the USSR meant that countries in the Global South and Central and Eastern Europe needed to bring in foreign investments to liberalize their markets and show that they were not going the way of Communism. By 1990, 500 bilateral investment treaties had been signed and more than 2500 new ones emerged by 2010. Capital exporting states and their investors shape trade and investment rules, while ignoring populations in capital-importing countries. The economic structures and processes are controlled and determined by the World Bank and IMF, which are disproportionately represented by Global North countries.

Since 1994

Free trade prioritises corporate interests over social and environmental concerns

In 1994, the modern and comprehensive North American Free Trade Agreement, the first of it’s kind, was put into force. It contained extensive rules in favor of corporations. In 1995, the World Trade Organization was established to regulate international trade enabling rich industrialized countries to expand their trade advantages and maximize profits for corporations by dismantling trade barriers. Free trade and investment agreements sought to protect corporations from anything that devalues their investments and create a stable legal environment for them to do their business in other countries. In the structure, profits of investors and corporations are prioritized over environmental, health or labor standards.

2023

A world economy not very different from colonial times

Today, trade agreements put pressure on countries in the Global South to meet the demands of the rich countries, without any consideration for local, social and environmental concerns. Over the last 500 years, the way international trade has been developed, it has created an economy in which the needs of the center (former colonizers) determines the economic activities of the periphery (former colonies). Free trade agreements and policies limit the ability of Global South countries to promote their own domestic industries, allowing the rich countries to keep the peripheral countries in a position of subordination. The EU-Chile deal is an example of how the EU wants Chile to remain a supplier of low value-added raw materials rather than a seller of high value-added refined products. The mining sector is largely dominated by Western and Chinese companies and stimulated and protected by free trade agreements globally. It has characteristics of practices and methods used in colonial times, disregarding the livelihoods of the local people and the ecological impact on their environment while repatriating huge profits to the country where the company is located. In the same way, trade in food and agriculture in the last 30 years also implements free trade models which prioritize exports and drive agricultural production towards international markets. Former colonies are often times constrained to produce and export food to satisfy the demands of former colonizers, regardless of the needs of local populations. Such examples demonstrate how the power dynamics of trade still resemble the ones established in colonial times, with powerful corporations and former colonizers on top of the hierarchy.

Alternatives to Trade: Towards a social and ecological transformation

A vision of socio-ecological transformation in world trade requires fundamental changes in the mechanisms of the current economic system. While there is no comprehensive or easily applicable solution, radical ideas and alternatives to trade in the future need to have aspects of inclusiveness, sustainability, development, social concerns and so on integrated and prioritized over interests of powerful corporations and countries.

1. An essential aspect of an alternative trading system would be to address the uneven preconditions for trade relations and to be understanding towards the needs of the Global South by democratizing the entire world trade order.

2. The second aspect would be to force western industrialized countries to cut down their energy and resource consumption to meet demand and need while also preserving our natural livelihoods and planet.

3. The third aspect of reforming trade would be to take into account issues such as human rights and environmental protection and promote them instead of economic growth and profits.

How Can We Change Unfair Trade Relations?

Global trade system and capitalism go hand in hand, and have established a ruling system that is fundamentally rigged and exploitative. As both of them work within this logic, it comes with problems and challenges for activists looking to transform or abolish the system. The following conversation questions the current global trading system, illustrates progressive alternatives to trade relations, articulates the necessary changes to improve trade practices and relationships. The sentences of the human are marked in bold, the sentences of the pandas in normal text form.

Hello human! I am Polo, the panda.

Nice to meet you!

Hi Polo. What's up?

We just had a meeting with all the other animals on this planet to discuss the future of the earth, the role of humans, and your role in it. We are sorry we

couldn’t invite you, but we needed a safe space to discuss everything without any humans present.

Oh, I am sorry you didn't feel safe with us there, but I get it. I am curious to find out what you spoke about!

So, I am responsible for the topic of world trade. The way you people do business is just not feasible for the future. It creates injustice and destroys the planet. We invited a few members of indigenous communities and social and environmental movements to be a part of our council, and they told us that this problem is affecting them as much as it is affecting us. You are destroying our habitats.

Okay, I hear you, and I am sorry. But what should we do? I don’t have any answers!

There are a lot of possibilities! Trade impacts everything from food systems to working conditions to the environment. Tell me what interests you!

food

It's important that we end hunger and produce food that is healthy and good for smallholder farmers. To achieve that, the EU has to prioritize promoting food sovereignty.

What is food sovereignty?

That is a great question! The movement of food sovereignty promotes the human right to food and looks to increase civil society participation in the process.😊

If food sovereignty is achieved, everybody has the right to food, and food would not have to be an ordinary business commodity. Food providers should be valued, respected, and protected, and food systems should be localized. Additionally, local providers should treat the sources of food in a sustainable way, opposing the privatization of natural resources.

It is also important that local knowledge of providers has to be preserved for future generations, and people shouldn’t be shut out by intellectual property rights regimes or commercial contracts. It is crucial to work together with nature because ecosystems and their biodiversity provide the foundation of food sovereignty. They are crucial to fighting the climate crisis!

That doesn’t sound half bad. How can we achieve that?

I can’t give you concrete guidelines, but here are a few examples of what could be done.

We need to move away from free trade agreements, support regional markets, improve self-sufficiency, stop bio-fuel imports, support sustainable farming

practices in Europe as well as the global South, and strengthen measures against genetically modified organisms in European seeds and imports.

We could also use tariffs and quotas to ensure the survival of local agriculture systems, which are under pressure from highly transnationalized corporate giants, or even push for the regaining of economic sovereignty of nations.

However, in the end, the transformation towards food sovereignty can’t stand on its own. There needs to be a transformation of the current economic system.

Wow okay, that’s a lot of input…

Yes. Do you want to get to know more about the other topics, or do you want to come to an end?

workers and human rights

Governments must fulfill their duties to the people they represent, including the responsibilities to protect and fulfill their basic individual and collective rights. This way a genuine democracy is enabled, which respects the sovereign will of the people.

What does that mean for trade?

Well, to give an example: International human rights law and international labor laws must supersede trade and investment norms.

Additionally, multinational companies must comply with human rights standards implied by ILO conventions and ensure a fair living wage for workers in corporate supply chains. There must also be strong and effective sanctions against perpetrators of these laws for which companies must provide transparent access to information for claimants. And then, civil society organizations like NGOs and labor unions should be able to support lawsuits and provide resources.

What if the companies don’t comply?

To shift the focus on human rights instead of the economic interests of companies, the EU needs to change its trade policy to bring it in line with its own human rights commitments.

It needs toensure that trade agreements do not restrict the political space of other countries to create measures necessary for the enforcement of human rights; systematically integrate human rights into its sustainability impact assessments; and immediately terminate all trade agreements that violate human rights.

What about workers' rights?

To enable more decent jobs worldwide and promote trade policies in favor of workers’ rights, the EU needs to assess the impact of trade agreements on employment in advance and keep it under review.

They also need toenforce labor standards by introducing mechanisms that hold investors accountable and impose sanctions on violators, secure the right to form and join trade unions internationally, and guarantee the free movement of people.

Another issue is the concentration of technology in the hands of corporations, which gives them unprecedented power to manage, control, and oppress the labor and life of most people. Trade and investment restrictions are an instrument to regulate labor-destructive technology, but, at the same time, care-work has to be strengthened.

What does care-work have to do with all that?

The unpaid work of (mostly) women is not reflected in national economic indices such as GDP and, therefore, is made invisible in economic debates.

Care economics and the creation of social values and welfare need to be prioritized!

Care work is understood as invisible, mainly unpaid, work, for example, managing households and caring for people with special needs, children, sick people, and the elderly.

Also, to get rid of chains of capitalist wage labor, the idea of a universal basic income needs to be implemented.

Wow, that’s kinda extreme…

Well, that way no one could be exploited anymore or would have to live without their basic needs being met.

In general, there must be a reduction in weekly working hours in order to not just prevent unemployment but also to improve the quality of life, labor conditions, and care-taking possibilities.

sounds good enough!

Yes. Do you want to get to know more about the other topics, or do you want to come to an end?

climate

I guess I don’t have to tell you about the crisis that is called climate change. You would have to be living under a rock to not know what that is all about…

Yes, I am aware.

It is essentialfor a people’s trading system to fully recognize the importance of protecting the environment and safeguarding the Earth’s carrying capacity as key to sustainable development.

And how can we change the way we trade to protect the climate?

Well, well, well! Let’s start with the EU as a major contributor to the climate crisis. To radically reduce carbon emissions, the EU needs to **dismantle**its failed emissions trading system, set binding and stricter energy-saving targets by raising the emissions reduction target to at least 60% by 2030 andincrease investment in new processes and technologies that reduce emissions and create new jobs.

Additionally it needs to pay off its "climate debt" to the countries of the South, support the development of regional and sustainable supply chains in the South to ensure the development of a sound green economy that can sustain local communities, and support alternative intellectual property frameworks that promote regional green technologies.

Okay, but what about those big corporations? I hear they are great contributors as well…

True! Multinational companies have to abide by environmental compliance through laws on protection, precaution, damage elimination and be held responsible by having to pay for producing pollution and damaging the environment. Also, companies and actors responsible for purchasing and procurement should take responsibility on environmental compliance instead of shifting it along the supply chain.

That sounds reasonable.

Right? Not just reasonable, but inescapable.

But another point is that in the long term we have to change the common understanding of economic growth as something positive and even natural. Growth always comes with an increase in the throughput of energy and resources. Therefore, there must be a planned and organized conversion of economic sectors that are evidently ecologically destructive and do not provide human well-being, while favoring others, such as healthcare and education.

Okay, but I thought economic growth was important for the production of wealth...what about countries that are not that wealthy?

There is an urgency for high-income countries driving the consumption of resources and energy and exceeding their fair share to scale down. A reduction of resources in the Global North, with a special focus on primary commodities, is the key precondition for a more symmetrical economic relationship with the Global South.

From a Global South perspective, there must be a drastic reduction of resource and energy consumption by the Global North, which goes along with decolonization in terms of raw-material extraction and the exploitation of human labor and culture.

Okay, right. I can see that a lot of issues are connected with each other…

Exactly. Do you want to get to know more about the other topics or do you want to come to an end?

finance and economy

Okay, so we can talk about trade in regards to different aspects it affects, but of course, a major part of the problem is also how trade itself and the economic system are structured.

The global economic trade system creates the conditions for rich nations to exploit the world by systemically removing a government's capacity to regulate transnational corporations' activities and by eliminating all protective trade barriers on developing country trade goods.

The fundamental flaw of the WTO as a world trade system is that it operates on the framework of neoliberal globalization. The preconditions for the industrial structure have to be self-reliance and in harmony with environmental and social protection.

But are there alternatives?

Well, one idea would be the People’s Trade Agenda.

t proposes that alternative forms of international exchange are needed, based on solidarity and complementarity towards providing the needs of the population. A truly pro-people trade regime stands for equality, the utmost respect for each country’s national sovereignty and must be guided by the principle of non-interference.

Sounds very theoretical..

Good point. Let me try to give some examples.

The people's trade agenda aims to lay down the foundations of a strong economic base by regulating the financial sector, advancing genuine agrarian reform, and promoting the development of national industries instead of letting entire economies and governments give in to the interest of profit accumulation by large corporations and rich nations.

How would that work?

Solidarity, mutual cooperation, and complementarity among states – Economic trade and investment must not be treated as an end in itself. States should pursue a socially just world where cooperation among states is achieved on the basis of solidarity and in a manner that is compatible with each country's development strategies.

I mean, that sounds like utopia...but what would be some concrete actions that we could take?

So, first of all, the EU needs to end foreign investment agreements of its member states that violate the legal obligations of the recipient countries; respect, protect and fulfill human rights and ensure sustainable development; reserve the right to control capital; prevent tax evasion, and facilitate legal action against transnational corporations when they commit misconduct. That's how foreign investment could contribute to a fair and sustainable future for individuals, communities, and the planet.

Next, the financial sector needs to be regulated so that it provides basic services to all. To do that, the EU needs to make financial stability a public good, abolish tax havens, ensure that all regulations affecting the financial sector are transparent, and cancel existing trade agreements if they are aimed at liberalizing the financial sector.

That sounds like a plan!

Exactly! And, there should be free trade schemes in place for developing countries only or an intentional bias should be established towards poor countries. This could be done like the WTO member provisions, which provide free-market access on all goods to all developing countries either smaller or poorer than themselves (in terms of GDP and GDP per capita).

And last but not least: There must be a suspension of all existing trade agreements and a subsequent renegotiation that happens transparently, in public, and under democratic conditions.

It is so interesting what you have to say!

Yes, I mean economic trade and investment must not be treated as an end in itself. States should pursue a socially and ecologically just world where cooperation among states is achieved on the basis of solidarity and in a manner that is compatible with each country’s development strategies.

In an ideal world…

doesn't have to be fantasy...

Okay, that was a lot already… do you want to know more about the other topics or do you want to get to an end?

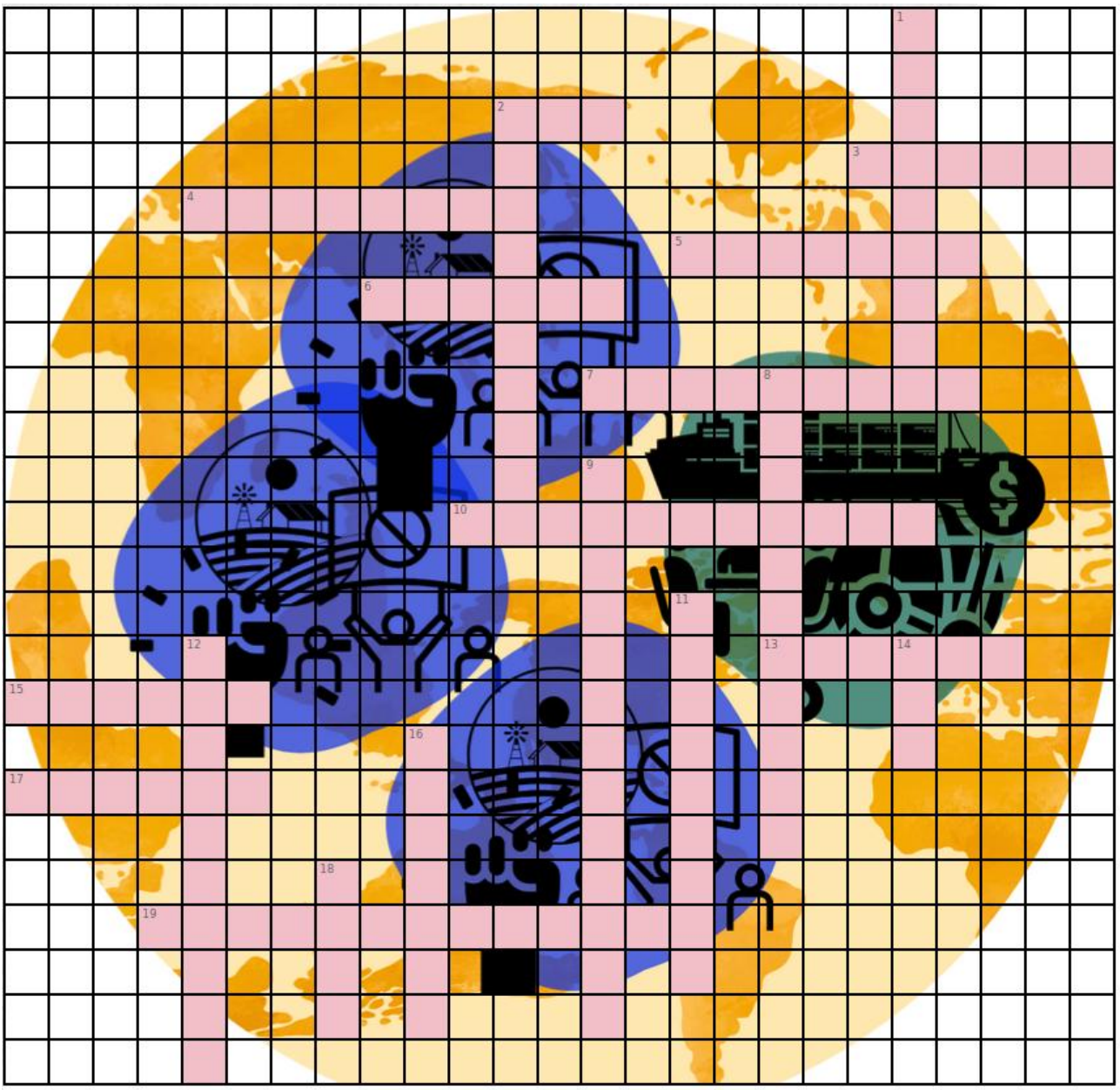
I've already read everything and would like to come to an end.

I hope you could learn something and perhaps take valuable information with you :)

Thank you so much! I will definitely look into some of the points you shared with me.
Great! Here are some links to various topics if you want to get more inputs. Have a great day! :D

Thanks, you too!

Crosswordpuzzle: "Another World is Possibe, if you want it!"



Read through the descriptions and find the right words!

Horizontal

2

The Battle of Seattle in 1999 was a protest consisting of a large number of mass actions and blockades on the occasion of the third conference of the international organization responsible for the global rules of trade, the ___ .(3)

3

On 1st January 1994, the Zapatistas in the country of _____ coordinated an uprising against the government to protest the enactment of the neoliberal North American Free Trade Agreement, between the USA, Canada and their own country.(6)

4

In 2019, farmers in India called for nationwide _____ to oppose the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a free trade agreement among Asia-Pacific nations, claiming it would impact their livelihoods. The government was forced to withdraw.(8)

5

The G20 protests in the German city of_____ the largest non capital city within the EU, included a far left demonstration and a Global Solidarity Summit.(7)

6

In 2001, the dramatic protests in Genoa with over 200.000 people taking the streets during the G8 meeting witnessed massive interventions of state security. This _____ violence, lead to the death of a demonstrator called Carlo Giuliani.(6)

7

The anti-capitalist protests in Prague in 2000, during the summit of the IMF and the World Bank, expressed anger against these institutions for pushing a policy which would direct power to markets and multinational, mostly private _____.(9)

10

Activism against global trade is also directed against the private sector, especially the growing power and autonomy of large _____ . By focusing on profit, their activities are often detrimental for human rights and the environment.(11)

13

In 2019, Chile witnessed one of it’s biggest ever civil unrests, directed against the neoliberal economic policies which had caused increased costs of _____ and growing privatization. Similar mass protests were also seen in Ecuador, Haiti and Columbia.(6)

15

The World _____ Forum is a counter-summit to the World Economic Forum for civil society and globalization critics from all over the world to plan campaigns and look for alternatives. As the name suggests, it advocates for social change and justice.(6)

17

ATTAC, founded in France in 1998, is a globalization critical activist organization committed to an alternative global economic order. The latter wants to stop the increase of private wealth and thus puts people and nature before _____.(6)

19

Social movements raising issues about global trade are mainly critical of the integration of the world’s economies based on free market competition. This form of organizing the global economy is also known as the process of neoliberal _____.(13)

Vertical

1

Hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated in Germany in 2015 to oppose EU’s _____agreements, TTIP and CETA, with the US and Canada. The deals were considered to be anti-democratic and to threaten standards on food and environmental protection.(9)

2

9. In the 1990s, the alter-globalization movement opposed the neoliberal manifesto agreed by the US government, the World Bank and the IMF, all of which were based in Washington. Thus, this agreement was known as the _____ Consensus.(10)

8

La Via Campesina, founded in 1993, is a international peasant movement promoting food sovereignty and seeking alternatives to the industrial and profit-driven _____ .(11)

9

In 1998, the so called “Jubilee 200 Campaign for cancellation of debts” organized a mass _____ with almost 80000 people at the G8 summit in Birmingham.(13)

11

In September 1988, protests in West Berlin, Germany, against the annual meetings of the so called Bretton Woods Organizations, the IMF and the _____ , had a significant influence on the public and attracted protesters internationally.(9)

12

Critiques of globalization highlight the problems of the current system of globalized _____ and it’s dominant features such as market deregulation, dismantlement of social rights and use of social relations and nature for economic benefits.(10)

14

In 2021, protesters gathered in Buenos Aires urging their government not to sign any kind of debt restructuring deal, holding placards saying “No deal with the ___ , the Bretton Woods organization responsible for bailing out countries with loans.(3)

16

The Global _____ Movement is a network of globalized social movements which opposes economic globalization, advocates for fair trade rules, global justice and demands equal distribution of resources.(7)

18

Almost 175 years ago, ____ & Engels were one of the first people to critique capitalism and globalization as being destructive and exploitative.(4)

Solution words in order:

Horizontal: WTO, Mexiko, Protests, Police, Companies, Enterprises, Living, Social, Profit, Globalization,

Vertical: Freetrade, Washington, Agriculture, Demonstration, Worldbank, Capitalism, IMF, Justice, Marx

Sources: Freetrade

Introduction & Free trade- from colonialism to neoliberalism

- Bilaterals.org, How colonialism shaped free trade agreements (part 1/3), 2023: the birth of modern international trade: https://www.bilaterals.org/?how-colonialism-shaped-free-trade
- Bilaterals.org, How colonialism shaped free trade agreements: the imposition of Western legal regimes (part 2/3), 2023: https://www.bilaterals.org/?how-colonialism-shaped-free-trade-48339
- Bilaterals.org, How colonialism shaped free trade agreements: from colonies to neoliberalism (part 3/3), 2023: https://www.bilaterals.org/?how-colonialism-shaped-free-trade-48362
- Eckert, Andreas, Freihandel als weltpolitisches Instrument, Andreas Eckert, 2017: https://www.bpb.de/themen/wirtschaft/freihandel/240929/freihandel-als-weltpolitisches-instrument/
- Herrmann, Ulrike, Freihandel - Projekt der Mächtigen TTIP EU-USA Freihandels- und Investitionsabkommen, Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Brüssel, 2014: https://www.rosalux.de/fileadmin/rls_uploads/pdfs/sonst_publikationen/TTIP_UHerrmann.pdf
- Wer versteht was unter "Freihandel", Wohlstandsgewinne durch Freihandel: https://www.attac.de/kampagnen/handelsabkommen/hintergrund/was-ist-freihandel

Alternatives to Trade: Towards a social and ecological transformation

- Alternative Trade Mandate, Trade for a new vision, : https://www.tni.org/files/download/trade-time_for_a_new_vision.pdf
- Bello, Walden, Focus on the Global South, Revisiting and Reclaiming Deglobalization, April 2019: https://focusweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Revisiting-Reclaiming-Deglobalization-web.pdf
- International Peoples Treaty on the control of Transnational Corporations: https://www.stopcorporateimpunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/PeoplesTreaty-EN-mar2015-1.pdf
- Peoples Trade Agenda: https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/mc10_e/ibonppmc10_e.pdf
- Schneider, Jan & Schnarrenberger, Nikolai Schnarrenberger (Careco Research Collective), Casting off the chains of Unfair Trade: A call for sustainable alternatives to the EU-ASEAN trade regime, 2023:

https://www.rosalux.eu/kontext/controllers/document.php/1025.5/1/46243b.pdf
- Via Campensina, Food Sovereignty: https://viacampesina.org/en/

“Another world is Possible, if you want it”: The movement against globalization

- Alcoba, Natalie, ‘Headed for disaster’: Argentinians protest against IMF debt deal, 12 Dec 2021, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/12/headed-for-disaster-argentinians-protest-against-imf-debt-deal
- Attac: https://www.attac.de/ziele/gerechter-welthandel
- Brand, Ulrich & Makal, Patrick, A Brief History of the Alter-Globalization Movement, From the Battle of Seattle to Heiligendamm, Hamburg, and the fight for a just future, Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung, 2022 https://www.rosalux.de/en/news/id/46700/a-brief-history-of-the-alter-globalization-movement
- Global justice movement: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_justice_movement
- Jitendra, Farmers threaten to block essential supplies across India over RCEP, 10th Oct 2019: https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/farmers-threaten-to-block-essential-supplies-across-india-over-rcep-67188
- Johnston, Chris, Berlin anti-TTIP trade deal protest attracts hundreds of thousands, 10 Oct 2015: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/10/berlin-anti-ttip-trade-deal-rally-hundreds-thousands-protesters
- Kafkadesk Prague Office, On this Day, in 2000: anti-globalisation protests turned violent in Prague, 26 Sep 2022: https://kafkadesk.org/2022/09/26/on-this-day-in-2000-anti-globalisation-protests-turned-violent-in-prague/

Use and Share it!