

'Wal-Martization' – Destruction to the Global Community

Wal-Mart's crushing market dominance is the result of unchecked anticompetitive behavior, including predatory pricing, worker abuse, and the shakedown of suppliers. Wal-Mart is only the tip of the iceberg in the economic destruction resulting from ineffective U.S. antitrust law enforcement. Economists, from Adam Smith to Frank Knight, agree that regulation of economic power is required to ensure the preservation of the free market system, which provides for the fair and equitable distribution of dollars within an economy. The economic and political freedom of America will no longer be available to U.S. citizens or to most working people around the world without swift and aggressive U.S. antitrust action to protect our markets from abusive market power and monopoly. When we lose our markets, we lose our freedom.

Today's Wal-Mart and other competition-killing business trusts should be broken up, as were the monopolist-oligopolist oil companies, meat packers, banks and railroads of 100 years ago.

In the name of free trade and globalization, Wal-Mart, Kroger, Safeway, and many other national and multinational food retailers have, with their supply-chain partners, Tyson, Cargill, Smithfield and ConAgra, promoted and driven the unlawful, highly-concentrated, centrally-planned model of business that is steamrolling independent businesses and busting our economy, as well as many economies around the world. These dictator merchants and processors are not only harvesting and processing the commodities off the land below the true cost, but are also destroying the independent businessmen, farm and ranch families, along with their futures.

Pandered, deceived, corrupted and frightened governments have facilitated the wealthy multinational corporations in forcing their irresponsible, dangerous, high cost, socially and environmentally

destructive industrialization of production, processing, and distribution of food and consumer goods on the global consumer. University and government economists, who are the economic equivalent of an Arthur Anderson accountant, hype the lies of globalization, the need to "give access to get access" in trade, and pile shame on U.S. workers and farmers unable to produce at Chinese or Brazilian prices, which are mostly dependent on slave wages and destruction of the environment. Everything vital to human existence, from commodities to consumer goods, and industries ranging from agriculture to textiles, is at risk of being further controlled by a handful of companies.

This abusive, exploitive, and destructive economic model promoted by Wall Street, some universities, and this Congress and presidential administration, is in my opinion the greatest present threat to world safety, economic well-being, and peace. This concentrated money power has become overwhelming and abusive political power.

Deceived and manipulated people, communities, states, and countries are wondering what happened to globalization's promises of jobs and prosperity as tax revenues decline and spending deficits explode, and as they decline dumbfounded into deep economic and social ruin. Once-prosperous farm communities, where healthy, safe food and responsible farm kids were raised, will be turned into ghost towns. Left unchecked, we will soon wake up to find our life-sustaining food and fiber industries lost, and, probably most tragic of all, our sovereignty.

This fearsome economic and political force, known as globalization, has turned our world into its own private colony of serfdom, to be strip-mined and plucked like a chicken. Under this corporate-controlled WTO globalization plan, cheap goods sourced in low-cost, poverty stricken countries are sold by Wal-Mart and their friends for exorbitant profits in the highest-priced consuming markets, such as the United States. Living wage U.S. jobs in manufacturing and production continue to be sent offshore, avoiding the

higher mandated costs of doing business in our once-safe, solvent, prosperous, and free country.

Mutually beneficial trade between people lies in sharp negative contrast to the hate and discontent that results from unethical corporate dealing as it exploits low-cost, off-shore production. Global traders, with comparably little investment, are vacuuming up dollars created from production and manufacturing that once circulated and multiplied in our communities, along with precious equity, lost to below-cost-of-production prices, below-living wages, and higher consumer prices than a competitive market would allow.

The well-being, liberty and freedom of every country, independent business and person is threatened in the leveraging of people against people, and country against country, as these killer greed-driven corporations, empowered by WTO rules, search the globe for higher and higher profits in the lowest-cost commodities and in the most desperate people, who will work the cheapest.

Liberty, God's gift to humanity, is not available under this U.S.-sponsored, global economic dictatorship. If Americans won't take a stand against this economic genocide, who will?

As Abraham Lincoln wrote with great prescience in 1864:

"As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war."

— Mike Callicrate

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