



### Our Latest Publications on Building the New Paradigm of People and Planet

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

The Underlying **Causes of Immigration** from Mexico to the US (Alvaro J. de Regil) -Structures Deprivation. Foreign direct investment, capital goods, technology, raw materials, parts, and finished goods secured free passage to circulate around the three countries but workers would remain restricted to working in their own country of residence. Page 2



**Global Commodity** Chains and the New Imperialism (Intan Suwandi, R. Jamil Jonna and John **Bellamy Foster**)

The lower the percapita income of a U.S. trading partner, the higher the share of U.S. arm's length trade, indicating that this is all about low

wages. Page 2



Global Commodity Chains and the New Imperialism



What are We Saying When We Talk About Sustainability? (Víctor M. Toledo) A political ecological proposal. political ecology ... transcends the dominant vision of a (techno-) science at the service of corporate capital, to adopt a science with conscience (environmental and social) that no longer seeks to only interpret the world or transform it but, to be more precise, emancipate it. Page 3



The New Service Proletariat (Ricardo in a Sustainable **Antunes**) What might be called the "uberisation" of labour-a ruthless entrepreneurial modus operandi aimed at generating more profit and increasing the value of capital through the forms of precarious labour outlined above— has expanded to a global scale Page 3



#### The New Service Proletariat



The Meaning of Work Society (John Bellamy Foster)

The ideal of the future does not point to the lessening of man's energy by the reduction of labour to a minimum, but rather the reduction of pain in labour to a minimum, so small that it will cease to be



pain. Page 3

The Long Ecological Revolution (John Bellamy Foster) To achieve these things, we will need to break with "business as usual," that is, with the current logic of capital, and introduce an entirely different logic, aimed at the creation of a fundamentally different social metabolic system of

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reproduction.

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THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF IMMIGRATION FROM MEXICO TO THE US—Structures of Deprivation— (Alvaro J. de Regil)



## The Underlying Causes of Immigration from Mexico to the United States

Structures of Deprivation

Álvaro J. de Regil

Ferfice: I to write about the underlying causes of immigration mean addressing a paramount social issue that periods the lines of most societies in the workf, both in the problemy as well as in the methorpolises of the global capitatist system. Interrupt and the interrupt and the problem of the problem of the problem of the problem of the second of a better life them the very memor boom "supers" begin to wander around he primeral summodings. At first, all hearins were rumads, they constantly moved from one place to another, from care to care, from valley to usable, from regin to region, from contribute to continue, many times to admit problems of tilluments in their question and subject to the contribute of the contribute of the problems of

d conquering of many peoples by stronger societies in eir quest for power and wealth.





GATLNNS Essay/SD (002) September 2019 Avano J. de Regil

o write about the underlying causes of immigration means addressing a paramount social issue that pervades the lives of most societies in the world, both in the periphery as well as in the metropolises of the global capitalist system. Immigration is inherent to human nature. Billions of people have travelled from their birthplace in search of a better life from the very moment homo "sapiens" began to wander around his primeval surroundings. At first, all humans were nomads. They constantly moved from one place to another, from cave to cave, from valley to valley, from region to region, from continent to continent, many times traveling thousands of kilometres in their quest for better conditions of survival. Thousands of years later, with the rise of civilisations and hundreds of sedentary settlements, people continued to move to lands inhabited by other civilisations, with different cultural and ethnical backgrounds, always in pursuit of a better life. As empires rose and destroyed competing civilisations, many people were forced to leave, or they were moved forcefully to other places to serve the interests of the conquerors as they pleased. The history of humanity is composed of the never-ending destruction and conquering of many peoples by stronger societies in their quest for power and wealth.

This has never changed despite thousands of years of human experience and "sophistication" in the organisation of societies, despite the rise of so called democratic nation states, human rights covenants and international law. Today, people continue to move from one place to another, many times escaping a high risk of death as a result of social conflicts, poverty, or,

instead of the rule of law, a complete state of anomie —the loss of all the ethical social standards conceived to procure a dignified and harmonious coexistence among the members of society. In the vast majority of cases, as should be evident, there is also the effect —to a lesser or greater degree— of the actions of foreign actors that intervene in the lives of other societies in pursuit of their own vested interests, always associated with the pursuit of greater power and wealth. In the twenty-first century, we continue the same ancient patterns of power exertion and displacement of people all over the world. In this way, millions of people continue to migrate from Eastern Europe to Western Europe, from Africa to Europe, from Asia to North America and from Iberian America to North America as well, to name the major migration flows.

This paper focuses on the underlying causes of immigration from Mexico to the United States from a political and socio-economic viewpoint. However, the root causes behind the flows of emigrants in other regions of the world are consistently the same. They result from the impact of powerful geo-political interests on the general population of both the emitting and the receiving countries of the millions of migrants in their escape from unbearable conditions and in pursuit of a dignified life. From this perspective, we will uncover and review the underlying causes of immigration from Mexico to the US, which are structural, in an effort to shed light onto their real solution. That is, the only way to permanently solve the issue of Mexican migration to the US, is by addressing the structural causes that force people to leave their homelands. Addressing only the symptoms triggered by these causes will never solve the issue and instead would further consolidate the patterns regardless of how aggressive and inhumane the policies are designed to stop the flows of migrants. We also focus on Mexico because it has been for many decades the main source of immigrants to the US due to its proximity and even more so after the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994, which has made Mexico the third largest US trading partner, after China and Canada, beyond being the main exporter of migrants forced to leave their communities.

Download the full document "The Underlying causes..." here!

# GLOBAL COMMODITY CHAINS AND THE NEW IMPERIALISM – (Intan Suwandi, R. Jamil Jonna and John Bellamy Foster)

Jus Semper's core work has been from inception assessing the enormous disparities in hourly manufacturing labour costs, for equivalent work, between the metropolises and the emerging economies in the periphery of the global system. We have always performed our work for reasons of equity, using purchasing

power parity compensation costs, under the context of equal pay for equal work of equal value We do this to expose the sheer exploitation of labour in peripheral economies for the maximisation of productivity and shareholder value of global corporations. In this way, we have published our annual reports on "Wage rate gaps for selected developed and emerging economies in manufacturing" since 2003, using data dating back to 1975. For this reason, we feel truly encouraged to continue our mission by now publishing a new essay that addresses the same issue of sheer labour exploitation of workers in the global South of the system from the perspective of productivity, using as the main indicator the unit labour costs of a select group of both Northern and Southern economies of the global system, namely Germany, Japan, United States and United Kingdom in the North and China, India, Indonesia, and Mexico in the South. Indeed, as the authors clearly explain and demonstrate in the following pages, the much higher rates of exploitation of workers in the global South has to do not simply with low wages, but also with the fact that the difference in wages between the North and South is greater than the difference in productivity. This paper further enlightens with rather strong evidence, anchored on theoretical and empirical research of commodity-chain analysis, our argument that the main driver of social inequality between North and South is the deliberate system of "Modern Slave Work"; a system imposed in the global South by the elites of both the centre and the periphery of the global capitalist system, to exploit the labour-value commodity chains to perpetuate what could best be described as a new global colonialism or imperialism.



### Global Commodity Chains and the New Imperialism

Intan Suwandi, R. Jamil Jonna and John Bellamy Foster

In Sempor's one work was been from Cooption seeming the ecommon dispurities in hously, munificationing about costs, for contributes work, destroes the metapopolius and the energing economics in the people's of the global system. We have always profession on an internations of equity, under particularly power purity compensation costs, under an interest of equity for great work of equity value. We did this in more the times exploitation of adoptive to people and incommon for the animomentum of potential years and exploit the size of pilots interpolation. We have been professional true around reports on "Poligicator years for while six evoluption and investigate workings in contribute and within the professional true around reports on "Poligicator years for while sold investigation of working in contribute and within the professional for an except that adoptions of the TTT. For this evolute, on the local politication of working in the manufacture of an individual in contribute and working in the profession of the global years from the properties of productively, using a 6th animal institute the seal of believed and of the foliation of the years from the properties of productively, using a 6th animal institute the seal of believed and of the foliation of years from the properties of productively, using a 6th animal institute the seal and other and in the productive of an extension of the seal and other seals of the seal of the seal of the foliation of the properties of the productive of an extension of the seal of the seal of the seal of the seal of the true of the seal of the se

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### WHAT ARE WE SAYING WHEN WE TALK ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY — An ecological political proposal— (Víctor M. Toledo)



### What are we saying when we talk about Sustainability?

An ecological political proposal

Víctor M. Toledo

Summary [1] you consider 1987 (the Boundland Report) as the critical beginning of the idea of sustainability, the term Summer I type consider 19th 20 to Resultion Reports when this length of the list of sustainability, to from the mode a for line in jump of almost time decodes and still disk in his well durin list becomes at the mode and interest of the second of the contract of the decodes of the decodes and problems "essential between the contract of the contract of the contract of the contract of the decodes of the contract of the decodes of the contract o

common or sustainability as a social power, which turns the concept into a promising political instrument of social and environmental emonolysism, in a egitimate version of a "science with conscience".



If you consider 1987 (the Brundtland Report) as the official beginning of the idea of sustainability, the term has made a brilliant journey of almost three decades and is still alive. In its evolution, it has become at the same time a concept, paradigm, theoretical framework, technical instrument, utopia, pretext, ideology and many other things, but above all it has become the word that contains a vague desire of the educated and privileged masses of the planet for a better world in which the human race rediscovers itself ideally with nature and with social justice. Beyond the ideological dimension, and its multiple and ungraspable interpretations, this essay focuses on sustainability as a scientific concept that springs from an interdisciplinary vision of reality, and that for many authors achieves the status of a new paradigm. The essay attempts to show how the scientific concept of sustainability in the vast majority of its versions, is not but a techno-economic expression that explicitly or implicitly is aimed at convincing the "decision makers", and that seeks to apply solutions merely technical. Using a political ecological approach, based on the theory of the three powers, the essay identifies and develops a definition of sustainability as a social power, which turns the concept into a promising political instrument of social and environmental emancipation, in a legitimate version of a " science with conscience.

Download the full document "What are we saying..." here!



### THE NEW SERVICE PROLETARIAT (Ricardo Antunes)

In recent decades, the spread of information technology, industrial automation, and other innovations has inspired visions of a coming "postindustrial society of services," in which the proletariat as it existed in earlier eras would effectively disappear. However, even a cursory survey of the reality of contemporary global labour markets belies this myth. The emergence of a new class of educated, salaried workers in high-tech fields is predicated on the increasing invisibility of workers employed in sectors and settings ranging from call centres and telemarketing to hotels and cleaning companies to retail, fast food, and care services. The great majority of these jobs are precarious in one way or another: seasonal, part-time, temporary, informal, or freelance, with little or no security or benefits.



#### The New Service Proletariat

#### Ricardo Antunes

In recent decades, the spread of information technology, industrial automation, and other innovations has inspired visions of a coming protein-institution control of monotonic models that the positions are instituted in models exact exocal effects of account product of the models of account of the models of the

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S. If another—sample of these dispulsed forms of behave exploits on can be bound in field, where a morel form of occasional and intermittent work was neverthy introduced with relativest work of works. Workers where you'ver you'ver you'ver you work occurs syndres the essent number of hours they worked. But precariousness was not the only problem with this form of labour, which relied on an even more

An emblematic example is the zero-hour contract, a perverse form of employment that thrives in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Instead of working a fixed number of hours or shifts, zero-hour employees must remain perpetually at their bosses' disposal, waiting for a call. Once they receive this call, they are paid only for the time they actually work, and not for the time-days, weeks, even months-spent waiting. Information technology firms in particular have embraced this method of complete flexibilisation of labour, which serves at once to make workers continually available for exploitation and to further normalise the regime of precariousness, leaving workers with ever fewer protections.

Uber is another example. The company's drivers, who are treated as independent contractors rather than formal employees, must

provide their own cars and pay for all expenses, including vehicle repairs, maintenance, insurance, and fuel. The Uber "app" is in fact a global private enterprise that uses wage labour masked as "independent" and "entrepreneurial" work to appropriate a larger share of the surplus value generated by the services of its drivers.

Download "The New service proletariat" here! •

### THE MEANING OF WORK IN A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY — (John Bellamy Foster)

Fie upon this quiet life. I want work. William Shakespeare, Henry IV, Part I, Act II, Scene IV



### The Meaning of Work in a Sustainable Society

Fie upon this quiet life. I want work.

William Shakespears, Henry TV, Part I, Act II, Scene TV

John Bellamy Foster

The nature and meaning of work, as it permits to a future society has desply divided coolegical, socialist, utocian, and Remands: "interest the header all Recycliness", some challed beautiful beautiful and continguist, sociation, upon an American Remands: "interest the header all Recycliness". Some challed beautiful beautiful and one per us southly an interest requiring the interestal resistance of the new forces and none equilable distribution. Other has been doned in the other transacted the outer greater of learness the beautiful mental and none equilable distribution. Other has been doned in the second of the other special of the control of the other special of the other special design and the second of the other special change sociality. It wis a approach to it, and other special change of the other special

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The nature and meaning of work, as it pertains to a future society, has deeply divided ecological, socialist, utopian, and Romantic thinkers since the Industrial Revolution. Some radical theorists have seen a more just society as merely requiring the rationalisation of present-day work relations, accompanied by increased leisure time and more equitable distribution. Others have focused on the need to transcend the entire system of alienated labour and make the development of creative work relations the central element of a new revolutionary society. In what appears to be an effort to circumvent this enduring conflict, current visions of sustainable prosperity, while not denying the necessity of work, often push it into the background, placing their emphasis instead on an enormous expansion of leisure hours. Increased non-work time seems an unalloyed good, and is easily imaginable in the context of a no-growth society. In contrast, the very question of work is fraught with inherent

02/11/19

difficulties, since it goes to the roots of the current socioeconomic system, its division of labour, and its class relations. Yet it remains the case that no coherent ecological mapping of a sustainable future is conceivable without addressing the issue of homo faber, i.e., the creative, constructive, historical role in the transformation of nature, and hence the social relation to nature, that distinguishes humanity as a species.

Download "The meaning of work... here!



### THE LONG ECOLOGICAL REVOLUTION (John Bellamy Foster)



### The Long Ecological Revolution

John Bellamy Foster

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##ECOLOCICAL REVOLUTION

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No revolutionary movement exists in a vacuum; it is invariably confronted with counterrevolutionary doctrines designed to defend the status quo. In our era, ecological Marxism or ecosocialism, as the most comprehensive challenge to the structural crisis of our times, is being countered by capitalist ecomodernism—the outgrowth of an earlier ideology of modernism, which from the first opposed the notion that economic growth faced natural limits. If ecosocialism insists that a revolution to restore a sustainable human relation to the earth requires a frontal assault on the system of capital accumulation—and that this can only be accomplished by more egalitarian social relations and more consciously coevolutionary relations to the earth—ecomodernism promises precisely the opposite. Ecological contradictions, according to this ideology, can be surmounted by means of technological fixes and continued rapid growth in production, with no fundamental changes to the structure of our economy or

society. The prevailing liberal approach to ecological problems, including climate change, has long put capital accumulation before people and the planet. It is maintained that through new technologies, demographic shifts (such as population control), and the mechanisms of the global free market, the existing system can successfully address the immense ecological challenges before us. In short, the solution to the ecological crises produced by capitalist accumulation is still more capitalist accumulation. All the while, we have been rapidly nearing the climate cliff (i.e., the breaking of the carbon budget) represented by the trillionth metric ton of carbon released into the atmosphere, now less than twenty years away if current trends continue.

In these dire circumstances, it is dispiriting but not altogether surprising that some self-styled socialists have jumped on the ecomodernist bandwagon, arguing against most ecologists and ecosocialists that what is required to address climate change and environmental problems as a whole is simply technological change, coupled with progressive redistribution of resources. Here again, the Earth System crisis is said not to demand fundamental changes in social relations and in the human metabolism with nature. Rather it is to be approached in instrumentalist terms as a formidable barrier to be overcome by means of extreme technology.

How then are we to see the necessary ecological and social revolution of our time? Today, the growing awareness of such problems, and of the inescapable human connection to the natural world as a whole, has led scientists to explore more sustainable forms of development, as in agroecology, bio-mimicry, and systems of ecological resilience. The overarching goal of an ecological society, Fred Magdoff and Chris Williams write in their new book Creating an Ecological Society, is to maintain the long-term health of the biosphere while equitably providing for human needs. This is not an impossible task, but it does require the development of science at a higher level—one not simply concerned with mechanical manipulation of the earth and its inhabitants for private gain, but founded on the understanding and concern for the complex collectivities that constitute living systems and human life itself. This requires ecological planning, but that in turn is only possible if social relations also change, reconceiving freedom in terms of needs deeper and wider than those of individual self-interest in a commodity economy.

But to achieve these things, we will need to break with business as usual, that is, with the current logic of capital, and introduce an entirely different logic, aimed at the creation of a fundamentally different social metabolic system of reproduction. To overcome centuries of alienation of nature and human labour, including the treatment of the global environment and most people—divided by class, gender, race, and ethnicity—as mere

objects of conquest, expropriation, and exploitation, will require nothing less than a long ecological revolution, one which will necessarily entail victories and defeats and everrenewed striving, occurring over centuries. It is a revolutionary struggle, though, that must commence now with a worldwide movement toward ecosocialism—one capable from its inception of setting limits on capital. This revolt will inevitably find its main impetus in an environmental proletariat, formed by the convergence of economic and ecological crises and the collective resistance of working communities and cultures—a new reality already emerging, particularly in the global South

In the long ecological revolution before us, the world will necessarily proceed from one earthly struggle to another. If the advent of the Anthropocene tells us anything, it is that humanity, through a single-minded pursuit of economic gain benefitting a relative few, is capable of producing a fatal rift in the biogeochemical cycles of the planet. It is time therefore to find another path: one of sustainable human development. This constitutes the entire meaning of revolution in our time.

Download "The long ecological revolution" here!



### THE PROGRESSIVELY ACCELERATED DEGRADATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

— (Alejandro Teitelbaum)



### The Progressively Accelerated Degradation of the Environment

Alejandro Teitelbaum

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The explanation of the progressively accelerated eggression of the environment is complex because it is due to various faccors that the root of it is in the uncontrolled production of all kinds of objects and products, some necessary and others not. As a result of what in economics is called "exercided reproduction."

This reproduction is inherent in the capitalist system, it is essential to know how this works to understand and explain the ecological disaster. Sweezy wrote: "It is invalidable to conduct that the simple reproduction implies the abstraction of

the exological distance. Survey secure: "It is low the most e-serving the copyloid to his closed, in in separating his capital. It is given hour it by convening a part—when his capital, it is it is surplus water in additional capital. It is increase in capital allows time to appropriate to a surplus water in additional capital, and in the primore, more solitorial capital and see This is the primore, more as capital accomplished constitutes the fover-first primary and capital constitutes the fover-first primary for a constitute of Capitals. Development, Monthly Review Press, 1942.



CATEN vSI Essay-20 (DCB) September 2019 Avgundro Tallebeum

The reason explaining the progressively accelerated degradation of the environment is convoluted because it is elicited by various factors. Yet the root of it is in the uncontrolled

production of all kinds of objects and products, some necessary and others not, as a result of what in economics is called «extended reproduction». This reproduction is inherent to the capitalist system. It is essential to know how it works in order to understand and explain the ecological disaster. Sweezy wrote: «It is inevitable to conclude that the simple reproduction implies the abstraction of the most essential thing in the capitalist: his interest in expanding his capital. He goes about it by converting a part —often the greatest one— of its surplus value into additional capital. His increase in capital allows him to appropriate even more surplus value, which in turn becomes additional capital and so on. This is the process, known as capital accumulation, that constitutes the force driving capitalist development».

The capitalist system and a healthy environment are incompatible. That is why Foster, Clark and York are right when in the final part of their article The Ecology of Consumption they write: ...A genuine ecology of consumption—the creation of a new system of sustainable needs-generation and satisfaction—is only possible as part of a new ecology of production, which requires for its emergence the tearing asunder of the capitalist system...

Download "The progressively accelerated..." here!

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INVISIBLE EXPLOITATION —How Capital Extracts Value Beyond Wage Labour—
(Eva Swidler)



### Invisible Exploitation

How Capital Extracts Value Beyond Wage Labour

Eva Swidler

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exploited "class in itself" is to become a "class for itself," able to unite and act in solidarity.

(TJ8GVIIWV816-050-852), January 2796-1840

I he Marxist analysis of work under capitalism has long been associated with a preoccupation with wage labour: waged workers as wage-

slaves, industrial workers as the revolutionary proletariat, and factory workers as the vanguard. The labour theory of value has been widely seen as applying to the wage form of work and no other. But Marx's own writings describe other forms of labour under capitalism, and Marxist theorists have long pushed to expand our understanding of exploitation beyond the classic waged relations of production.

Capitalists have always used more than the wage form alone to extract surplus product from workers. However, this century is particularly distinguished by its growing reliance on alternate methods of extracting surplus. It's time for Marxists to rethink our preoccupation with the wage and develop a theory encompassing a common ground of exploitation across a wide variety of extractive relations under capitalism. A recognition of that shared exploitation may prove key if the exploited "class-in-itself" is to become a "class-for-itself," able to unite and act in solidarity.

Download"Invisible exploitation" here.

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VALUE TRANSFER AND HUMAN DEGRADATION IN AN AUTOMOTIVE ENTERPRISE CLUSTER IN MEXICO — (Carlos Jiménez Bandala and Jesús Contreras Álvarez)



Value transfer and human degradation in an automotive enterprise cluster in Mexico

Carlos Jiménez Bandala and Jesús Contreras Álvarez

The purpose of this power is to explain the labour percursarium processes as a sherom a min condition of capitalism in its neolineal phase, which allows enterprise with the original capital corporation to generate enough value to transfer to enterprise which play space comprosers. This work is carried out parting from the assessment of the working concilions of the operational workers of a commany that supplies services or an automate before in Nexico. Through a latter introducing a its demonstrated than the ording conditions are not only percercaus. It as also follows the object of the section of the posters, in such as wey that they closely the feet and the social good of the posters, in such as wey that they does not feet posters, in such as wey that they does not feet posters, in such as wey that they does not feet posters, in such as wey that they does not provide a poster of the posters, in such as wey that they does not provide a poster of the posters, in such as wey that they does not provide a poster of the posters, in such as wey that they does not provide a poster of the posters, in such as wey that they does not provide a poster of the posters, in such as wey that they does not provide a poster of the posters.

Prologue

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In the alternation of the crisis of the 1924, two important flowers on the non-stating off Berkels must be assumed to excountine were put on breaking the flowers from the non-stating flowers and the public behaves South Enterproposation crosses. This signes that the crisis is one to a deficial producing flowers for that was supported with public generalized from providents Port Institute Southeast South

eer 1988, Loreal, 1992, Waxen, 1991. The pumpesses with was economic libralisation and deregalation by unang the path of sector and by nelstining from intersering in the economy, bearing market forces to generate the monito equilibrium.

The purpose of this paper is to explain the labour precarisation processes as a sine qua non condition of capitalism in its neoliberal

phase, which allows enterprises with low organic capital composition to generate enough value to transfer it to enterprises with high organic composition. This work is carried out parting from the assessment of the working conditions of the operational workers of a company that supplies services to an automotive cluster in Mexico. Through a qualitative methodology it is demonstrated that the working conditions are not only precarious, but also inhuman. They degrade the essence of the work proper and all the attributes of the subject [worker], and they take it to the extreme point of deprecation, in such a way that they deny his/her physiological and biological characteristics.

Download "Value transfer and... here.

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### THE DEGROWTH ALTERNATIVE — (Giorgos Kallis)



The Degrowth Alternative

Giorgos Kallis

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The condict between evenoment and growth is even seems. For "covedepers," the value of growth is not to be questioned more mining drilling, building, and manufacturing is "coverant to exceed the extensive yearing divelopers stand soutical environmentalities, and local communities, who are other advant in questioning the locational processors from concept future contacting only of growth."

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Both the name and the theory of degrowth aim explicitly to re-politicise environmentalism. Sustainable development and its more recent reincarnation "green growth" depoliticise genuine political antagonisms between alternative visions for the future. They render environmental problems technical, promising win-win solutions and the impossible goal of perpetuating economic growth without harming the environment. Ecologising society, degrowthers argue, is not about implementing an alternative, better, or greener development. It is about imagining and enacting alternative visions to modern growth-based development. This essay explores such alternatives and identifies grassroots practices and political changes for facilitating a transition to a

with wage labour: waged workers as wage 02/11/19

prosperous and equitable world without growth.

Download "The Degrowth Alternative" here.

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### TO RADICALLY CHALLENGE THE PREVAILING SOCIAL ORDER -(Alejandro Teitelbaum)

On the 200th anniversary of Marx's birthday, The 170th of the Communist Manifesto and the 160th of the Grundrisse



### To Radically Change the Prevailing Social Order

The 176th of the Communist Identifiests and the 186th of the Countries

Alejandro Teitelbaum

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I. Marx's favoured method

In point 3 (the Method of Political Economy) of his Introduction to a Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy (1867) Marx wrete:

When examining a given country from the standpoint of political economy we begin with the population, the division the population than classes, from and country, the sea, the different bearing of protest also, upon and largent, around production and consumption, prices, etc.

It accords even to be the proper using to start with the real and concrete elements, with the actual proceeditions, e.g., to start as the aphae of conventy with possiblene, which forms the base's and the subject of the whole so not be process of particular colors and start of the whole so not be processed or Conventional or shows the consideration should be shown that the transport projection in a material transport of the start o SOUTHWAS BOOKED STORY AND ADDRESS OF THE BOOK OF

In this paper the author refers to the method that Marx contributed to in order to have a coherent and objective view of today's society —and thus avoid a subjective and arbitrary vision of it— to the leading role that corresponds to the oppressed and exploited ones, for their radical transformation and the necessary confluence in the struggles for this transformation of all sectorial demands.

Download "To radically challenge..." here.

**4**.....

### THE FATE OF GLOBAL CORPORATIONS IN AN ANTI-GLOBALIST WORLD (Allen White)

The world's roughly 80,000 multinational corporations (MNCs), long dominated by U.S., European and Japanese firms, have been joined by a growing number based in China, India, Brazil and other emerging economies. MNCs are the engine of a quarter of total world production and their global supply chains represent about half of world trade. MNCs have played a major role in driving a tenfold increase since 1979, now totalling \$16 trillion, roughly the size of entire U.S. GDnscience of the unsustainability of the current ethos and of the urgency to build a new paradigm to bequest to future generations.

Is the post-war ascendance of multinational corporations irreversible?



The Fate of Global Corporations in an Anti-Globalist World

Allen White



Download "The fate of global corporations..."

**◆**············

### THE YELLOW VESTS -(AlejandroTeitelbaum)

he mobilisation of the yellow vests raised expectations and rejections and also multiple interpretations. Among the latter, some deem that it is a new way of expressing the conflict between those who have more and those who have less, given the inability to assume it on the part of traditional organisations: unions, "left" parties, etc.

The fundamental and secondary conflicts cannot be solved without having as the objective to radically change the current social order, which is a titanic and long-term task. First of all, because the dominant classes completely have at their service the institutions of the State: Government, Parliament, Justice, Police, Armed Forces and international organisations: the UN, the WTO, the IMF, the European Union, etc. and its armed arms: NATO, the so-called "special forces" (paramilitary formations and others) and the fundamentalist and terrorist organisations and groups; the latter actual

pawns, occasionally or permanent, voluntary or involuntary, of these ruling classes. And they also have at their disposal the so-called "civil society": the big capital, the media controlled by the former, the part of the intelligentsia and the different social organisations at the service of the system, working together with the State but outside of it as apparatuses of economic domination, ideological hegemony and social control.



#### The Yellow Vests

Alejandro Teitelbaum

The mobilisation of the yellow vests raised expectations and rejections and also multiple interpretations. Among the latus, some down that it is a new way of expressing the conflict between those who have more and those who have given the inability to assume it on the part of traditional organisations: unions, fleft parties, etc.

This is how there are strategies that are designed to deal with specific real conflicts (relating to gender, environmental pollution, the organisation of education and its contents, those referring to the practices and policies of pharmaceutical monopolies and public health, conflicts between the right to information and its manipulation by media oligopolies conflicts between leaders and led ones in all types of organisations, those generated by representative democracy in terminal crisis, etc.) that sometimes evolve into campaigns and demonstrations to vindicate the rights of groups that are particularly stakeholders, but that, because they are not being articulated within the global questioning of the system and the need to end it, they end up fading away or being digested by the system.

In other words, social and group conflicts are multiple and varied but to give them a path to a resolution that overcomes their plight, it is necessary to be formulated within the struggles to resolve the main contradiction inherent to the capitalist system,

Download "The yellow vests" here!

**4**.....

## MEXICO'S WAGES 2018-2024: TO CHANGE SO THAT EVERYTHING REMAINS THE SAME — (Álvaro J. de Regil)

Real Wages appear to remain dwindling crumbs in an ethos of Neoliberal Populism — The rhetoric end of the Modern Slave Ethos advanced by the "progressive" wage policy of Mexico's new government is a travesty of what it boasts to portray.



### Mexico's Wages 2018 - 2024: To Change So That Everything Remains The Same

Real Wages appear to remain dwindling crumbs in an ethos of Neoliberal Populism— The rheturic end of the Modern Slave Ethos advanced by the "progressive" wage policy of Mexico's new government is a travesty of what it boasts to portray.

> If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change. Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa (1957)

Álvaro J. De Regil

#### Background

Mexicans workers, from colorial times to the present cay, in the latest disease on fine colorialism, have suffered, through we sing techniques, a carbonary system of excitations inspected by the class. Since the present on, the continuous con

equivalent jobs were consistently dramatically lower in the periphery, even if they were

#### **Conclusions:**

- The campaign promise on wages was not fulfilled. The real wage increase was substantially smaller than what was offered during the electoral campaign.
- There is no political will to make a minimum wage recovering policy a firm commitment by passing specific legislation for that end.
- The general wage increase benefits only onesixth of salaried people for it was strictly limited to the general minimum wage, relegating the 59 minimum wage rates for professional activities to an increase to offset CPI inflation, the same wage contention policy of the last 36 years.
- It would be a great mistake to eliminate minimum wage rates for the 59 professional activities; activities require greater physical and intellectual capacities and skills than those required for activities of the general minimum wage. Assigning the same compensation criteria to professional activities would not only be greatly unfair and further depress their purchasing power and quality of life, but they would have a profound and negative multiplying effect in many other activities that require greater capacities in the upper echelons

of skilled work, particularly in the manufacturing sector, which receives the highest labour compensations.

- López Obrador recanted on his commitment to recover real wages and returned to the neoliberal dogma, for he returned to conditioning any increase of wages to a concurrent increase in productivity. This sets a very ominous precedent that can only be construed as a recantation of his view on the need to address the fact that wages have lost 75% of their purchasing power as a result of a deliberate policy of wage pauperisation.
- López Obrador has established a strong partnership with the historic predators of real wages. The strong personal partnership of López Obrador with the business oligarchy, his old nemesis, can only be construed as an alliance to support the very group that has fervently worked with previous governments to deliberately pauperise wages for the last thirty-six years.
- From the global economy perspective, manufacturing wages will remain at their lowest level in the manufacturing sector, because if professional minimum wages remain losing value, higher skilled wages in the manufacturing sector, integrated with the global economy, will remain at the same level they have been since the 1990s after they were deliberately pauperised to become the main driver of foreign investment with NAFTA.
- Unless there is radical change, Mexico will lose manufacturing share under the new NAFTA. This is a particularly important issue, in light of the new NAFTA 2.0, which incorporated an agreement to increase the North American content.
- The above notwithstanding, López Obrador still has ninety-five percent of his term to amend his policies and attempt to truly transform the country by replacing the structures of exploitation and depredation with a radical new paradigm in pursuit of the welfare of people and the planet and NOT the market. We remain in hope.

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### ADAMS SMITH AND THE YELLOW VESTS MOVEMENT — (Eric Toussaint)

It is sad to see how completely misrepresented Adam Smith (1723-1790) is when pundits call upon him to vindicate neoliberalism and the status quo. It seems many have not really bothered to read his works

Some passages in Adam Smith's major work, An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, published in 1776 provide evidence that his social analysis clearly refers to class struggle and sheds light on the currently active Yellow Vest movement. Referring to Karl Marx would of course offer ample keys to understanding what is currently happening. But who would be surprised? On the other hand referring to Adam Smith may seem to be sheer provocation. We have to open our eyes even wider and comfort our arguments against those who consider that injustice is part of the way of the world. Examining the analysis of social classes carried out by Adam Smith also makes it possible to understand the elements of . continuity in the system of capitalist exploitation and domination. Obviously society has changed but there are recurring features that it is interesting to highlight.



#### Adam Smith and the Yellow Vest Movement

It is sad to see how completely misrepresented Adam Smith (1723-1790) is when pundles call upon him to vindicate neoliberalism and the status quo. In seems many have not really bothered to read his works.

Eric Toussaint

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### IS IT TIME TO REWRITE THE SOCIAL CONTRACT? — (Allen White)

In 2007, the author, being well aware of the overwhelming power and influence of corporations over societies, their governments, the daily lives of the citizenry and the sustainability of the planet, pondered over the need to pursue a new agreement that integrates

corporations to the social contract between citizens and the governments they elect. A decade later, he revisits the issue, with the conviction that in a world fraught with ample discord in practically all spheres of human relations, a new social contract that integrates corporations to shape their influence is more than ever urgently needed. White argues that the asymmetry between the beneficiaries and the burdened of globalisation has catalysed rising discontent among those left behind. Nonetheless, he senses that a new tripartite social contract, built on an ethos of collaboration, civility and inclusiveness, is poised to emerge.

### IS IT TIME TO REWRITE THE SOCIAL CONTRACT?



### Is it time to rewrite the social contract?

Society is indeed a contract...between those who are living, those who are dead, and those who are to be born.

Edmund Burke (1792)

#### Allen White

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20. 2004. T. WAST Paras Co. (2013), January 2018 Mary Strike



In the midst of BHP Billiton's assessment of the consequences of its massive and dramatically successful effort to reverse malaria in the region surrounding its aluminum smelter in Mozambique, the general manager of the smelter commented, "you can imagine, it was huge disaster. We could not deal with that level of absenteeism, and we would have had more fatalities. If we didn't treat malaria we could not operate."

Not long ago, such an intervention on the part of a private firm in a traditionally governmental function like public health was a rarity. Today, interventions are increasingly commonplace, both in instances where a business case is evident (as in Mozambique) and in instances where the economics are less than compelling but the moral high ground is unambiguous.

Examples of corporate activities that impinge upon public goods abound: pharmaceutical

companies providing affordable HIV/AIDS drugs to battle the pandemic worldwide; beverage companies controversially extracting potable water resources in India; multinationals assuming control over public water supplies in Bolivia; and privatisation of mass transit in the UK and roadways in India.

Download the "Is it time to rewrite..." here.

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## THE MISSING THIRD PARTY: CORPORATIONS AND THE NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT — (Allen White)



### The missing third party: Corporations and the new Social Contract

#### Allen White

A decade ago, is a moment of impatience with the prospers of the scalariable bosones movement, i passed to ask: is it time to remain the social contract. My response; an inequirocal "Ne".

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A decade ago, in a moment of impatience with the progress of the sustainable business movement, I paused to ask: Is it time to rewrite the social contract? My response: an unequivocal "Yes."

Why? Because the corporation cannot be ignored in defining the 21st century social order in a world fraught with geopolitical turbulence, multiple ecological crises, social discord, the question of the corporation as a party to the social contract looms larger than ever.

Download "The missing third party..." here.



# COLLAPSED PROGRESSIVISM IN IBERIAN AMERICA, BRAZIL'S CASE — (Alejandro Teitelbaum)

How social democracy in Europe is leaving a perfect situation for ultraconservative and quasi fascist governments



### Collapsed Progressivism in Iberian America, Brazil's case

How social democracy in Europe is leaving a perfect situation for ultraconservative and quasi fascist governments

#### Alejandro Teitelbaum

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Other Locus are the lack of class consciousness among the popular majorities that they failed to acquire due to the prengistic effects of their living conditions on the influence of viscal democracia and "truggenishe" ideologica. And, incidentally, the unchallenged power of the dominant classes that contributed to the electroal result, which has used all the resources always at its disposal—media, judicial, political, economic, ideological, etc.—to resoure the continuity of the system, including in is most absental forms. Those who tument this use ignore—or presented in goner—that it is not concussated, but inherent to the dominant system, which includes pure and hurth violence when the system deems it recossary for its preservation.

he electoral triumph of the far right in Brazil is due to multiple factors; yet the main factor, as the fundamental and priority task, is the failure of petismo (Workers Party), to transform the economic, political and social structures of the country. A failure attributable -as we will see in detail— to the fact that it never aimed at such a transformation, but, on the contrary, contributed to its strengthening and consolidation. This is how the gap between the poorest and the richest continued to increase: the richest continued to enrich themselves and the poorest continued to impoverish themselves. Even the publicised anti-poverty and indigence programs were a drop in the ocean of pauperism and destitution that persists in Brazil.

Other factors are the lack of class consciousness among the popular majorities that they failed to acquire due to the synergistic effects of their living conditions and the influence of socialdemocratic and "progressive" ideologies. And, incidentally, the unchallenged power of the dominant classes that contributed to the electoral result, which has used all the resources always at its disposal -media, judicial, political, economic, ideological, etc.to ensure the continuity of the system, including in its most aberrant forms. Those who lament this use ignore —or pretend to ignore— that it is not circumstantial, but inherent to the dominant system, which includes pure and harsh violence when the system deems it necessary for its preservation.

02/11/19

Corruption has also exerted its weight, because regardless of the veracity of the accusations against Lula da Silva, corruption enjoyed total impunity during the PT (Workers' Party) governments and contaminated all the powers of the State and all or almost all the political parties. Dilma Roussef was not dismissed because of corruption but for violating tax regulations, masking the budget deficit; a reason more than debatable to dismiss her, especially with the vote of parliamentarians who, for a good part, were notoriously corrupt, including Temer, who succeeded her in the Presidency. The issue of public sense of safety also influenced the decision of the voters, in a country where crime increases as a result, among others, of the increase —without any prospects for a solution— of unemployment and poverty.

Download "Collapsed progressivism..." here.



### ELECTORAL AUTHORITARIANISM-ELECTIVE DICTATORSHIP — (Javier López)



Electoral Authoritarianism- Elective Dictatorship

#### Javier López

Jas Bubanaso will be President of Bazel. A honosphobic solities with authoritarian encesses, who has conned democratic mechanisms and breatment his policie iradis, will lead the greatest regional power in Latin America that is new a global giant. In fact, his predits, as carcatane of a litel date dictates, would be comical if at events for the fact that he amassed more than 50m visit. Biolection, with incalculated consequences, in the latest in a long incalculate consequences, in the latest in a long litel has helichlostes be housed foreillistic of the helichlostes be housed foreillistic of the helichlostes be housed foreillistic of he helichlostes he has those of helichlostes he has those foreillistic of he helichlostes he has those he has those he has those



democracy. What is happening to our societies when voters decide to put their destiny in the hands of eccentric authoritarians, while the influence of the far-right multiplies election after election all over the planet?

Democracies are like folitoryan families: the huppy once recentile each other, yet each is unhappy in its own way. In Brazil it was not the loses of globalisation or the countryside versus unhan elites that handed vectory to Biolocoares. It was the whole in siddle class and big cities who there their support behind this shouly character. This is regide winger both an electional allimore that gave answers to deverse sectors of the country. Fire promised landly values to consignifies, hand-line stocks of both emilitary and politics, economic orthodory to the maskess and the establishment, a break with studitional politics to those feeling with comprehens of militers of harder bounds the Worker's Priff "37" binh fer benaudhe Hadded could not counter. That the impulse of "anti-FTian" has consented electrad victory makes his rise to power even blooder. The Prif "a reference for the left, is rice capilide of bringing tess of millions or dividers and or possess, led by a global icon, the charinmaric Lula Da Sihaz: beaten by a candidate who defends the previous military dictatorship.

Jair Bolsonaro will be President of Brazil. A homophobic soldier with authoritarian excesses, who has scorned democratic mechanisms and threatened his political rivals, will lead the greatest regional power in Latin America that is now a global giant. In fact, his profile, a caricature of a third-rate dictator, would be comical if it weren't for the fact that he amassed more than 50m votes. His election, with incalculable consequences, is the latest in a long line highlighting the battered fragility of democracy. What is happening to our societies when voters decide to put their destiny in the hands of eccentric authoritarians, while the

influence of the far-right multiplies election after election all over the planet?

Download "Electoral authoritarianism..." here.

**4**.....

BRAZIL GOES BACK TO AN OLIGARCH PAST – Return to the fazenda and gaucho whip — Post Lula, post Dilma Rousseff, power has shifted to powerful landowners aggressively asserting their rights over land they don't use but don't want to lose, and politically motivated violence is up — (Anne Vigna)



### Brazil goes back to an oligarch

Past — Return to the fazenda and gaucho whip —

Post Lula, post Dilma Rousself, power has shifted to powerful landowners aggressively asserting their rights over land they don't use but don't want to lose, and politically motivated violence is up

#### Anne Vigna

Since Congress removed Precision Daina Rousself in 2016 – I what the left called a judisinantary coupt – Basil seems to have reconnected with a past many frages was consigned to latter, if a man of a country on they colonels and banderantes, powerful local figures arts used relative agent all who consect freems the latt poor, and the "bindless" coccupiers of unused land which, according to the constitution, should be restativituded more an existing relativituded.



Brazil will commemorate the 130th anniversary of its abolition of slavery on 13 May, yet a hated symbol of that era, it who, seppared on television screens when landowners used them on 22 March against members of the Landses Workser "Movement (MST) wailing to see former president Lat hadoo Lule da Shain motorcade, Senator Ana Arvilla Lamos of the right-sing Partido Progressista expressed unabstahed support for these "true gauchos who raised their white!"

List, who has been in price since 7 April, was able to traid throughout braid surrying ablance acree or over 50 years. But this March to encountered blockholde organised by amend initials using substants, stores and affect hamper his carpaign to mobile opposition to his 12-year sentence for 'passive comption'. The sentence has been

Since Congress removed President Dilma Rousseff in 2016 – in what the left called a 'parliamentary coup' – Brazil seems to have reconnected with a past many hoped was consigned to history. It is that of a country run by colonels and bandeirantes, powerful local figures who used violence against all who crossed them: the left, the poor, and the 'landless' occupiers of unused land which, according to the constitution, should be redistributed through agrarian reform.

Brazil will commemorate the 130th anniversary of its abolition of slavery on 13 May, yet a hated symbol of that era, the whip, reappeared on television screens when landowners used them on 22 March against members of the Landless Workers' Movement (MST) waiting to see former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's motorcade. Senator Ana Amélia Lemos of the rightwing Partido Progressista expressed unabashed support for these 'true gauchos who raised their whips'.

Lula, who has been in prison since 7 April, was able to travel throughout Brazil unimpeded

during a political career of over 50 years. But this March he encountered blockades organised by armed militias using tractors, stones and rifles to hamper his campaign to mobilise opposition to his 12-year sentence for 'passive corruption'. The sentence has been condemned not only by the left, but also by 122 Brazilian legal experts, who have published articles suggesting the charge was based more on the judge's prejudices than hard evidence.

The police investigation into shots fired at Lula's motorcade on 27 March has revealed they came from Leandro Bonotto's fazenda (plantation). Since the 1990s, Bonotto has vehemently opposed the MST and land reclamation by the National Institute for Colonisation and Agrarian Reform (Incra), a federal government body. The source of the gunshots was not a surprise: associations of big landowners openly advocate violence against the MST.

Gedeão Ferreira, who heads the agriculture federation in Rio Grande do Sul, said when he took office: 'We're going to confront the MST and Incra. The sole aim of their occupations is to deprive rural producers of their properties.' Ferreira denied Incra officials access to his property and was jailed in 2002 for ignoring the law and inciting criminal behaviour. He was released in 2003 by the regional federal court of Porto Alegre (TRF4), the body that convicted Lula on appeal.

(Annex) Lunch with the ruralists A group of wealthy agribiz owners get to make selfenriching policy affecting millions because they backed the overthrow of Dilma Rousseff.

Download "Brazil goes back..." here.

**4**.....

# THE ROLE OF THE WORKING CLASS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS — (Alejandro Teitelbaum)

he transnational corporation has been defined as "a company that tries to conduct its activities on an international scale, as if there are no national borders, on the basis of a common strategy run by the corporate centre". Its policies are established by the decisions of the corporate centre regarding the location of the plants and what each of them produces in the production chain and in terms of marketing and financing. But in addition and above all, transnational societies are the nucleus of the contemporary capitalist system, imperialist and uttermost exploitative. Thus, it can be concluded that the struggle to dismantle the power of transnational corporations is difficult and complex, it demands the exclusion of a naive optimism that can disorient public opinion and needs to be clearly framed in the objective of abolishing the

02/11/19

capitalist system. And whose main protagonist must be the working class of each country and constituted in a unique international front.

# The Jus Semper Global Alliance Uning Wages North and South Sustainable Human Development Agout 2017 A THINNE ISSUE ISSAY

### The Role of the Working Class in the Struggle Against Transnational Corporations

Alejandro Teitelbaum

Paper presented at a seminar organised by the Basque union Langile Abertzaleen Batzordeak (LAB) (Abertzales Workers Commissions) in Gasteix, Spain, on 24 May,

I. The transmittenal corporation has been defined as "a company that tries to conduct its activities on an international scale, as if there are no national bookies, on the basis of the corporate centre." Its policies are established by the decisions of the corporate centre regarding the location of the plants and what each of them products in the and it is true and addition and it here is a definition and above all, attannational societies are the nucleus of the contemporary capitals by sylven, imperials and acquired in the contemporary capitals by sylven, imperials and and



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With the emergence of monopoly capitalism, which was consolidated in the second half of the twentithe century, an annual read consolidated in the consolidated in the control for the properties have become the basic structure of the global consolidation system and epitics the modest as a method of organising the occurrency. This does not make the non-fact there is no competitional consolidations are disputables, which is often force and orthour quarter Relationships there in the consolidation of consolidations are a disputable which is often force and orthour quarter for the consolidation of the consolidation of

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### A final thought



Mexico City policeman chains himself to the main doors of the City Assembly in protest because his salary does not make a living wage (19 December 2006).

A living wage is, universally, the most important element in the achievement of everyone's right to a dignified life and the eradication of poverty. Relative to the social responsibility of business, a corporation or organisational entity employing people, regardless of size or trade, public or private, cannot be considered to behave in a socially responsible manner if it does not pay a living wage, regardless of how responsibly it behaves in all other areas of activity.

Just as the International Labour Organisation's Decent Work Agenda states, the decent work concept has led to an international consensus that productive employment and decent work are key elements to achieving poverty reduction. Yet, everything remains in the realm of rhetoric and hypocrisy, and the system, imbued in the most perverse human instincts, remains.



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