



# April Uprising

April 24th-26th, 2009

S . D . A . C



**Abolish The World Bank, and International Monetary Fund  
Break the Bank: As Neoliberalism Comes Crashing Down, Institutions that caused the mess should go with it!**



A16: Washington, DC 2001 World Bank/IMF Protest the Global Justice Movement was saying years ago that neoliberal policies lead to collapse, financial disaster, and environmental degradation. Bury debt, bring down capitalism.

As the economic crisis deepens and US foreclosure and unemployment rates climb, wealthy bankers and finance ministers from around the world scramble to resuscitate the financial institutions which created the crisis in the first place. This April the global elite, global financial institutions, and wealthy governments will meet to plan out billions of dollars worth of new economic bailouts for themselves while the nation's poor, the poor of the world, and working people are left with only crumbs. Billions of dollars have already been handed over to CEOs and portfolio managers, while workers' benefits and wages get slashed simultaneously. This trend will continue so long as capitalist expansion is prioritized over democratic principles, as long as profit is more important than people.

A better world is possible, a world in which our means for providing for ourselves are not controlled by a wealthy elite. A global order is possible in which the dignity of human life is placed above greed, and the living earth is shared and respected, rather than commodified and sold. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are two institutions which enforce the hyper-capitalist status quo.

Since 1980, these institutions have been forcing countries to adopt neoliberal structural adjustment policies of privatization, liberalization and budget cuts. These policies are directly to blame for much of the suffering in the current financial crisis and in its predecessors in Argentina, East Asia, Russia and elsewhere. Though the IMF itself is beginning to admit its mistakes – it recently recommended that countries abandon market fundamentalist policies to directly intervene in their economies – it's understood that that advice only applies to the United States and European countries. Free markets for the poor and socialism for the rich is their mantra.

Neoliberal economics widen the sphere of imperialist capitalism, prop up schemes of privatization, market liberalization and deregulation, and are ultimately to blame for this crisis. The World Bank and IMF are preeminent supranational institutions working to preserve the global financial order that puts profits, private gain, militarism, and gentrification over the needs of the people. Through their Structural Adjustment Programs - what they

now refer to as "Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers" – these institutions have been destroying economies, local and global, for far too long. They must be stopped.

The World Bank and IMF will be holding their annual joint spring meetings April 24-26 in Washington DC. As they try to save themselves from global financial meltdown (or maybe just give themselves a few extra billion dollars) we all know better than to let them have all the fun without us. Join Global Justice Action to oppose these institutions, resist the dominant global order, and show that a better world is possible, free from neoliberalism, capitalism, and imperialism.

Global Justice Action embraces a diversity of tactics and will therefore be organizing a wide array of actions and events including coordinated direct actions and blockades, a mass permitted march, a people's forum, and a few other surprises! GJA will host community education events, arts workshops, trainings, and direct action meetings in the months leading up to April for the purposes of putting together a well coordinated, effective, inclusive weekend of actions that will hamper the plans of the ten thousand plus delegates.

## Abolish the IMF / World Bank

In July 1944, delegates from 44 countries met in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire to devise a new world economic order. They created two institutions aimed at creating a new international banking system designed to stabilize economies affected by war and colonialism. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) were the rotten fruits of that endeavor. They are commonly referred to as the Bretton Woods Institutions.

The IMF is the fiscal wing of the institutions. It was formed to loan money for the purposes of 'revitalizing' international trade and stabilizing national economies. In other words, the IMF was formed as a vehicle to remake national economies to resemble those of the Western elite. It did this by forcing countries to take loans with "conditionalities" attached. These conditionalities often come in the form of Structural Adjustment Programs or SAPs.

SAPs are a set of loan conditions designed to alter the macroeconomic structure of a country to make it more favorable to free trade. SAPs follow the basic tenets of neoliberalism which are to:

1. Pry open markets to trade (market liberalization) and allow for the influx of cheap foreign goods.

2. Privatize government services and utilities like schools, health care, power companies, and water.

3. Repeal laws that are seen as barriers to trade, including laws governing environmental regulations, labor unions and minimum wages.

Julius Nyerere, the former president of Tanzania under what was referred to as African Socialism most aptly summarized the anti-IMF sentiments in his statement: "Gentlemen, we asked for money, not advice."

The mission of the IBRD is to offer loans to countries (not corporations) categorized as developing and/or countries undergoing post-war reconstruction for large scale infrastructure development projects such as dams, roads and power plants. Part of its mandate is also to grant loans for macroeconomic development, or to 'improve' a country's global economic status. In practice, however, these loans come with stipulations that force a country to make changes not just in the economic sphere, but on political and cultural levels as well. As in the case of IMF loans, these stipulations come in the form of SAPs (recently rechristened as "Poverty Reduction Programs").

About 20 years after its formation, IBRD leaders realized that the bank could no longer sustain itself lending money just to developing countries. Instead of throwing in the towel, the IBRD formed a sister institution to exploit even poorer countries. That institution was named the International Development Agency or the IDA. Today the IDA and the IBRD are often

considered the same institution and are commonly referred to as the World Bank. The World Bank is funded through the selling of debt on the global markets in the form of World Bank Bonds, and also through 'donations' from its 185 member countries. Power is distributed based on the size of participating nations' economies. The largest countries (US, Canada, Germany, France, UK, Japan, Russia, Italy) control almost half of the vote while the remaining 176 countries are forced to split the other half. Some countries hold less than a tenth of a percent. One dollar, one vote.

As if that weren't bad enough, the World Bank and IMF also force countries to agree to pay interest on those loans. The longer it takes to pay off loans, the more a country is forced to pay in interest. Moreover, the World Bank and IMF are notorious for offering loan packages with floating interest rates, a.k.a. subprime loans. In many cases, interest rates have skyrocketed to 200% or more! This is also referred to as odious or illegitimate debt, since the WB has long since recovered the original loan amount and is now just milking the world for all it's worth.

As the World Bank expanded even further it realized it was missing out on a key part of the international marketplace, the private sector. Accordingly, they formed another institution to screw over even more people. Hence, the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The IFC is a wing of what is now called the World Bank Group that loans money to private

corporations in 'emerging markets.' Often, IFC loans are granted in conjunction with IMF privatization schemes. financial a little while later, the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) was founded as yet another wing of the World Bank Group to do exactly as the title says: settle investment disputes between companies and governments. Basically, the ICSID allows companies to sue countries in a court system only accountable to profit. The vast majority of the cases brought before the ICSID were from corporations from the "global North" against countries from the "global South."

Finally, just two decades ago, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) was established as the latest wing of the World Bank Group. MIGA is a global insurance company for transnational corporations doing business in countries undergoing Structural Adjustment. MIGA provides political risk insurance to protect companies from unrest and works hand in hand with IFC projects. MIGA requires member countries to pay back MIGA for claims on projects in their countries. So while MIGA calls itself an insurance agency, the country's citizens ultimately bear the burden of its actions.

So there it is, in a nutshell. The World Bank Group and IMF are made up of an interconnected series of institutions designed to undermine the sovereignty of developing nations and perpetuate the colonial model.

**for more info please visit: [www.selfdescribed.org](http://www.selfdescribed.org) and [www.globaljusticeaction.org](http://www.globaljusticeaction.org)**

# Neoliberalism in Washington, DC

Neoliberalism can be categorized and broken down into three main tenets: privatization, deregulation, and market liberalization. What does that mean and how does it affect our lives? Let's break it down, using DC as our model.

Privatization generally refers to the transfer of publicly controlled goods and services (i.e. education, telephone service, water and sewage, trash collection, etc) out of the hands of the public and into the control of private companies. Another way of thinking about privatization is asking this question: who controls the resources and services that are used in our daily lives? If the answer is a company, that might be an example of privatization. If it's a state run bureaucracy (or in the case of DC, a colony-run agency), then it has not (yet) been privatized.

Privatization exists in DC in its charter schools. Charter schools are privately run and operated schools (for-profit) that receive money from the city government. So, charter schools are private entities that receive money from our taxes through city council. They also don't have to take any student AND they don't have to keep every student they take. In fact, charter schools do not have to meet a minimum amount of students enrolled. All the while, when the city decides public schools are 'under-enrolled', they decide the necessary next step is to combine schools. So, as two schools get combined together, one school (the school that remains a traditional public school) becomes crowded while the other school (the one that all the students were forced to leave) becomes a charter school; that is, a money-making business (and the money comes from tax dollars!).

But the money that funds charter schools doesn't come out of nowhere; it comes from the budget for public schools. The more children are enrolled in charter schools, the more public

the more public money they get. But, they are not required to keep every student. In fact, a common practice with many of the larger chain (yes, some charter schools are chains...much like McDonalds or Safeway are chains) is what's called "counseling out." Basically, the charter schools enroll a higher number of kids that they want, then, over the first semester, ask the kids to leave the schools. Children who are "counseled out" go back into traditional public schools. But when they go back to public schools, the funding that was associated with them going to a charter school does not go with them. So, charter schools are literally stealing from DC's school children!

DC General Hospital (the only publicly funded hospital in the city) was closed in 2001 by the unelected Control Board (appointed by Congress to manage DC's funds), despite the unanimous opposition of the DC City Council. Instead of opening another public hospital, the replacement plan was to contract out the health care a public-private partnership that receives money from the DC government and private interests. The replacement gave all low and no-income residents of the city a basic insurance plan, which enabled them to seek primary care from private hospitals and clinics across the city. The problems arose in the private wing of the public-private partnership. DC General was an all public hospital that delivered decent care and treated people regardless of their ability to pay. DC General operated on the premise that it existed to serve the public need.

The Healthcare Alliance is one that, while better than nothing, does not require hospitals or clinics to treat patients who carry the DC

Healthcare Alliance cards. In many cases, people have been transported all around the city in search of a hospital that takes the Alliance insurance cards. Dozens of people have died because they have been unable to get to a hospital in time (In the Eastern part of the city, only one hospital stands, and it has been declared one of the worst hospitals in the country). The closing of DC General also brought massive layoffs.

Historically, governments put restrictions on what can and can't be sold and traded within their borders; they also put restrictions on the ways goods can be made and the labor conditions goods and services are produced in. They did this to protect their local businesses and workers. So, under periods of protectionist economics (policies put in place to protect its people), we had certain laws that prohibited lots of foreign businesses from coming in and taking over. In theory, this was supposed to protect Mom'n'Pop shops although in the US as a whole, that wasn't the case) from going under when a big store came into town (think Wal-Mart). (Cont. page 3)



## Capitalism is the Financial Crisis Global Capitalism

### Intro to the Financial Crisis

The market governs our lives with arbitrary fluctuations and swallows the planet with its pathological obsession with profit. Anything that cannot fit into this system of tradable commodities, like our uniqueness, our culture, our resistance, our love and our rage is ignored. Few advocates of the 'free market' admit that it is imposed, not an inherent part of our lives; none admit it is a myth.

The market has colonized our lives, stealing communal land and selling social dynamics. When the IMF attempts to determine 'total productive capacity' or the Federal Reserve bails out wealthy corporations, all personal dynamics are either fit into a formula or overlooked. Everything that is too unstable or not material enough to be exchanged is ignored. The market fails because it requires us to be eliminated; it claims it governs social dynamics while forgetting it is a social dynamic. We are left living in the aftermath.

The market collapse is a symptom of a larger issue. Under capitalism, means of production are owned by private people, and we are forced to sell our lives in order to buy things that are rightfully ours. We have become dependent on the market for the basic necessities of life. This process of dependency has created a world that operates as a death machine. We have lost control over our lives. We are forced to work jobs we hate and then live lives of regret because we devote most of our time to these jobs. The planet is being destroyed by industry; our cities are ghost towns and war zones.

The market collapse was borne out of the basic tenet of capitalism: the myth that we are profit-driven, self-interested, isolated individuals. In the drive to generate the most profit in the shortest times, jobs in the United States were outsourced to parts of the world without regulations like minimum wage laws,

environmental protections, or child labor laws.

The elimination of these rights is integral to the IMF/World Bank 'economic restructuring plans.' Workers in the US (particularly union workers) generated an income that provides not only food and shelter, but also cars, computers, and other extras. This created consumerism.

But with outsourcing, higher wage jobs are replaced with sweatshop jobs that only pay for basic subsistence. In the US, this created a profitable (for corporations) economy based on services, not production.

Meanwhile, US residents were borrowing money, and lots of it, to pay for big-ticket items like houses and cars. This overspending was driven by the illusion that economic growth would continue forever and by low interest loans. These loans were backed by banks, which generated the 'money' based on projected future financial growth. This created the debt economy, born from and based in potential future profit..

As factory production was outsourced, trade surpluses grew. Surpluses are generated when money is spent in one economy and does not return. As production became more 'international', the US economy generated large deficits. This spending was financed through loans based on projected profits-we created a market of debt based on potential profits from interest payments on other debt. This baseless economy is sometimes called 'the bubble.' In the mid 1990's, J.P. Morgan created credit default swaps to prevent this baseless debt from causing massive inflation. In credit default swaps, a bank makes a loan, and then sells the risk of that loan to another corporation in exchange for yearly payouts; it is a form of gambling. The corporation that takes on the debt is paid to take the risk of the loan defaulting; if it does not default the corporation continues to make money. (Cont. Page 4)

Preparing for the WB/IMF protest, Mal listens to Japanese Hardcore and puts on her hoodie, made by a cooperative in Nicaragua. She walks out to her Peugeot in her eco-boots.

Her lover waits next to her bike in his Prius. He wears a silk t-shirt, processed in Honduras, but distributed through Urban Outfitters. His handmade leather shoes and the CD player blasting a local jazz act are "Made In China (TM)".

"Anti-globalization? So, you're some type of economic isolationist? Are you aware how absurd that sounds? Very few people actually live in this ideal economic island situation. Mal, even tribes traded back and forth with each other."

"Anti-globalization is a misnomer, and you know it. Globalization isn't just about exchanges of goods and services between global markets. It's also about the unfair labor practices, the foreign, abusive control of production, and the local communities that are destroyed when neoliberal policies are coercively or forcefully imposed on less economically developed countries. We're not denying autonomous communities the right to trade. We're opposing the damaging effects of the capitalist system, wherever and however it manifests. Cute as you might be, the business practices of your consumption are ugly. Murdered unionists in Honduras, and substandard conditions and pay of workers in China aren't acceptable."

"Mal, this is unfair. I can't believe you would force other countries and their citizenry into situations that are foreign to them. The pay and conditions are suited to their communities. Would you rather we force them into "green" lifestyles? Do you realize that before businesses go into these countries, most of the people are incredibly poor and can't cover their own basic needs?" The argument is more protectionist than a Leftist/Liberal analysis of global trade. Truthfully, Mal isn't a cultural

relativist, a multiculturalist, or a snapshot of Stalin invading Eastern Europe with new plans for development.

"But it isn't suited to them, their basic needs only change. Intervention sticks its nose into local economies. Foreign investors paying little heed to the desires of workers means union-busting. Who has the right to decide a community's path? The Honduran worker looking for union representation or the company who makes the fabric for pennies only to sell it to Joann's who sells it to tailors? Who gets to decide the cost of production? Why quash little communities and the people who live in them?"

"It's free trade. The only role of the government is insuring profit. Its role into the lives of individuals should be minimal. If the jobs leave Honduras and go to Vietnam, it hurts them...not you. What do you want, Mal? Back to stone age?"

"That's not me hurting them, but your greed. I want to live in a world where an individual means more than a statistic in a CEO's plans. Where US GDP doesn't depend on the horrifying internal practices of Guess? in Central America. Capitalism isn't designed to take into account the relationship between the outlet store and the Honduran worker."

"Not everyone is supposed to win and your naïve notions aren't pragmatic. Keep talking like this and no one will listen. You're empty in your quest for absolute truth. You discount the desires of the majority in your own community for economic puritanism."

"I'm not holding a gun to their head saying it's either this or poverty."

"No. You're threatening property damage against those who disagree."

"I'm glad you care more about broken glass than broken lives in Honduras."

"It's capitalism. It allows us to live our carefree lives."

Her lover drives off. Mal peddles away. As the wind hits her face, she affixes her bandanna, the mask she wears for workers everywhere, the mask she wears for herself.

# Intro to Neoliberalism

Neoliberalism is both an economic model and an incredibly dogmatic moral and political philosophy. It advocates letting the financial market make the majority of political and social decisions, demands the state voluntarily reduce its role in the economy, and affords corporations freedoms and rights above (and at the expense of) those afforded to citizens. The core tenet of neoliberalism is the notion of competition as the most efficient way to allocate all resources--financial, natural, and human. By seeking to increasingly intensify and expand the number, frequency, repeatability, and formalization of every transaction, neoliberals draw every possible element of life into the market equation. In a neoliberal utopia, every action of every being would be a market transaction, conducted in competition with every other being and influencing every other transaction, with all transactions occurring in an infinitely short period of time, and repeated at an infinitely fast rate.

Mathematically, this model promises the most stable, productive, efficient society ever known.

In this optimal neoliberal state, individuals would choose all social interactions, relationships, and hobbies with an eye towards maximizing rapport with future employers. Neoliberalism would seek to create a world of endlessly striving resume-builders. These entrepreneurs are to be given a privileged social status; as the embodiment of this ideological movement, these people are the most important cogs in the free market. Those people left behind, incapable of holding their own in the new, hypercompetitive society, are not inherently owed anything. Neoliberals believe in inherent inequality; people are unequal by nature, but the contributions of the best educated, hardest working, and toughest would eventually benefit everyone. The higher the income and profit of the entrepreneur, the more investments and transactions take place, resulting in increased production and wealth and the creation of more jobs. There would be no need for a government to regulate its practices; the system would be self-generating and self-sustaining, if left to its own devices.

When these theories were introduced in 1947, they were incredibly unpopular. In the 1950s and 1960s, US economic policy was dominated by Keynesianism and state interventionism; these economic models offered some protection to consumers against corporate interests, and afforded the state domination over the market. For a number of reasons, this was a dynamic period of high economic growth, and the idea of such a radical shift was seen as both unpleasant and undesirable.

Due to a shifting foreign power dynamic and the inevitable inflation associated with government spending, the US entered the 1970s facing stagflation, an energy crisis, and a capital inflation crisis. The Keynesian approaches (mostly involving large amounts of government spending) were ineffectual and damaging. By inciting financial and political coups within the US during this time, and military coups abroad, neoliberals convinced us that this incredibly skewed and destructive model was the solution to the economic crises we faced. They appealed to the government by promising the private sector was flexible enough to provide unique solutions. They appealed to the people by promising the most efficient, productive system. They appealed to the

businesses by promising lucrative freedoms, and the complicit enslavement of entire generations to accumulating capital for their profit. They built an academic and intellectual powerhouse that made neoliberalism seem inevitable, the only economic and social order available.

Beginning abroad in Chile, and at home in NYC, neoliberals began implementing their theories. The United States waged an economic shadow war against developing nations, manipulating their governments and turning a profit on their failings. They deregulated industry, and built an abstract service-based economy around global financial services. They rebuilt our cities in the image of "good business climates" and incited us to destroy our local communities to do the same. They established economics as an entirely mathematical science, ineffable and outside the realms of both debate and democracy. They told us that their mathematical models promised untold prosperity if we just made the recommended changes to our lives and our communities, if we just ignored reports of flagrant human rights violations and our crumbling social justice movement.

In practice, neoliberalism rallied our economy by inciting a series of financial crises (the dotcom bubble, the housing bubble, the stock market bubble, etc), creating vast amount of paper wealth for the few, devastating our natural resources and foreign markets, and relying on us to mold ourselves in the image of their new world order. The evidence of how neoliberals have destroyed our economy and our state surfaces daily. Every bailout is a successful blackmail attempt levied by the corporations against the people--we are being "asked", at gunpoint, to support a system that cannot support itself. The Heritage Foundation, a neoliberal stronghold, has come out in support of the current bailout. We are transferring private debts to the public books, reinstating state interventionism, and ensuring the cyclical backlash. An entrenched system of constantly revolving neoliberal and state interventionism policies is not only undesirable, but impossible to maintain.

We cannot continue this cycle, surrendering the fruits of our labor and the blood of our communities to big business or big government. Not only do we deny ourselves and everyone around us the possibility of a rewarding, sustainable existence, but our current national debt is overwhelming, and the changing state of the global economy is no longer capable of supporting us. The US has an infrastructure deficit of \$2 trillion. We've been borrowing over \$2 billion a day, for over ten years, propping up our unsustainable system with loans from the East Asian markets. As we forcibly exported the neoliberal state apparatus and its ensuing series of crises across the globe, we weakened every nation and made them dependent on our economy, which we now consider the global economy. When the East Asian powers are forced by this crisis to abandon export promotion for something like an import substitution strategy, they will not be able to continue funding our failed experiment in neoliberalism.

Despite the worldwide devastation wreaked by these ideas, neoliberal institutions like the IMF and WB still seek to preserve their faceless status, continuing to level countries, societies, and people in the name of ever-increasing profit, still attempting to feed this insatiable market. These institutions are constituted of people, people hiding behind failing mathematical models, absurd amounts of power, and an ethical code that values competition and inequality over the good of their fellow man.

So what we face now is not just a failing economy, a morally and financially bankrupt and weakened state, and a devastation of our resources, natural and mental, but a national and personal identity crisis. The solution lies somewhere in remembering our own personal strengths, in rebuilding our communities in our own image, and not that of corporate desires. Come out in April and show your strength--meet your community and express your intolerance for the trickle-down social justice system that never made it close to us at the bottom. strengths, in rebuilding our communities in our own image, and not that of corporate desires. Come out in April and show your strength--meet your community and express your intolerance for the trickle-down social justice system that never made it close to us at the bottom.



**In September '08, Mayor Fenty closed down Franklin shelter, which housed 300 men. Fenty plans to turn Franklin shelter into luxury hotels.**

(Continued from page 2) Under liberalization, however, foreign businesses are encouraged to come into communities that had previously been sheltered from big business. The end result of liberalization in communities is the replacement of small family-owned businesses with large big box stores like Target and Home Depot, and the displacement of people and public services.

In DC, the most poignant example of liberalization is 14th St (NW) in the Columbia Heights neighborhood. What was once a community of color and a thriving Latino cultural corridor is quickly becoming a wealthy, mostly white, neighborhood. Over the past decade, developers have salivated over the prospect of building up 14th St., and in the past 5 years, they have made huge steps in obtaining their goal of complete gentrification and displacement of low-income people. Where a post office, a Salvadoran car repair shop, a high school, and a number of other local shops once stood, now we are seeing giant structures being erected. Columbia Heights is now home to one of the largest urban shopping complexes in the nation, complete with stores including Target, Marshall's, Starbucks, Best Buy and Office Depot. These big box chain stores join the already existing (built within the past few years) Wachovia, Giant, Gourmet (expensive) Niche Bakeries, an elite Dance Studio, Subway, Ruby Tuesday, a theater and many others (we're getting sick just thinking about them all!). On top of all this, luxury condominiums are being built at an ever increasing rate, and traditional row house and apartment buildings are being converted into condos for the rich.

In DC, Columbia Heights was once a free-standing community of color, where local shops and people thrived, and a real sense of community was forged. Under liberalization, Columbia Heights' shops were forced and are being forced to close, because the big stores (who are not based locally) are coming in and changing the face of the community. On top of this, the developers (none of which are DC businesses) are building luxury developments; they are building for a completely different group of people: the rich, and predominantly white.

Over the past half decade, 3 shelters in

DC have closed. The most blatant example of the disposal of public services was the closure of the Randall Shelter in SW DC. In late 2004, on the eve of hypothermia season, DC government closed the Randall Shelter (which housed 175 men) and sold the property to the Corcoran Art Gallery. The shelter has laid waste for nearly 5 years with no sign of change (except for the ever growing homeless population living on Another similar example is that of the Franklin Shelter. Another similar example is that of the Franklin Shelter. Franklin was the only low barrier downtown shelter, and the city recently closed it. The city government declared that the building is in disarray and that it needed fixing. Mayor Fenty decided that instead of "warehousing" homeless, he was going to find 300 homes for people and declare homelessness in DC fixed. So, in late 2008, DC closed Franklin, placed a few people in housing and overcrowded all the other already overburdened shelters located on the periphery of the city.

In DC, deregulation occurs every time we pay a utility bill. The utility bills are all paid to separate entities, but the maximum price by which they can charge us is supposed to be regulated by the government. But, like anywhere in the world, over the years the maximum cap has gotten higher until finally it burst. In 2001, DC deregulated electricity almost completely so now not only is PEPCO a supplier to the District, but also a whole host of other privately-run corporations. On the surface, this would seem like it could benefit us here in DC; we get choices of who we want to bring us electricity and since there are options, the price of electricity will go down. Well, that didn't happen. Instead, under deregulation, District residents' say electricity went out the window. Now, electricity companies can operate with very little oversight and little to no input from the communities. Also, prior to deregulation, PEPCO had to answer to the people of DC. PEPCO was forced to operate, at least on the surface, as an entity that people watched over. But, now, PEPCO is free to operate on a more pure business model. So, over the years, we've seen a massive rise in the cost of electricity, all thanks to deregulation.

# Claim an intersection or a hotel

Global Justice Action is organizing around a multi-level, tier, strategy. Once we achieve the first Tier, we will organize for the second and then the third. Alongside the Action Strategy, a forum will take place, outlining our visions for a better world. We embrace a diversity of tactics, so take part in whatever you feel best fits you.

We need creativity and people to make this happen. So join us in this strategy and help us break the bank!

## Tier 1: Blockade the Hotels

International Monetary Fund and World Bank delegates leave their hotels at 6:30 am in an attempt to get around demonstrations. They plan the agendas of their meetings because they are running scared. There are 22 hotels, with many concentrated North and Northeast of the IMF/World Bank. These are our choke points. If we can prevent the delegates from leaving the hotels, we will prevent the meetings from happening.

The strategy calls for blockading, barricades, and unpermitted marches (announced or unannounced) to occur in the time leading up to the delegate transportation departing from the hotels. We must be creative and tactical in how we do this and tactical in how we do this. They will start boarding the buses and limos at 6:30am, lets be out there waiting.

Along with the first tier of the proposed strategy we are calling for direct action marches to reinforce the blockades and strike a major blow to capital and spectacle.

## Tier 2: Street Blockades

If we can prevent the delegates from moving from the hotels the second tier calls for taking the streets and preparing to keep them. Once the delegate transportation is immobilized the strategy calls for people to start blockading the streets, using a variety of tactics, to further lock the area down. The goal is to set up an area of control which will take hours, or maybe days to clear. The blockades at the hotels, and the police response may create space for us to start to build more permanent blockades. Be aware, fluid, and ready to lock it down!

Along with the blockades, the unpermitted marches will continue to serve to reinforce and distract.

## People's Forum and March

We are organizing a mass permitted march as well as a forum. The March is on Sunday and the Forum is in the evening on Saturday. The People's Forum will meet concurrently with the IMF/World Bank's meeting and aim to:

- 1) promote understanding of neoliberal economics
- 2) present alternative visions to capitalism
- 3) tie this understanding to local issues and to learn from already successful resistance movements.

## Self Described Anarchists Collective: CALL TO ACTION

Some have been saying it all along...

Some have just begun to see it in crisis...

A world in constant crisis, chained to desks and assembly lines, clear cuts and wastelands left in its wake... and they called it progress...and it collapsed. The suffering and disempowerment felt around the world everyday has become generalized in capitalist globalization. The age of globalization is the age of quiet total war.

They exploited us, traded us away, and left us to pick up the devastation. This world is a death machine, producing death and saying that this is what it means to have it work.

Around the world thousands die everyday of preventable causes linked to poverty as we live lives of shallow material opulence obtained by selling our entire lives away in the channels opened up in some market, a market which guarantees poverty to most and complete objectification to the rest. And they say that it works... And it collapsed... Work or starvation and for many work and starvation.

They fenced off the world into property, fenced off the Earth itself and make us buy back the things which are already ours if we just decide to take them back. They made us dependent on markets for the basics of life... and it collapsed...

For all our subservience we got a world of poverty, wars, cultural meaninglessness, and wastelands. We are killing ourselves while we devastate the very planet which sustains us in a frantic race to the bottom. Capitalism is a race to see who can exploit more, extract more, cut more, and drill more, the fastest and make the most money doing it... and as a result the planet is a sinking ship.



or every oil spill, every clear cut, every by-product dumped into a lake, every mountain blown up to mine coal, every war started, every sweatshop opened, every housing foreclosure, every lay-off, every eco-system leveled to build an upscale resort, every prisoner locked away, every culture destroyed, profit is made, and the drive for profit is destroying the planet while relegating us to lives slaved away in the offices, factories, and prisons of this world. And it collapsed... We are left to pay Wall Street for the money THEY lost and the lives THEY destroyed. We are left jobless, homeless, lifeless, and suffering the effects of THEIR failure, unless we refuse this fate.

We have a choice to make, stay on the sinking ship or turn and fight. The people that structure this destruction have faces and meetings. We intend to take the fight to them, and this is a fight for our world, a fight for our lives. April 24-26 in Washington DC the International Monetary Fund and World Bank will be holding their annual Spring meetings, and we will be in the streets waiting...

We are calling for a black bloc style demo. Details at [www.selfdescribed.org](http://www.selfdescribed.org).

Kick it till it breaks! A communique from SDAC



## Schedule of Events

### Saturday:

Morning: Blockading and unpermitted march

Afternoon: 1PM at St.

Stephens, The people's forum Bank

Night: 10PM at Washington

Circle, IMF soccer riot

### Sunday:

Afternoon: Mass permitted march 2PM at DuPont Circle march to the IMF and World Bank

## Financial Crisis, Continued

(Continued from page 2) The debt does not disappear, but the capacity to loan money increases as insured debt is erased from the books of the seller. Essentially, banks sell money to create more money out of thin air. Credit default swaps are impossible to regulate or track because they are based in a contract between two private entities.

The credit swap market, which started relatively small, grew drastically with the housing boom. When the housing market exploded, banks created trillions of dollars of debt to finance the new growth. These mortgages were given to families who thought their jobs were stable. It was profitable to make loans to people who would never be able to pay them off, because risk was sold to companies like AIG (which took on \$440 billion of credit default swaps in exchange for huge payouts from the banks.) At its height, the credit default swap market was worth \$62 trillion, or four times the total worth of all the stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

Meanwhile, individual workers who lost jobs to outsourcing started to cut spending and to default on mortgages. When the housing bubble burst, corporations depending on credit default swaps collapsed, as did the banks holding credit lines for these corporations.

Notice the dynamic at play-the imaginary capital to finance our trade deficit and global exploitation was financed by imaginary capital in the form of credit default swaps. In short, the drive for profit that is inherent to capitalism destroyed it.

We are left paying the price, dealing with unemployment, food shortages, and foreclosures. Capitalists colonized our world, assuming that their system was a logical expression of our lives. It is not, and it failed! It has become clear that we cannot entrust our lives and our planet to thieves. It is time to take control of our lives back! Until we realize that we are a society, not a market, we will never be free.