

## FTAA—SOME CORPORATIONS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS

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The Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) will expand the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA) geographically, to include the entire western hemisphere except Cuba.<sup>1</sup> It may also increase the rights of multinational corporations—including pharmaceutical companies—to change local, state, and national laws that conflict with potential profits.<sup>1</sup> Although some of the proposals are not yet final. FTAA negotiations<sup>1</sup> have been going on behind closed doors since 1994, with the goal of regional economic integration<sup>2</sup> Like the WTO and NAFTA, FTAA will be governed by secret tribunals,<sup>3</sup> and citizens will not have the right to appeal

Multinational corporations have already benefitted from NAFTA and the World Trade Association (WTO). WTO mandated 20-year patents are being phased in on all new patents, including medicines<sup>4</sup>

NAFTA allows patenting of life forms, including medicinal herbs<sup>4</sup> and seeds for agricultural crops. NAFTA also encourages agribusiness at the expense of consumers and small farmers.<sup>5</sup>

NAFTA set the precedent for “investor-to-state” lawsuits,<sup>6</sup> which allow any foreign-investor-owned company to challenge local, state, and national laws which limit their potential profitability. Examples of

NAFTA lawsuits impacting public- health include: Ethyl corporation vs Canada—re toxic fuel additive<sup>4</sup> Methanex Corep. vs. US—re toxic fuel additive Metalclad orp. v. Mexico, re toxic waste dumping<sup>4</sup> S.D. Myers Corp. vs Canada, re PCB waste disposal<sup>4</sup>

FTAA Proposed expansion of corporate rights includes: ending compulsory licensing that allows developing countries to produce drugs cost-effectively; privatization of services, including water systems<sup>7</sup> (Sweatshops) and other utilities, and hospitals<sup>8</sup>, corporate rights to exploit natural resources; harmonization of laws and regulations (subtly at first)<sup>5</sup> and eliminating government oversight over public services<sup>9</sup> and foreign investment capital.<sup>3</sup>

Although FTAA publications address public health, environment and labor concerns,<sup>8</sup> they are not backed up by any means of enforcement. If anything, FTAA will discourage governments from legislating and enforcing meaningful laws in these areas<sup>9</sup>

From a modern western world-view, the subordination of public health to corporate profits is intolerable, but it is consistent with a post-modern world-view, in which human beings are considered merely resources to be exploited.

### What you can do:

- Go to the FTAA web site and sign their online petition, [www.stoptheftaa.org/](http://www.stoptheftaa.org/)
- Contact Congress and check their voting record at: [www.stoptheftaa.org/congress](http://www.stoptheftaa.org/congress)
- Please join Freedom Force International at <http://www.freedomforceinternational.org> and help spread the word. Read “Erasing America,” *The New American* magazine titled [http://www.thenewamerican.com/current\\_issue/](http://www.thenewamerican.com/current_issue/) See “False Opposition” web site at: <http://www.stoptheftaa.org/opposition/>

### More information to educate yourself:

"FREE trade " would mean that GOVERNMENT HAS NO CONTROL. PEOPLE can make their own trade deals, when they are FREE .FTAA is NOT about free trade FTAA is government control of everything; including trade, but they are just calling it "free", because it sounds better that way. Who would favor if they called it what it is? It is tyranny over an entire continent.

[http://www.stoptheftaa.org/artman/publish/article\\_131.shtml](http://www.stoptheftaa.org/artman/publish/article_131.shtml)  
[http://capwiz.com/jbs/mail/oneclick\\_compose/?alertid=5769006](http://capwiz.com/jbs/mail/oneclick_compose/?alertid=5769006)  
[vetzine@rovin.net](mailto:vetzine@rovin.net) and <http://vetzine.blogspot.com/>  
[http://www.stoptheftaa.org/artman/publish/article\\_131.shtml](http://www.stoptheftaa.org/artman/publish/article_131.shtml)  
[www.stoptheftaa.org/](http://www.stoptheftaa.org/)

**Endnotes:**

- 1 “How the FTAA effects you,” Global Exchange 2003, 2017 Mission Street #303, San Francisco, CA  
[trade@globalexchange.org](mailto:trade@globalexchange.org)
- 2 Jackson, Craig L., “ASIL Insights, The Free Trade Agreement of the Americas and Legal Harmonization,” June 1996, © 2004 American Society of International Law, 2223 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20008 (202) 939-6000
- 3 “The Dangerous Expansion of NAFTA Investor Protections Through the FTAA and WTO,” Global Exchange (see note 1)
- 4 “The free Trade Area of the Americas Places Corporate Rights over Human Rights,” Global Exchange, (See note 1) See also “How the FTAA effects you,” note 1.
- 5 “Food Security, Farming and the FTAA and WTO,” Global Exchange, (see also, “How the FTAA affects you, note 1)
- 6 See notes 2 and 4’
- 7 “The FTAA and the Scourge of Sweatshops,” Global Exchange (see note 1)
- 8 “Antecedents of the FTAA Process,” Global Exchange (see note 1)
- 9 “The FTAA, the WTO, and the Assault on Public Interest, Services and our Water,” Global Exchange, (see note 1)