

The Corporation
10th in a series
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As we continue our examination of the corporation, let us remember that it is not really the corporation who is calloused and uncaring, it is the management and Board of Directors who has these qualities. The corporation is only the tool to practice their craft and display their true character.

It is projected that two-thirds of the worlds population will NOT have access to fresh and clean drinking water by the year 2025. This has provoked confrontation over this most basic health resource.

When Bolivia accepted an International Monetary Fund loan to upgrade the public water facilities of their third largest city, Cochabamba, the World Bank required that the public water system be privatized, which is how Bechtel Corporation of San Francisco gained control over all of Cochabamba's water. Even going so far as to make it illegal for the residents of Cochabamba to gather rain water. Welcome to the *commercial world of corporations*.

Unpaid water bills gave "*the private water company*," owned By Bechtel, rights to repossess the debtor's homes and auction the home off to the highest bidder. And we wonder how the elite gain so much property. Let us not forget that under our current national debt obligation we owe \$36959.14 for every man, woman and child in the United States. For a family of four, that's \$147836.56. Couple thousand short of one-hundred-fifty-thousand dollars, and it continues to grow.

The people of Cochabamba had to make some difficult financial decisions, which included eating less food, not sending their children to school, individually not going or taking their children to the medical center for medical care, etc. In the case of old and retired people, they had to begin working the streets to pay for their water.

The people of Cochabamba finally took to the streets with the slogan, "*The water is ours, damn it!*" The price Bolivia paid for *IMF Loans* include the privatization its public oil industry, privatization of its airline, privatization of its railroad, privatization of its electric company and privatization of its phone company. But the Bolivians were not convinced by their "bought off" government leadership that water is a private commodity to be used as a hatchet in their lives.

The government chose to defend the *transnational interests of Bechtel*, and in so doing used teargas, bullets and batons on the thirsty demonstrating people. The charges for water generally amounted to 25% of the \$2.00 a day income of the average Bolivian. Is it possible that if we American's sanction this, the same fate eventually awaits our children and grandchildren.

The more resistance the people exhibited toward this water privatization scheme, the more violent

government became toward its people. Service, in this case water, was being provided at the end of a gun barrel. Yeah, we probably need to disarm the population of the United States.

The military and police do as ordered, and they will injure their fellow countryman when ordered to do so. What they should do is join their fellow countrymen. The violence of government left hundreds of people without arms, without legs and/or helpless for life with brain injuries from the use of batons, many of them 16 and 17 year olds. As can be seen, both government corporations and private corporations have no regard for human life, only profit.

A seventeen-year-old Bolivian citizen, Victor Hugo Daza, was shot and killed by the military during the demonstrations. A military tribunal acquitted the sharpshooter believed to be responsible for Daza's death, no surprise here remembering our own Lon Horiuchi, the FBI sniper who shot unarmed Vicki Weaver in the face while holding her 10-month old baby on Ruby Ridge and was exonerated. The corporations always protect their criminals whenever possible. The sharpshooter, dressed in civilian clothes, was caught on film shooting a group of unarmed civilians.

Transnational corporations have a long and dark history of supporting, condoning and doing business with tyrannical governments. Could it be narcissism that compels them to seek their reflection in the fascist regimes? Is it narcissism which causes Boards to seek their reflection in their managers?

It is a recognized fact that fascism grew in Europe prior to World War II with the help of powerful corporations. Little known is the commercial activity and support given by American corporations to the Nazi regime. For example, Coca-Cola was not able to continue doing business under its brand name in Nazi Germany so it created "*fanta orange*".

In Nazi Germany millions of people, mostly Jewish but there were others, were *processed* into the concentration camps. To track and record the processed individuals a computer was needed, but computers were not yet invented. However, the Dehomag corporation, a subsidiary of International Business Machines (IBM), sold IBM's punch card data processing equipment to the Nazi regime. Of course there was no generic software or configuration for these machines, consequently each application had to be custom designed and an engineer had to configure it. The tracking process required an IBM system at every railroad terminal where prisoners were loaded and at every concentration camp to process the arriving prisoners, alive or dead.

The *military-industrial-complex* that grew out of World War II is alive and well today. When the Soviet Union collapsed there was no longer an *evil empire* to justify the continued spending of the *military-industrial-complex*. Consequently a new monster or threat had to be created. Enter terrorism. Make no mistake about it, corporate allegiance to profits will trump their allegiance to any flag.

A U. S. Treasury report revealed that in one week alone, 57 corporations were fined for trading with official enemies of the United States, including terrorists, tyrants and despotic regimes. Stay tuned, more to come.