

Corrupting the World

1st in a series

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I recently had an opportunity to review the accounts and recollections of a man named John Perkins. Mr. Perkins functioned as an *economic hit man* for the United States before coming to terms with his own unethical and dishonorable behavior. It was with this understanding of his participation in the *corrupting of the World* that led him to disclose his activities on behalf of the United States government and the corporations.

Mr. Perkins coins a new word, at least a word I've not heard used before. It is "*corporatocracy*". Corporatocracy, as used in this series, refers to both corporate United States government, and those corporations who control that government as well as others.

Our examination begins with a look at poverty. In order to address the issue of poverty, the question "who benefits from poverty" must be asked and answered. The answer is that the wealthy benefit from poverty. The reality is that for a very small percentage of the world's population to have great wealth, it is necessary to have a very large percentage of the population acting as economic slaves.

In our current system, the stature of a person is measured by his wealth. As long as this is what we embrace we will continue to have a considerable population in poverty and it will continue to grow in order to support the wealthy few.

It is an absolute necessity to the corporatocracy and the people who own and control our largest businesses to have a mass of poor, impoverished people around the world from whom they can draw on for labor and whose resources they can steal, whether its coal, diamonds, or, or whatever the resource might be. As long as the masses of this world remain impoverished, ignorant and uneducated, they are at the mercy of those with wealth.

As matters stand today, more than half of this world's population lives on two-dollars a day or less, which is a "*slave wage*" regardless of the country we wish to point at. This means that they have no running water in the house, no electricity, no refrigerator, no heat, no air conditioning, no nothing except perhaps a hovel made from scraps and discarded materials. They don't even have the water to grow a garden.

Since about the 1970's, the perception has been that huge investments have been made by the developed countries, primarily western countries, in the undeveloped countries to bring up their standard of living. That's the perception but the reality is this has not occurred. Research will show that what has taken place is that the wealthy have become richer, more prosperous and more powerful, while those in the developing world have become poorer and more destitute.

Cochabamba, Bolivia, serves as a good example. Cochabamba needs a new water system and so

Bolivia will go to the World Bank or International Monetary Fund to apply for a loan to update their water system. And yes, a new water system is needed, however, due to the amount of debt already owed by Bolivia, some changes or “conditions” must be agreed to before such a loan can take place. The primary condition is that the water system be *privatized*. Once the agreement is reached, Bolivia is loaned the necessary funds to update the water system. But the money won’t go to Bolivia, oh no. It will go to a United States corporation for the engineering and implementation of the new water system. In this case Bechtel. So the money doesn’t find its way into the Bolivian economy, it finds its way into our economy and make the wealthy even more wealthy. Meanwhile the Bolivian people are saddled with the debt to repay.

Once completed, water became so expensive that the people could not afford it. They couldn’t send their children to school, they couldn’t take their children to the doctor. They were not even allowed to catch the rain water for their own use. In the case of Cochabamba, the people rebelled and took back the water system. Bechtel, through one of its subsidiaries, filed a law suit against Bolivia in which they claimed *lost profits* they expected to make. When a new President of Bolivia was elected, Bechtel dropped its lawsuit. However, this serves as an example of how the wealthy enslave people around this world.

If we were to travel to one of the major cities of the developing world, we would most likely be deceived. We would see good roads, skyscrapers, and a bustle of activity. What we would probably not see are the masses of poor and unbelievably destitute living on the fringes.



More to come.