

Education Won't Help Workers As A Class

BEFORE GLOBALIZATION

—What we were told

“People are our most important product, and they deserve to be decently paid.”



“Anyone working a forty-hour job deserves to be able to support a family of four, at least above the poverty level.”



“You’ve worked hard to develop your skills, you’re disciplined, you make huge contributions to society, and you deserve an above average income.”

Although a better education is an excellent way for an individual to improve his standard of living, it’s not going to help entire classes of individuals who have seen their jobs exported to other countries. Workers in Third World countries can’t read as well as our American workers already can. Indeed, many of them are children, working in the same conditions we had in this country until 1938. And foreign professionals are no better educated than American professionals.

The reason foreign workers are getting our jobs isn’t because they are educated, it’s because their countries have the same barbaric values our country had before the enlightenment of Roosevelt’s New Deal. And our multinational corporations are only too willing to take advantage of the deplorable working conditions—for both professionals and manual laborers—in other countries.

Spin artists for America’s investors and corporate executives have convinced the public to support globalization by claiming that education will be the American worker’s salvation.

Nonsense. China and India are becoming world-class educators and they have a lot more people. Not only that, as many have observed, “innovation follows manufacturing,” so future innovations are more likely to come from those countries than from our own.

The welfare of workers, as a class, has always been dependent upon government values and its resulting policies. Instead of demanding that the Third World adopt our civilized values, the U.S. government has adopted the Third World values that favor the rich and powerful over those who actually produce goods and services.

Of course, we can't force other countries to adopt our values, but that doesn't mean that we should give them our industries and our markets—unless we can find a way to compensate those Americans who are making all the sacrifices for globalization. So far, we have been unable to do so. Our middle class is shrinking dramatically, our rich are getting fabulously richer, and the poor are dropping out of sight.

“Education” isn't going to help workers' standard of living. Only enlightened government policies can balance workers' interests with the interests of the rich and powerful—and ensure a decent standard of living for all.

AFTER GLOBALIZATION

—What we're being told now

“I'm sorry, simply working hard for eight hours a day just doesn't deserve a living wage.”

“There are starving workers like you in China, you know. If you want to make a decent living in this country, you must get a Ph.D. in nuclear physics.”



“I'm afraid I'm forced to cut your pay. I can get three Ph.D.'s in India for what I'm paying you.”