

About this cartoon book

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Sources of info: Trade Justice briefings – People & Planet, 'Seattle Series' booklets – Friends of the Earth, WTO issue – The Ecologist, 'Stop the GATSastrophe' – World Development Movement

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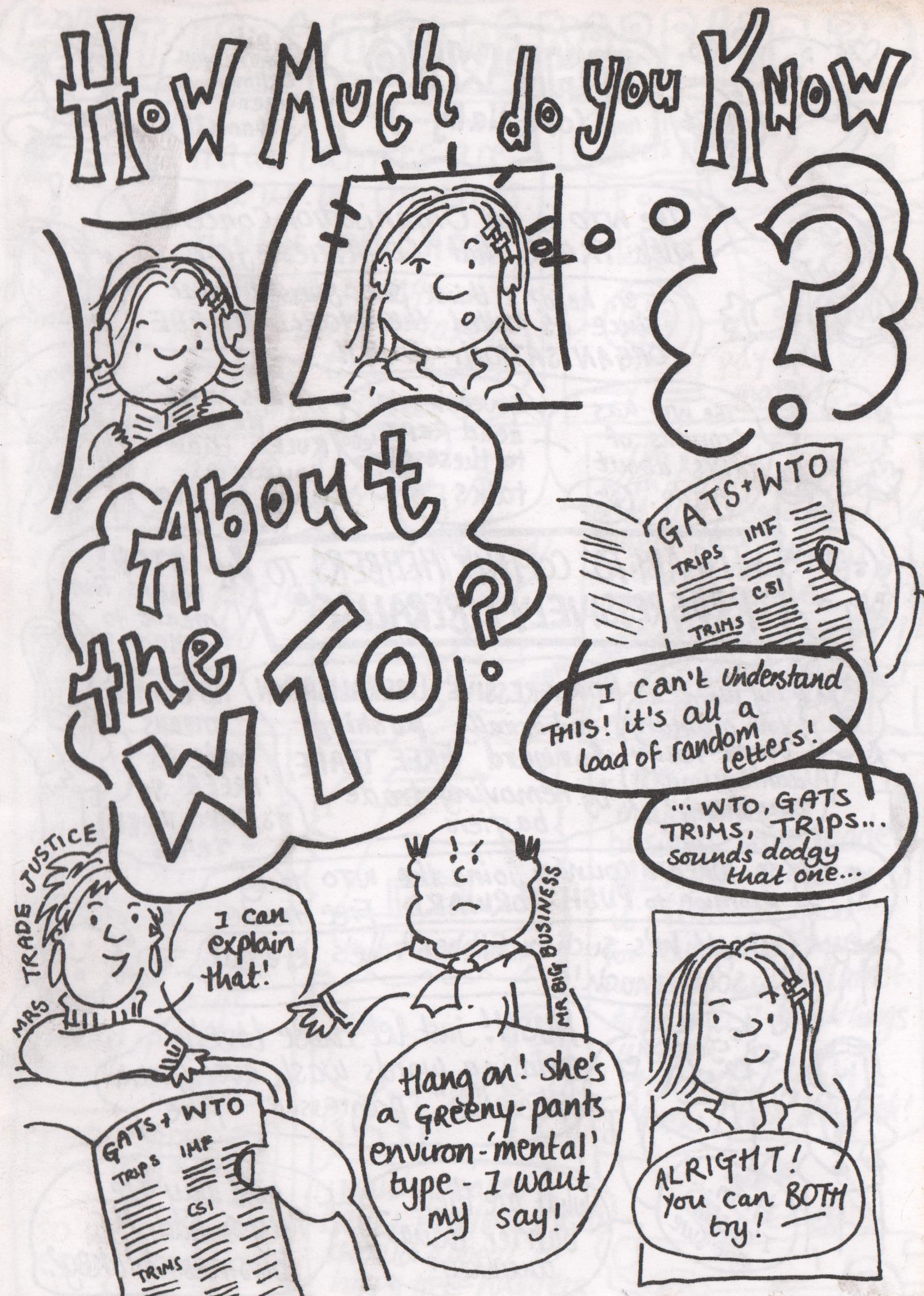
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THE WTO (officially...)

FREE TRADE

oi! who're you calling greeny pants?!

The WTO is an Organisation Concerned with TRADE that Countries join

...er, hello? I think she's guessed that since it's called the WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION- DUH!!

The WTO has "rounds of talks" about trade.

Governments send REPS to these talks.

reps VOTE on NEW TRADE RULES that countries have to follow

YAWN!

WTO AIM TO: COMMIT MEMBERS TO "PROGRESSIVELY LIBERALISE"

STOP! What's THAT meant to mean?

my word! you ordinary people really don't know anything!

PROGRESSIVE LIBERALISATION is basically pushing forward FREE TRADE, by removing trade barriers.

no barriers means trade is 'FREER' so it's called FREE TRADE

so, when a country joins the WTO they promise to PUSH FORWARD Free trade

OOH! he's such a fibber!! He's left out 5000 much!

HUSH! just let those lovely Calming words wash over you... "liberalise" "progressive" "free"

Hmn... I'm still not sure

What are these barrier things anyway?

...and why are they so bad Mr business blokey?

WHAT IS A TRADE BARRIER?

Trade barriers are put up by countries. Jolly bad show! They're things like border taxes, or laws that limit business trading

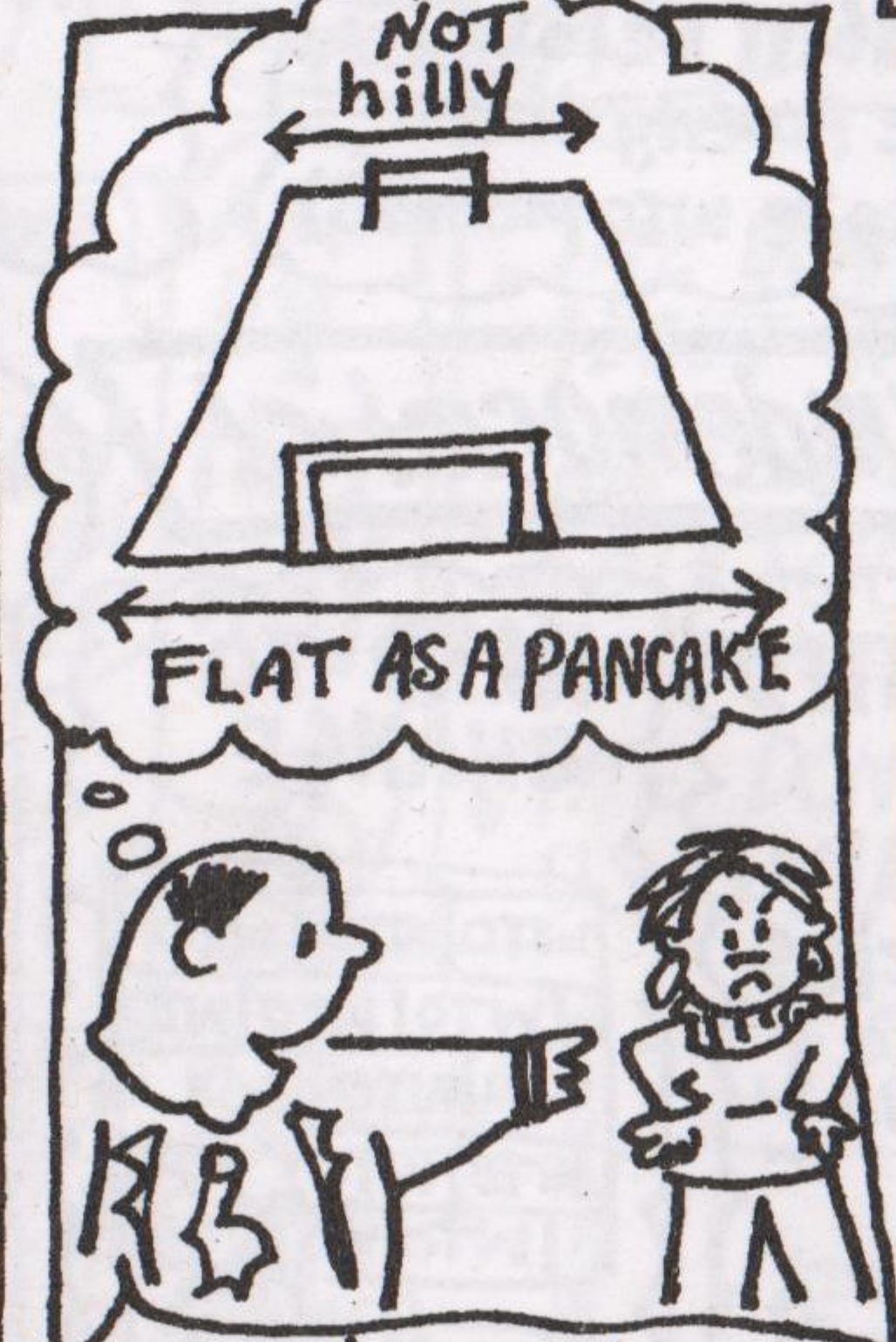


Without these barriers trade + business can move freely from country to country



... I'm freer to compete with foreign business and use resources where they're cheapest too! MUCH more competitive.

no barriers means a country can't give itself advantages (ie taxing imports so nobody buys foreign products) (only local ones)



... me and my multinational business have made HEAPS of money. so it MUST be good for everyone and poverty and whatnot. After all, I buy things wealth 'trickles down' y'know! heh heh heh!

so we all have equal conditions to trade in.



... which creates a LEVEL PLAYING FIELD should appeal to hippy tree-huggers like you, eh greeny?



intro to Problems WITH Free Trade + the WTO

All that stuff is JUST MR MULTINATIONAL'S VERSION, I'M here to tell you the OTHER side of it!

One of the MAIN PROBLEMS is that free trade HASN'T solved a lot of economic problems...

In fact it's made them worse

The WTO has even created new problems with it's regulations... (but more about that later)

Not all trade barriers are bad!

It's kept the poor locked in poverty

The WTO's policies are bad for the Planet!

my country would like to use barriers. we cannot COMPETE with huge Foreign Companies, we are STILL DEVELOPING

STILL POOR
100 MILLION! are still below the poverty line (despite WTO promises)

Friends of the earth studies show...
"TRADE POLICIES persistantly take PRIORITY over environmental Policies"

THE WTO IS ALSO undemocratic!

DOMINATED BY BIG BUSINESS INTERESTS!

DOMINATED BY RICH countries
250 rep's v. 1
WE VOTE NO! I vote...erm yes?

HARD TO CHANGE
WTO WTO WTO
WTO WTO WTO
WTO WTO WTO
WTO WTO
Your policies are not working! Oi! are you listening?!

pshtt! wanna buy a trade system?
Hmn... the WTO sounds a bit dodgy to me!

Problems With the WTO

TRADE BARRIERS

RIGHT! theres a few things old business bloke forgot to mention!

Not ALL TRADE BARRIERS ARE BAD!

The WTO have some weird ideas about trade barriers
BARRIERS to trade?! BARRIERS to big business PROFITS more like!
Apparently this Caribbean banana farmer is part of a TRADE BARRIER!

Farmers had to cope with climatic problems...
STEEP LAND Poor Soil Climatic Probs
as well as being in a developing country

...So the EU WERE HELPING THEM OUT (the EU agreed to buy the Caribbean bananas... BEFORE those sold by big banana export companies)

WTO BANNED the EU from doing this! (EVEN though it WAS HELPING countries to develop!)

Quite RIGHT TOO! can't have Preferential Treatment. Not FREE TRADE. Not 'a level playing field!'
AND BY the way...
oh, cos poor farmers v. big business is level is it?

THE USA COMPLAINED to the WTO ABOUT THE EU HELPING FARMERS
THIS COMPLAINT CAME AFTER A \$500,000 DONATION TO THE US PARTY IN POWER.
THE DONATION WAS FROM A MAJOR US BANANA EXPORTING COMPANY.

THE WTO ALSO THINKS SOME LAWS are BARRIERS

AIRLREADY BANNED
Anti-Asbestos laws in France
cigarette import bans in Thailand.

IF BRITAIN WANTS TO...
LABEL GM FOODS? BARRIER?
BAN CFC's BARRIER?
(cos we'd be discriminating against GM Companies trading?)
(cos we'd be making barriers to trade against CFC Companies?)

WTO-Keeps the Poor in Poverty?

FREE TRADE
Isn't
FAIR TRADE!

Don't know what you mean!
The WTO have made rules which have harmed poor countries, but ignored things that help rich ones!

HARMING THE POOR...
AFRICA LOST LOST LOST
\$300-500 MILLION DOLLARS income lost
DUE TO WTO AGREEMENTS
(they had to cut border tax to 4%)
Quite right! Remove all trade barriers, means NO border taxes!

AND HELPING THE RICH...
RICH COUNTRIES KEPT taxes on CLOTHES & TEXTILES...
an area where developing countries would have been most competitive (a threat to rich countries!)

Mr Politician only a teensy weensy bit...
Guess who subsidises his farmers! \$350 Billion per year \$20,000 per farmer in the USA
... despite ruling that schemes helping poor farmers in poor countries were trade barriers!
THIS HAS BEEN IGNORED!

WEALTH IS NOT BEING SHARED...
"the idea that wealth would TRICKLE DOWN" has been proved WRONG
Wealth can circulate to the EXCLUSION of those OUTSIDE
← Brainsy economist Geezer (Jacobs 1996)

40% of trade takes place WITHIN BIG WESTERN CORPORATIONS!
World's poorest countries have seen their share of WORLD TRADE DECREASE by more than 40% since the 80s
2/3 of WORLD TRADE is accounted for by 500 large (WESTERN) corporations!

NO CONNECTION
It's impossible for us to trade 'FREELY' with THAT going on! it's stupid
POOR v. Rich multinationals?
our economies are undeveloped and we have huge debts!
Mr Developing Country
This isn't very level!

WTO-BAD FOR THE PLANET?

WTO rules defend BAD practice!

NAFTA - a north American agreement similar to WTO ideas... so this could happen with the WTO too!

IN MEXICO
A hazardous waste plant opened + was causing damage...
PROTESTS
meant... the plant was declared "Environmentally UNSOUND"

METALCLAD
(the company running it) were kicked out!
Adios!

BUT! under NAFTA free trade rules...
No barriers! no preferential treatment! equal access for all companies!
MEXICO had to COMPENSATE Metalclad!
'Cos they kicked 'em out!

WTO pushes free trade at the expense of everything else!

Free trade encourages more + more GROWTH, IGNORING environmental issues
STRESS
If we carry on at this rate we'll need 8 planets worth of resources to survive!

environmental laws always seem to come 2nd under the WTO

WTO STOPPED a law that made Shrimp-Catchers USE turtle-friendly nets!

The EU had a BAN on HORMONE-Treated Beef
Worried about human cancer
Worried about effects on COWS
CANADA + USA Complained...
WTO ENDED BAN!

WTO would probably interpret incentives to 'Green' companies As a TRADE BARRIER!

WTO - It's Undemocratic!

Business influence in the WTO is undemocratic



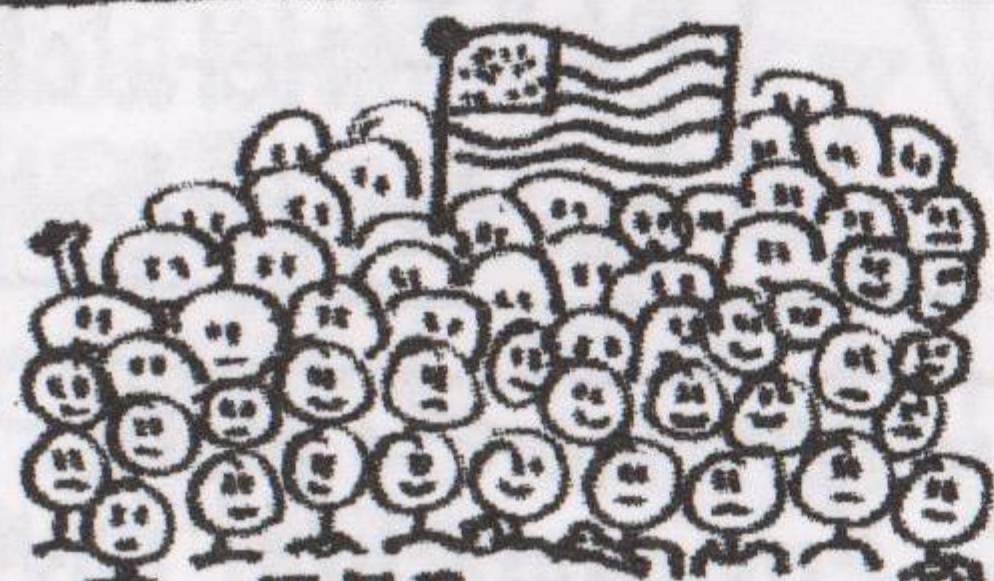
We're only there to ADVISE! honest! BUSINESS is Trading Y'know

Business gets consulted at every step - even "playing an AGGRESSIVE ADVOCACY role" ie - writing NEW RULES!



BIG BUSINESS HAS A SCARY AMOUNT OF CONTROL IN THE WTO

In the TRIPS talks



96 out of 111 US reps in the WTO (the people who speak for a country + vote on new rules) CAME FROM US CORPERATIONS!

The WTO even admits the INFLUENCE BUSINESS HAS ON IT!



"THE WTO... AGREEMENT IS FIRST AND FOREMOST FOR THE BENEFIT OF BUSINESS"

(EU/WTO website)



Hmm... So it's not for the benefit of people, of better economic policies or DEVELOPMENT then?!



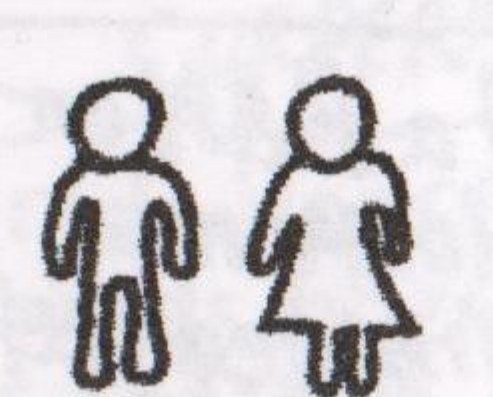
ok, that's dodgy!

But why is their influence so bad?

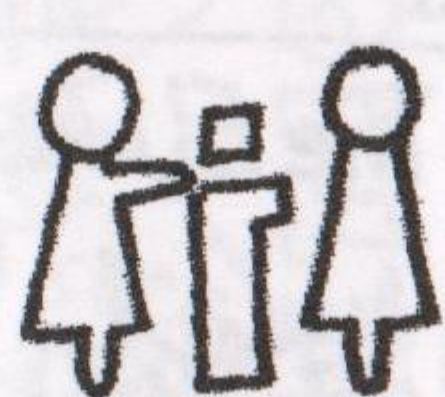
After all, they do all the trading!



TOO MUCH INFLUENCE IS BAD 'COS...



TRADE POLICY AFFECTS OUR DAILY LIVES



WHAT WE CAN BUY



AT WHAT PRICES



+ OUR JOBS AND JOB SECURITY



WTO IS POLITICAL IT SHAPES THE GOVERNMENTS POLICIES



DO YOU WANT PROFIT DRIVEN BUSINESSES



RUN BY PEOPLE WE CANT VOTE IN



HAVING THIS POLITICAL CONTROL?

RICH COUNTRIES DOMINATE The WTO!

... ANOTHER WAY THE WTO IS UNDEMOCRATIC

Now Now! countries can vote on policy! You know that Greeny



HUH!

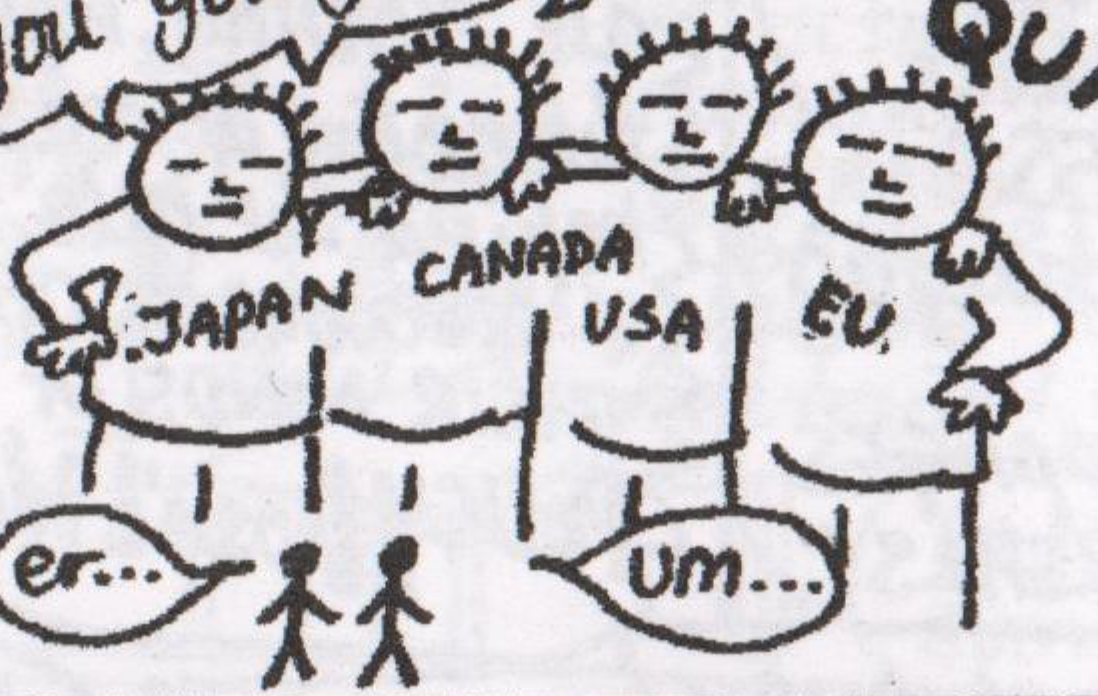


y'know even this process isn't very fair often poorer Countries...

...only get a vote on what richer, more powerful Countries have already decided about!

The powerful QUAD meet SECRETLY to discuss ISSUES. THEIR CONCLUSIONS ARE GIVEN AS A FINAL DECISION

We've decided... what were you going to say?



THE QUAD!

AS A WEAK DEVELOPING NATION... WOULD YOU ARGUE?



Not to mention the fact that lots of developing Countries can't AFFORD to send ANY representatives at all!

1/2 of the poorest countries have NO REPRESENTATIVE that's 81 MILLION people without a voice in the WTO!



USA: (250) negotiators



v. BANGLADESH: (1)

This isn't very level!

THERE ARE UP TO 40 MEETINGS PER WEEK!

DOES THE GOVERNMENT KNOW ABOUT PROBLEMS WITH THE WTO?



OFTEN IN DIFFERENT PLACES AT THE SAME TIME! it's impossible for a few reps to keep up with it all.



"BRITAIN REMAINS an UNASHAMED CHAMPION of FREE TRADE TODAY" Tony Blair

... BUT WTO rules are VERY HARD for COUNTRIES to CHANGE!

GOT A PROBLEM WITH A WTO rule?

- ALL member countries must AGREE that your problem is a problem!
- You have to wait 3 YEARS even to BEGIN a complaint
- ALL countries must be SATISFIED with solutions
- WTO rules are VERY COMPLEX
- developing countries don't have RESOURCES for LONG CASES.

Sorry! my hands are tied at international level

MR → Politician

international Politics + bondage Kit

... the WTO can CHANGE LAWS MADE by GOVERNMENTS!

VERY UNDEMOCRATIC! we choose who makes laws by voting in our government. BUT WE CANT CHOOSE the people who make WTO DECISIONS that affect our LAWS!!

OVERTURNING LAWS here are two areas where the WTO ALREADY has powers to overturn GOVERNMENT LAWS! (Trade in services, 1994)

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.. (Article XVI)

Bindings undertaken... have the effect of PROTECTING LIBERALISATION policies REGARDLESS of the underlying rationale from SLIPPAGES or REVERSALS"

WTO SECRETARIAT

SO that means rules are BINDING, whatever the motive or reason behind the rule, EVEN if governments CHANGE THEIR MINDS or the POLICY DOESN'T WORK!

erm, yes.

ENVIRONMENT LAWS "MUST NOT BE A DISGUISED RESTRICTION on TRADE IN SERVICES" WTO

Are you a LAW with an IDENTITY CRISIS? see the WTO

I KNOW what you are. you're a DISGUISED RESTRICTION, a revoking TRADE BARRIER preventing free trade!

Oh! and I thought I was a law to protect over-used footpaths in Cumbria!

... even if these laws were made to "protect human, animal or plant life, or HEALTH"! -WTO

BUT MOST people don't even know what the WTO IS!

Even though it affects

BALLOT

Is it some sort of contraceptive dearie?

Democracy!

WTO secretariat: WTO IS

"Helping to OVERCOME DOMESTIC RESISTANCE TO CHANGE"

Ooh! some scary people AND they've got PLACARDS!

watch out! you might catch dreadlocks!

Oh no! people with Informed opinions!

once changes are brought in by the WTO, it is very hard for Governments to do anything, even if Public Opinion pressures them to.

DOMESTIC LAWS... "MAY NOT CONSTITUTE UNECESSARY RESTRICTIONS TO TRADE" -WTO

blimey! I'll have to ask internationally about me cycle paths?

'oo's this GATS fella again?

the WTO has already GIVEN ITSELF some INFLUENCE over our elected governments too! The WTO CHANGES EXISTING RULES too!

That'll cost a bit.

might skip that idea...

WTO CHANGES ITS OWN RULES AS IT GOES ALONG!

OVERTURNING LAWS + CHANGING RULES ARE LINKED...

both situations rely on how the WTO choose to interperate something



... these interpretations affect our everyday lives through laws.



But there are problems with the WTO & it's not elected!

DOES THE GOVERNMENT KNOW?

haven't seen the government complain about free trade!

Whatever you think about free trade economic theory, the WTO is still dodgy!

I thought WTO rules were HARD to change?

it's HARD for INDIVIDUAL Countries...

... But the WTO can Re-Interpret existing rules... which change their meanings!



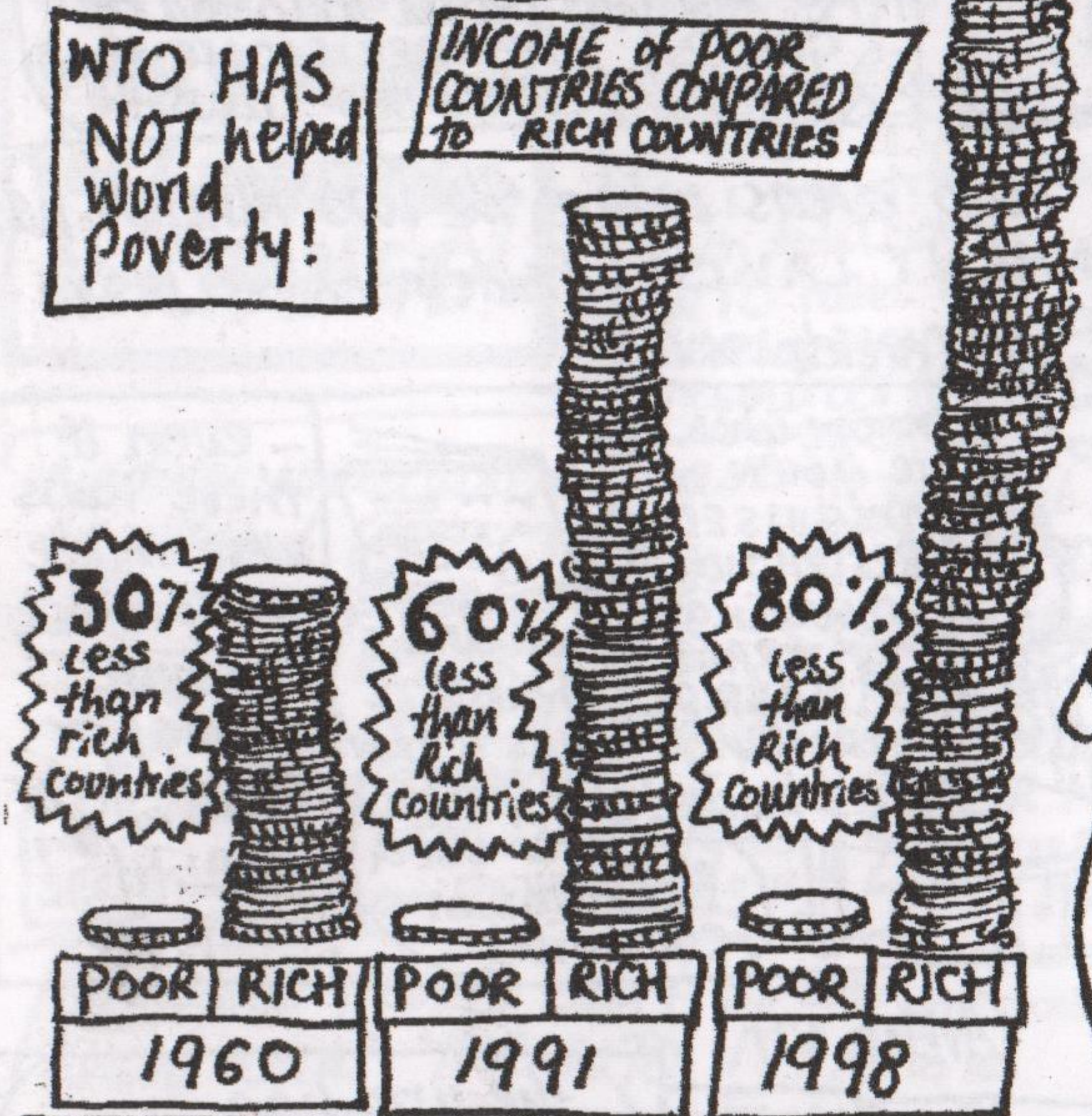
Everyone agreed in 1994 to start "PROGRESSIVELY LIBERALISING" services... so some rules were made

BUT in disputes the WTO 're-interpreted' these.

It's unfair! I have to follow rules that are different from the ones I agreed to in 1994!

THE LAW-CHANGING WTO rules above were made when the 1994 rules were 'reinterpreted' by the WTO

Some Effects of WTO Policy



... and you multinationals being involved haven't helped! so much for 'more investment'!

La la la! not listening!

The poorest Nations only have 1% of World trade + 1% of Foreign direct investment!

A DROP in the ocean!

MICHAEL MUSSA, chief economist, IMF (linked to WTO) "Our Policies are like Medicine, some of the medicine has HARMFUL SIDE EFFECTS" RIP development plans (glad the WTO isn't a medical council?)

GLOBALLY! you have to think globally sweetie! I've made simply heaps of money - it must be good for everyone I buy things y'know!

HAS THE WTO CREATED A TRADING 'LEVEL PLAYING FIELD'?

No!

- FORCED TO ENTER into WTO due to financial situation or world bank pressure or both.
- UNDERFUNDED + UNDER-REPRESENTED in WTO.
- Forced to drop development programs, tariffs + allow in multinationals which local business cannot compete with!
- Have to cope with developed world patents lasting 20 yrs.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

ABOUT AS LEVEL AS EVEREST!

- INVENTED WTO, + so shaped it to their needs.
- HUGE resources, lots of experienced lawyers + representatives.
- QUAD reach secret decisions for everyone, + they're hard to argue with.
- Opened up new markets by forcing 3rd world to allow in multinationals whilst simultaneously hindering development of local business.

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

What y'rekkon about the WTO then? I loves it I'm sure

I don't think I like the WTO much...

BAD FOR THE PLANET! KEEPS THE POOR IN POVERTY, MADE NO LEVEL PLAYING! UNDEMOCRATIC! MAKES RULES!

Why did everyone sign up to the WTO in the first place?

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES...

VISA

ROCK

HARD PLACE

signed up yet?

IMF

I thought the WTO would make TRADE more FAIR, and allow my workers to TRAVEL + WORK ABROAD (like EU workers) BUT IT HASN'T

I don't think that FREE TRADE + the WTO is the best economic system... but it's hard to argue with powerful nations.

The WORLD BANK put FREE TRADE conditions on my loans. No sign up to WTO? no money.

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

WTO or else!

MR MP

Pssst!

IT'S THE BEST SYSTEM!

Has the view of business been accepted without question? is business just very persuasive? politicians are often ex-business people, is it corruption? Do politicians not care?

Free trade has been accepted as the BEST SYSTEM + not QUESTIONED.

POWERFUL COUNTRIES BACK the WTO for their OWN INTERESTS - especially the QUAD - in particular AMERICA + AMERICAN INTERESTS dominate.

God bless American Economic SUPREMACY

I can't believe it! we're following a system that IGNORES problems, that makes money from DISEASE and makes RULES that actually CAUSE HARM!

Now Now, calm down. it's all for the GOOD OF THE ECONOMY! survival of the fittest, blah blah!

well, the richest! Those countries are POOR ANYWAY!

DON'T turn into some HIPPI GREENY EXTREMIST NOW!

Doesn't that worry you!

3 DODGY WTO Rules

These are some of the hard-to-change rules.

except the WTO doesn't call them RULES, greeny-pants Lenti-breath!

They're called Agreements

So the WTO is the ORGANISATION ...and

the WTO's agreements are the rules it makes I'm gettin' it now!

THIS IS ONE AGREEMENT

TRIMS:

TRADE RELATED INVESTMENT MEASURES

Once, in a developing country Near you...



NEW Ideas were having successes in building up economies

South Korea, Malaysia

LOOK, Mr multinational, if you want to come HERE 80% of your parts MUST be made LOCALLY!

LAW 2/3 of management MUST BE LOCAL

TECHNOLOGY SHARING

BUT WTO

TRIMS MADE THESE ideas ILLEGAL!

Trims was NEEDED! all those advantages and conditions they just weren't FREE TRADE!

What, trims was NEEDED to protect all you MEGA-RICH MULTINATIONALS against small businesses in impoverished countries?!

erm... YES! Got to stick to free trade principles

Let me guess... did you help write this rule too? only an eeny-weeny bit.

Remember! there's very little countries can do about it!
 • MUST WAIT 3yrs to complain
 • Expensive to bring complaints
 • ALL WTO members must AGREE!

THIS IS ANOTHER AGREEMENT:

TRIPS - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

It's about OWNING Knowledge!

Long, long ago even Big Western powers had to develop...



They all nicked ideas off each other over time to develop technology

I've got that idea now! Thanks! UK, Korea, USA, Japan

BASIC stuff! that was all TECHNOLOGICAL DIFFUSION!

THIS TREND CONTINUED... Mr developing country Groovy new techno!

oh no! Not in THIS day + age! Today doing that is stealing ideas

SO TRIPS was introduced to stop this.. Mr developing country

UNDER TRIPS a company can exclusively own knowledge or a PRODUCT FOR 20 yrs!

TRIPS PATENT 20 YEARS

AIDS drugs: Product of USA for 20 yrs

It costs twice as much to buy them from abroad

But millions are dying + we can't afford your drugs! You're stealing our product! Mr developing country

UNDER TRIPS it's ILLEGAL for s. Africa to produce it's OWN CHEAPER AIDS drugs.

TRIPS patents also apply to: BREEDS + SEEDS! PROPERTY OF USA

COLLECTING your own seeds is now a CRIME farmers must BUY seeds from AGRI-BUSINESSES

GATS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES (rule no. 3!)

This is a rule the WTO is trying to extend

if they manage to extend it, GATS looks likely to be even dodgier than TRIMS or TRIPS!

IT MIGHT AFFECT... HEALTH EDUCATION BASIC SERVICES!

INTRO. TO GATS A DODGY WTO AGREEMENT (rule)

GATS stands for 'GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES'

...it covers, er, trading in... Um... services.

Does it use LONG WORDS?

GATS was signed in a 'round' of talks' called the Uruguay round.

it's going to involve LONG WORDS isn't it?

how did I guess?

Mrs TRADE JUSTICE

What's a service? Anything you can't DROP on your FOOT!

Health Education Tourism BASIC SERVICES Transport

Hmm... I can see why this GATS thing is important, with health + stuff.

your toenails need a trim, by the way.

In 1994, when GATS was signed, governments promised to "PROGRESSIVELY LIBERALISE SERVICES"

1994 "I promise to apply free trade rules really soon"

Mr BIG BUSINESS

LIBERALISING SERVICES
= (same as) SUBJECTING SERVICES TO FREE TRADE RULES
= (same as) - Less trade barriers, more 'free trade' ideas applied to providing services

'cos of this promise, we at the WTO are having some TALKS about EXTENDING GATS RULES.

you get nibbles + everything if it turns into lunch!

WTO negotiator

Governments have drawn up a LIST of SERVICES that could be 'LIBERALISED' under extended GATS rules

- EDUCATION
- BUSINESS Communication
- CONSTRUCTION
- ENGINEERING
- DISTRIBUTION
- ENVIRONMENTAL
- FINANCIAL
- HEALTH & SOCIAL
- TOURISM + Travel
- Recreational
- TRANSPORT
- OTHER

Mrs MP

I spell checked it + everything!

...so that would be a lot of, erm, EVERYTHING then?

ALARM BELLS RING RING RING

...After all, it is the WTO discussing GATS...

they've got quite a bad record really!

WTO

undemocratic

Biased towards BIG BUSINESS

PUT FREE TRADE before anything else!

...I wouldn't! ALOT of people are worried about extending GATS rules!

'other' what kind of category is THAT?!

Problems with Extending GATS

hello!

Extending GATS rules would allow even more multinational businesses even more influence in my country my small businesses can't compete!

Mr developing country

The WTO have already caused enough problems with existing rules I don't want the same thing with my services!

Mr developing country

developing nations do usually come off worse from WTO agreements.

It's concerning too 'cos a lot of developing countries have only just begun to provide services for their people.

GATS is dodgy as well 'cos it's encouraging businesses to make money from human rights.

Health, Education, Water

BASIC NEEDS!

I don't really understand how you can MAKE MONEY from some of those!

SURPRISINGLY EASILY! look at education... private schools, adverts in schools, sponsorship, fees Bits of education are ALREADY COMMERCIAL!

GATS is also worrying 'cos it will increase the power of big companies to push up profits, push down standards, and let rich countries be even bigger ECONOMIC BULLIES!

UNDER AN EXTENDED GATS?

WATER STANDARDS WATCHDOG

TRADE BARRIERS

Health safety

Gov't Subsidy

There are also fears that GATS will encourage PRIVATISATION!

What's that marlarky?

WHAT IS PRIVATISATION?

Oh! what a lovely idea!
very free trade, it's all competition see?

Businesses can COMPETE to BUY the RIGHT To provide a service

All this competition must obviously result in a better service!

Privatisation to VERY 'liberalised'. 'cos state-run services can give themselves advantages. tut tut!

I'm spending the budget on health.

I'll collect rubbish for 50p!
I'll do it for 20p!

There might be more lovely privatisation (business running services rather than government) under GATS, 'cos GATS promises to 'liberalise' services!

Raspberries to that rubbish!

alot of people are worried that GATS might result in more privatisation...

BUSINESS only goes where it can make a PROFIT

Profit that would come from providing SERVICES that are A HUMAN RIGHT!

PRIVATISATION DOES NOT EQUAL BETTER SERVICE! (look at the trains!)

Delays are caused by em lack of tracks on the line.

Run by SIG CO.

THERE have been RIOTS in Bolivia over privatised water being TOO EXPENSIVE

and governments have LESS INFLUENCE on services, so arguably PRIVATISATION IS UNDEMOCRATIC

Gulp!

Sounds dodgy to me!

No No! GATS is just the LOGICAL NEXT STEP, it's applying FREE TRADE principles to backward UN-liberalised services! FREE TRADE + THE WTO IS THE future!

you would say that!

I'm not sure I trust you with running services by free trade rules.

you haven't made a very good job with the rest of the WTO rules!

tra la la! happy dancing banknotes!

PROBLEMS WITH GATS: EDUCATION.

"All too often the education process is entrusted to people who appear to have NO UNDERSTANDING of industry & the PATH OF PROGRESS... the PROVISION of EDUCATION is a MARKET OPPORTUNITY and should be treated as such"
-European roundtable of industrialists

but I want to do a PhD in Klingon!

"Business will have to SET the AGENDA... a COMPLETE RE-STRUCTURE driven by COMPETITION and MARKET DISCIPLINE UNFAMILIAR GROUND for Educators"
(David Kerns - xerox boss bloke's idea of education under extended GATS rules)

his 'liberalized' education system's NOT DRIVEN BY helping kids, or FURTHERING KNOWLEDGE or LEARNING then?!
← maybe that's why it'd be 'unfamiliar'!

Look what we drew mum!

MAC TEACHER

FAIL

SCARY TO THINK ABOUT BUSINESS INFLUENCING CURRICULUM LIKE THIS!

ESSO DEGREE in proving global warming is not real, honestly.

PROBLEMS WITH GATS: WATER

...AND CAUSING PROBLEMS for developing COUNTRIES...

HANG ON! isn't our WATER ALREADY PRIVATISED? Why's this such a problem?

But at the moment we have HEAVY LEGISLATION

Im Squashed!

CONTROLLING how business behaves.

BUT UNDER GATS this legislation could be seen as a BARRIER to FREE TRADE...

Mr OFWAT NO Mr OFWAT

one Country limits business with laws so

UK FOREIGN

That's not equal TRADING CONDITIONS!

Limiting business with laws is creating a TRADE BARRIER Greeny pants! It's NOT FREE TRADE!

GRRR! Grrr!

But they're laws that help ordinary people!

AND there's ANOTHER Problem

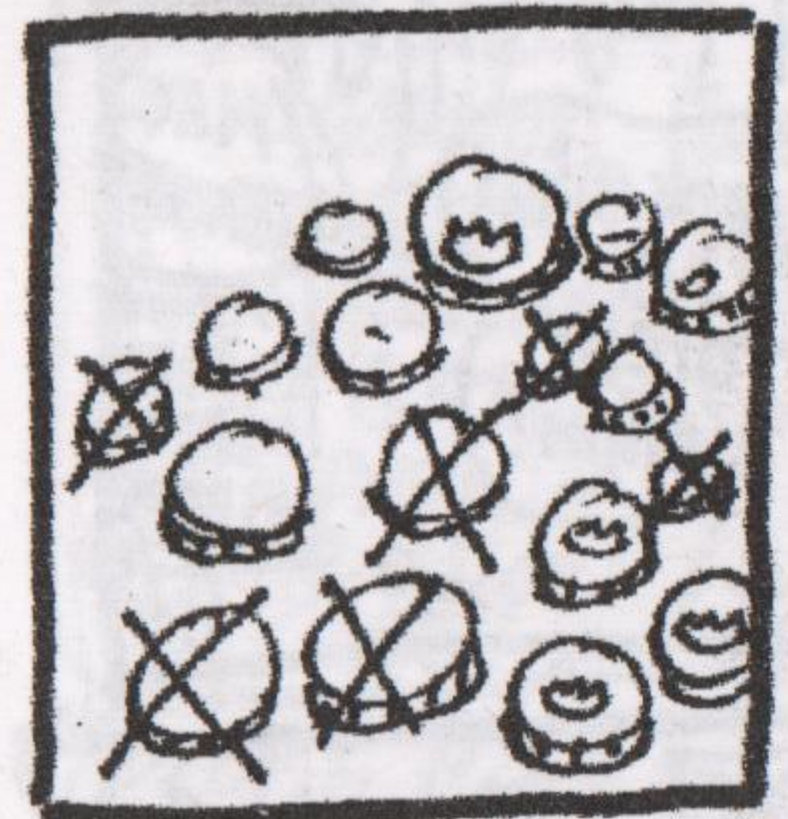
POOR COUNTRIES come off worse in deals like GATS + YOU KNOW IT!

WHEN BOLIVIAN WATER GOT PRIVATISED

The Bolivian government sold off the water supply to INTERNATIONAL WATER



However.. CHARGES CAME TO OF WAGES!



EVEN Collecting RAINWATER became ILLEGAL



AS INTERNATIONAL WATER WERE A FOREIGN COMPANY, the money from water charges WAS NOT EVEN RE-INVESTED into Bolivia!



plus... these CHARGES were so CRIPPLING they sparked



whilst trying to stop demonstrators soldiers KILLED 6 protestors + injured 100s of others!



The GOVERNMENT HAD TO LISTEN to PUBLIC OPINION, + RE-NATIONALISED the water supply

BUT IF THIS HAD HAPPENED UNDER GATS... THIS reversal in Bolivia would be IMPOSSIBLE!

'COS WTO RULES ARE HARD TO CHANGE (it takes 3 years even to complain!)

Problems with GATS: Health

The WTO is ALREADY Pressuring Countries with PUBLIC health services...

Countries are being pressured to...

"Reconsider the DEPTH + BREADTH of COMMITMENTS (on health) as it is TRAILING BEHIND - WTO secretariat.

...The WTO means "trailing behind" 'cos the WTO wants more services open to business faster!

The WTO admits this can create a 2 TIER system!

WTO secretariat: "Private health Companies COMPETING for members MAY ENGAGE in 'CREAM SKIMMING'... attracting staff... WITHOUT offering the SAME RANGE OF SERVICES to the SAME GROUPS IN SOCIETY!!

In the USA + Mexico, this HAS happend!

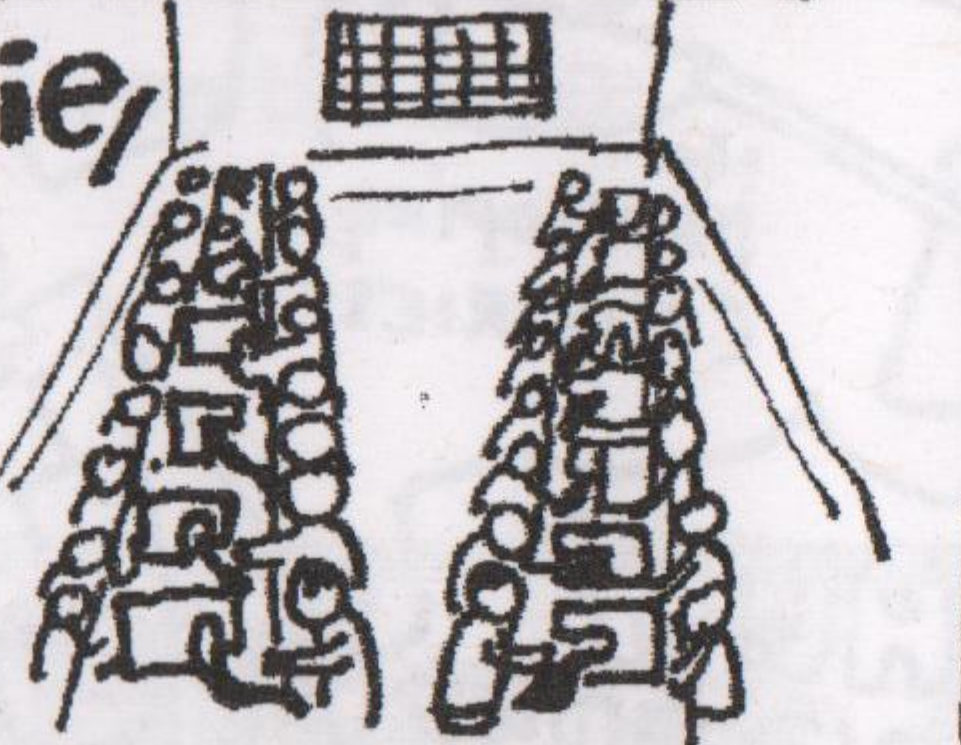
'EL BIG POSH HOSPITAL' nice buildings lots of money, best doctors... EXPENSIVE

MEDICARE! rundown, small. Long queues no choice for the poor. Can't compete.

GATS: Problems with all Services!

"...GATS would make profits the main aim of running a service - NOT providing people with something they need.

Profits as a main aim often isn't appropriate...



PRISONS WITH PRODUCTION LINES, Not education or rehabilitation.

Because GATS would make this profit-drive COMPULSORY BY LAW...

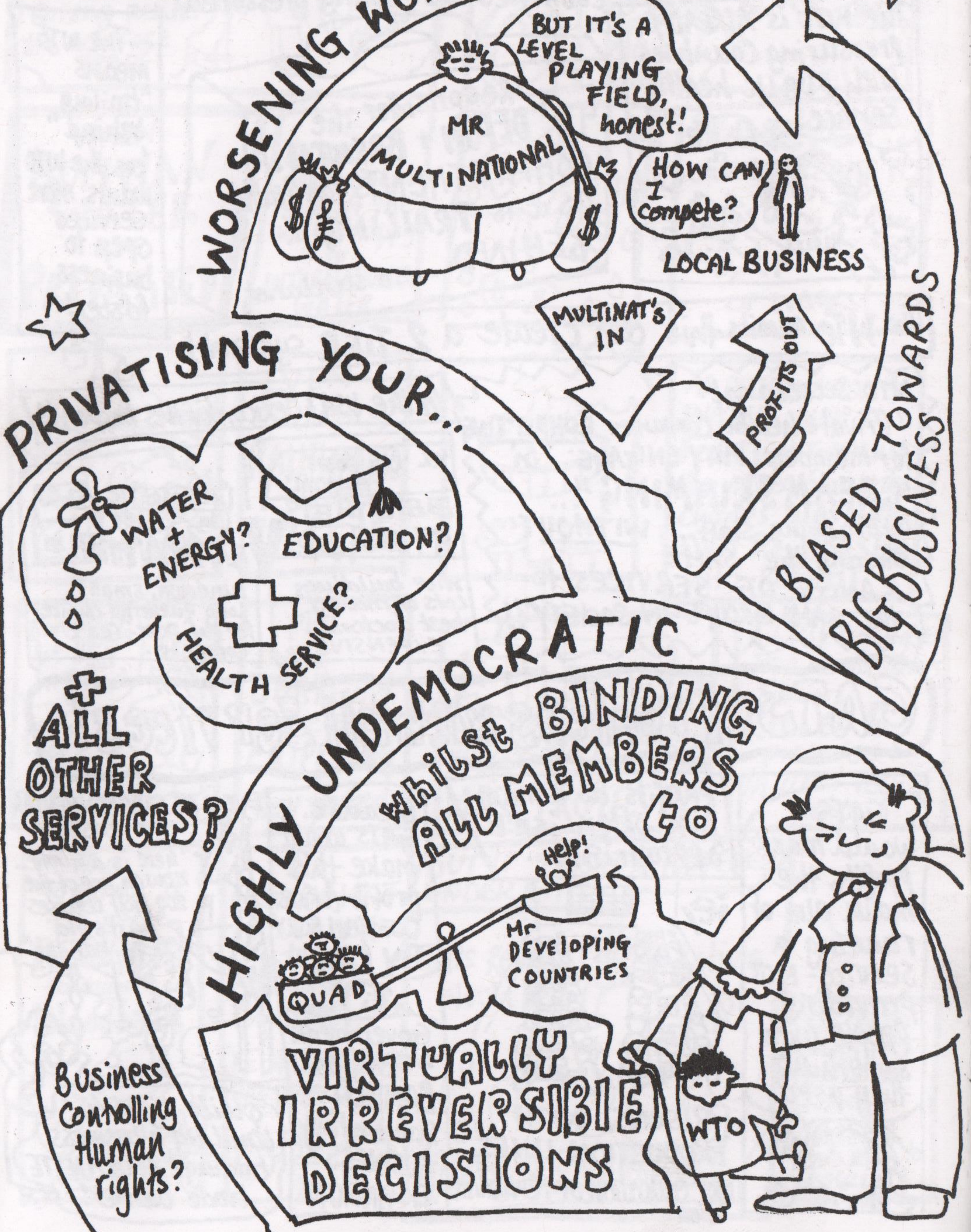
Governments would be BANNED from limiting BUSINESS EXPANSION

EVEN AT ENVIRONMENTAL COST!



Quite right too! Limiting a business trading? A DEFINITE trade barrier!

WTO is...



GET INVOLVED!

The following organisations are running campaigns for **Trade Justice**. Check out their websites:

People & Planet

'students campaigning to end world poverty, defend human rights and protect the environment'

www.peopleandplanet.org/tradejustice

Trade Justice Movement

'a group of UK organisations concerned with the negative impact of international trade rules on the poorest people in the world, on the environment, and on democracy'

www.tradejusticemovement.org

World Development Movement

'WDM's campaigns tackle the root causes of poverty. Working together with people in the developing world, we successfully change the policies of governments and business that keep people poor.'

www.wdm.org.uk/campaign/WTO.htm

Friends of the Earth

'campaigning on the most urgent environmental and social issues of our day, while simultaneously catalyzing a shift toward sustainable societies'

www.foei.org/campaigns/TES/indextes.html

Christian Aid

'Christian Aid's purpose is to expose the scandal of poverty and to contribute to its eradication.'

www.christian-aid.org/campaign/trade/trade.htm

For more information on the WTO:

- www.wto.org
- www.wtowatch.org
- www.gatswatch.org



student action on world poverty, human rights & the environment