

Break the imperialist deathgrip of debt!

Fight U.\$. Dependency on the Rest of the World

The majority of the world's people suffer exploitation and oppression at the hands of the minority. Since the 1980s many Third World countries have taken out huge loans from the United States, England, Japan and other imperialist countries and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) which act as banks run by the imperialists. These loans far exceeded the capacity of the countries to repay. As a result, the interest and further loans taken out to pay back original loans have led to spiraling debt.

Many of these loans are given to willing lackeys of imperialism who use the money to line their pockets and make their countries more accessible for capitalist exploitation. Other loans are given under the pretense of "rebuilding" from the devastation of war or economic collapse. Anti-imperialists must be clear on this point: the imperialists have stolen from the rest of the world and owe reparations. The majority of the world should NOT owe imperialists for loans taken out in efforts to rebuild from imperialist plunder.

Debt problems go with economic inequality between rich and poor. This year the top 20 percent of the world's population earned 74 times as much as the bottom 20 percent. This is up from a gap of 60 to 1 in 1990 and 30 to 1 in 1960. The vast majority of the people in the US fall within the wealthiest 20% group. Most in the United States benefit from the debt deathgrip on the rest of the world, and in order to truly fight oppression, Americans must fight against this privilege.

- ☠ Total Third World debt (1998) = \$2.5 trillion
- ☠ Debt in 52 poorest countries = \$370 billion
- ☠ Sub Saharan African debt = \$130 billion
83% of its total GNP
- ☠ Africa spends four times as much on debt repayment as on healthcare
- ☠ Each person in the Third World owes much more than one years wages to the west
- ☠ 21 million childrens lives could have been saved if the \$ for debt service was put into health and education between 1998 and 2000.

Who controls the World Bank and International Monetary Fund?

The World Bank made up of member countries from around the world, is controlled by the countries that contribute the most money. The U.S. is the largest contributor giving 18% followed by Japan (7%), Germany (6%), and France and Britain (5.5% each). Each of these five countries appoints an executive director who determines World Bank policies and approves loans. The remaining 171 countries share 19 executive director positions.

Membership in the World bank is required for membership in the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF gives short-term loans in return for countries following its harsh structural adjustment plans which impoverish the people and tie the governments closer to their imperialist masters. The U.S. gives the IMF 18% of its money. The five countries which control the World Bank also control the IMF with 40% of the voting power.

Cancel all Third World debt!