

Why Say NO to CAFTA ?

1. If passed, CAFTA would advance the passing of the FTAA.*
2. There is no guarantee that labor and environmental regulations be respected, despite side agreements.
3. Expanding corporate controlled free trade would make the Global South more dependent on the Global North and the interests of corporations.
4. CAFTA would diminish the power of Central American countries to regulate their own economies and protect their own citizens.
5. It would force the small developing Central American countries to open their markets to the U.S., with which they have no real chance of competing.
6. CAFTA would lead to further privatization of social services, decreasing public access to basic services and giving corporations more money and control.
7. It would force competition for the lowest wages and lowest production costs, which would drive wages down in the U.S. and keep them down throughout Central America.
8. It would allow corporations to sue governments over any law that would protect national interest by diminishing private profit, including laws that protect consumers, communities, labor, and the environment, because these would be barriers to economic benefits for Northern countries. This eliminates the democratic rights of people and communities to determine how their government regulates relations with corporations.
9. Concentration of power in the hands of corporations with strong ties to right-wing governments would allow the conservative elite to maintain control over a country's economy even when leftist alternatives are given governmental power by popular vote.
10. Under the guise of the war on terrorism, free trade agreements attempt to repress opposition by calling anyone who demands their human rights a terrorist for threatening a company's profit-making ability.

* What is FTAA?

The Free Trade Area of the Americas is an effort by corporations and governments throughout the Western Hemisphere to create a giant free trade region from Alaska to Chile. The FTAA is based on the U.S.-Canada-Mexico NAFTA model, and would effectively give corporations the ability to make super-profits at the expense of workers rights and the environment.

What is CAFTA?

The U.S./Central America Free Trade Agreement, is currently being negotiated by the governments of the United States and Central America. If adopted, CAFTA would reduce barriers to trade between the U.S. and Central America, reducing labor and human rights and pushing more people into poverty. President Bush has cited CAFTA as one of his top priorities, as it will help move forward the passing of the FTAA.