

More Information: for Organizing and Awareness

Stop FTAA www.stopftaa.org
Mexico Comm. against FTAA www.noalca.org
FTAA Official Website www.ftaa-alca.org
Public Citizen www.publiccitizen.org
Global Exchange www.globalexchange.org
Latin American Solidarity Network www.lasc.org

FTAA and CAFTA Calendar

- **1994**—Implementation of NAFTA
- **April 20-22, 2001**—3rd Summit of the Americas, Quebec City, Canada. Deadlines set to complete FTAA negotiations and implementation by 2005.
- **October 28-November 2, 2002**—7th Ministerial Meeting held in Quito, Ecuador.
- **March 2003-December 2004**—3rd Phase ongoing FTAA negotiations, Mexico City.
- **September 10-14, 2003**—WTO Ministerial meetings collapse in Cancun, Mexico.
- **November 2003**—FTAA Ministerial meetings took place in Miami amidst police brutality.
- **January 2005**—Scheduled deadline to conclude the FTAA negotiations. White House wants to pass FTAA through Congress before elections.

The U.S. has begun a divide and conquer strategy where it seeks to lock countries into NAFTA expansion even BEFORE the end of FTAA negotiations in order to facilitate the passage of the FTAA and to set a “high” bar in terms of the corporate rights contained in the agreement. The newest piece of this free trade jigsaw puzzle is the proposed free trade agreement with Central America or CAFTA as well as the bilateral agreement set to be voted on in 2003 between the U.S. and Chile. The next FTAA Trade Ministerial will take place in Miami, Florida in the fall of 2003.

WE MUST ACT NOW!!!

WHAT CAN WE DO

Mission Statement:

The New York City People’s Referendum against the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is a grassroots coalition of organizations and individuals that is part of the national and hemisphere-wide Global Justice and Fair Trade movement to stop so-called “Free Trade” agreements like the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and the FTAA. These agreements are now being negotiated in secret by governments and multinational corporations. Our aim is to reclaim democratic control over this decision-making process by raising awareness, organizing concerned people, and showing elected leaders—through a referendum—just how many people are against these pro-corporate, anti-labor, anti-environment, anti-democratic agreements.

NYC Referendum:

In order to coordinate this city-wide referendum on the FTAA and CAFTA, we meet regularly to strategize community and media outreach, congressional concerns, and to plan town hall meetings in each borough to educate ourselves and the public about the effects of free trade.



NYC People’s Referendum
130 W. 29th Street, 9th Floor
NY, NY 10001
(212) 760-0333
nyc.ftaa referendum.org

Come join us on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7pm!

WHY STUDENTS SHOULD CARE ABOUT FREE TRADE, THE FTAA and CAFTA



What is the FTAA?

The **Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)** is the formal name given to an expansion of NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) that would include all of the countries in the western hemisphere. This massive NAFTA expansion is currently being negotiated in secret by trade ministers from 34 nations (except Cuba) in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. The goal of the FTAA is to impose the failed NAFTA model of increased privatization and deregulation hemisphere-wide. Basically, imposition of these rules would empower corporations to constrain governments from setting standards for public health and safety, to safeguard their workers and to ensure that corporations do not pollute the communities in which they operate. It would be the protection of investor’s rights over people’s rights.

Students speak out against the FTAA

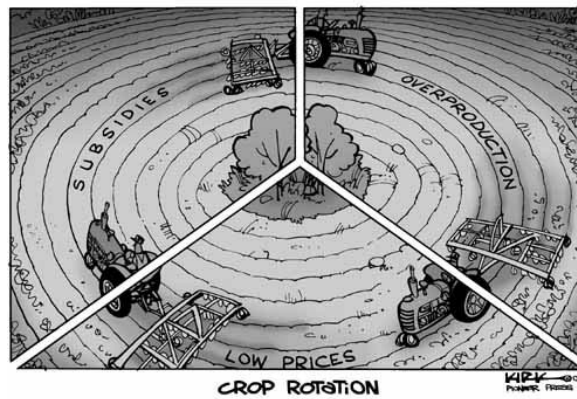
“The proposed FTAA constitutes a real threat to territorial integrity and the sovereignty of people in all of the Americas to govern themselves.

Concerned by the role that our country plays in the FTAA, we students consider it necessary to debate the position assumed by the government and people of Mexico regarding the FTAA. We have undertaken a campaign of discussion, reflection, information, and debate, while at the time initiating a university referendum.”

—Mexican University Committee against the FTAA

Effects of NAFTA

- **NAFTA has made it harder for governments to protect workers' rights, public health, and the environment** - even within their own countries.
- NAFTA has already cost the U.S. 1,000,000 jobs, destroying entire communities as employers move key plants. Manufacturing jobs - the lifeblood of the working class - have been hit the hardest.
- New 'maquiladora' plants near the U.S. border hired about 500,000 Mexican workers, but overall, **1.4 million Mexican jobs have been lost**. The cost of living in Mexico has tripled, but wages are 27% lower.
- Under NAFTA rules, **Canadian-based Methanex corporation is demanding almost \$1 billion from the U.S.** because California passed a law banning a harmful fuel additive the company produces.
- **Mexico was forced to pay \$16 million** to U.S.-based Metalclad because they did not want to allow Metalclad to re-open a toxic waste dump on Mexican soil.
- **Canadian-based Funeral Home chain, the Loewen Group, is suing the U.S. government for \$750 million.** The Loewen Group, found guilty of fraudulent business practices by a Mississippi jury in 1995, claims that the state court system constituted a violation of its investor rights.
- Under NAFTA, farmers and organic producers have gone out of business, and there has been massive migration into the U.S. by impoverished farmers across the hemisphere due to dumping of cheap, heavily subsidized grains, dairy products and other commodities.
- Under NAFTA's controversial Chapter 11 clause, a foreign company has the right to sue a local government for unfairly "subsidizing" its "competition" (by funding it with public dollars).



LIFE UNDER the FTAA and CAFTA

Essential Social Services Endangered- including the Threat to Education:

The FTAA would force "social services" such as **education, health care, "environmental services" (which can include access to water!), energy, postal services** and anything else we pay for that isn't a physical object to be "liberalized".

Possible effects of the FTAA services agreement include:

- privatization of public schools and prisons in the U.S., opening the door to greater corporate control, corruption and the temptation to cut critical corners (such as medical care for inmates or upkeep of safe school facilities) in the interests of increasing profits for private corporations;
- trend toward privatization of universities and higher education, which means funding cuts for post-secondary education—more debt!;
- removal of national licensing standards for medical, legal and other key professionals, allowing doctors licensed in one country to practice in any country, even if their level of training or technological sophistication is different;
- increase in the number of patients under the care of each nurse;
- closed access to decent public health care.

Student Positions against the FTAA

- **United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS)**—www.usasnet.org

"**United Students Against Sweatshops** knows the costs of "free" trade -- costs like sweatshop jobs with mandatory overtime, abuse and harassment, and poverty wages. And the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) not only covers more countries than NAFTA, it also covers more sectors of the economy; parts of the FTAA could directly lead to corporate challenges to state funding for public education.

As anti-sweatshop activists and as students, we say NO TO THE FTAA!"



- **Hemispheric Student Statement on the FTAA**

"As the Ministers of Trade of the Americas meet in Quito to discuss the implementation of the FTAA, we, the student organizations of the Americas, will be mobilizing on campuses and in our communities in opposition to the latest intensification of FTAA negotiations.

We see the FTAA, and the global trade liberalization imperative of which it is a part, as a narrow approach that will not bring positive contributions to building a common future for the people of the Americas or to the global commons. The FTAA poses a serious threat to the public education systems of all members of the Organization of American States (OAS), in particular to those that are still struggling to develop comprehensive and accessible public programs and building democracy."

—*Canadian Student Organization Coalition*