

## Don't take Our Word for it ... What does the Forum say about itself?

"Who are the members of the World Economic Forum?"

The Foundation Members of the World Economic Forum are the 1,000 foremost global companies in the world today, which are driving the world economy forward.\*\*

"Knowledge partners are organizations which are renowned globally for their intellectual expertise and help to support the Forum in its efforts to bring current thinking on key issues to the benefit of its members.\*\*"

"One of our initiatives ... is the Centre for the Global Agenda (CGA) which will serve as a catalyst in defining, monitoring and driving the global agenda. It will act as a hub of networks and alliances on important global issues and will play a key role in the world's international system.\*\*"

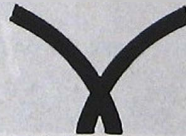
*\* All quotations are from the publicly available sections of the World Economic Forum website at <http://www.forum.org>*

## Why are anarchists opposed to the World Economic Forum?

Anarchists believe that the best people to make decisions about the things that affect their lives are the people who the decisions are going to affect.

In other words, it is you who should be making the decisions; not some representative of some giant corporation ... no matter where in the world they are based.

### ANTI-GLOBALISATION SYMBOL



- Common Resources (Bow)
- Co-operation / Solidarity (Two hands clasped)
- Freedom (Bird)

STANDS FOR EVERYTHING THAT THE FORCES OF GLOBALISATION OPPOSE

**Anarchist Media Institute**  
P.O. Box 20  
Parkville  
Victoria 3052 Australia  
ph. 98282856

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~anarchist>

## Don't Let the

**World**

**Economic**

**Forum**

**Make decisions for  
You!**

**No Globalisation  
without  
Direct Democracy!**

## No Globalisation Without Direct Democracy!

### Why?

Globalisation is a word that is used to confuse people.

Most people see nothing wrong with the world coming closer together and people of different backgrounds getting to know each other and overcoming many of the barriers which led to distrust, hatred and war in the past. The word 'globalisation' can conjure up such images.

But it is important to understand that globalisation is primarily about power and profit.

It is about huge corporations extending their reaches so that borders are no barrier to their pursuit of profit.

It is about denying the citizens of any country the right to decide what decisions are right for them.

It is about these same corporations making decisions in their own interests which affect the lives of everyone on the planet without consultation or permission.

In other words, globalisation without direct democracy - democracy in which we all have a real say in the issues that affect us - has the potential to become the worst form of totalitarianism.

### **We're from the World Economic Forum ...**



### How Does it all Affect Me?

Globalisation affects us all in many ways but often in ways that are hard to blame on globalisation.

We all understand that sometimes businesses close and people lose their jobs because of competition from overseas. Sometimes the business closes (like Heinz) and moves to another country because they can operate cheaper from somewhere else.

What often happens as a result is that governments put up money (your money) to try to keep the company from moving. This may be to keep the jobs local or to keep the technology development in the local area.

Similarly, governments offer tax breaks or other temptations to companies looking for somewhere to locate to (the example of Virgin Airlines is just one recent case). In other words, in the desperate effort to provide jobs governments compete with our money to show how low we can grovel in order to be blessed with a few crumbs from the table.

The World Economic Forum sees its role as coordinating the push by the world's largest corporations to ensure that the governments of the world provide the best possible environment for the corporations to profit from. The governments' roles are to provide a compliant, secure population of workers and consumers - You!

### Consumer Boycott

*"Don't like it, Don't buy it"*

Is a simple approach to adopt, there are always other alternatives. If enough individuals and groups boycotted the products and services controlled by the corporate sector and set up their own organisations and collectives it wouldn't take long for the whole rotten system to come tumbling down.