

The 36TH Annual

UNIS-UN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE WORKING PAPER



**2012 Human Exploitation:
Exposing The Unseen**

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HUMAN EXPLOITATION | EXPOSING THE UNSEEN



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FOREWORD

In our increasingly globalized and culturally integrated society, the issue of human exploitation is even more enormous and omnipresent. However, the various facets of human exploitation are often obscured by our somewhat idealistic view of a modern and globalized society. From exploitation over the Internet to sex trafficking to corporate abuse, human exploitation is a growing problem in both developing and developed nations. For example, high-brow issues like *The Onion Router Project* (TOR) haunt the world of journalism, copyright infringement, and intellectual property rights; whereas issues like child prostitution insidiously pervade the economies of developing nations. Human labor, in its various forms, whether exploitative or not, serves as the basis for much of the manufacture of international goods and services. In this respect, all aspects of human exploitation are a massive portion of the global economy; even though most exploitative transactions are underground, they account for tens of trillions of dollars of global revenue.

This Working Paper will attempt to elucidate the various subsets of human exploitation; much of this exploitation is related to human labor, drug trafficking, and economic corruption. Facets of human labor, like child labor, indentured servitude and debt bondage account for over 260 million (0.04%) of the world population. Drug trafficking accounts for 1% (\$320 billion out of \$36 trillion) of the global GDP. Exploitation stemming from economic corruption is only widespread throughout the developed world, particularly in the economic flagship countries like the United States. So the question remains: if human exploitation accounts for such a small portion of international activity (illicit or otherwise), why is this topic of such grave global importance? As mentioned earlier, our world is becoming more globalized and interconnected. We simply cannot ignore the moral depravity that occurs (in however small relative quantities) around us. It is also an issue of the fundamental tenets of modern society: the belief in universal human rights. Even though exploitation statistics worldwide account for only a very small percentage of global activity, they are still large. 260 million people in forced labor is a statistic that should not and cannot be tolerated. Although the drug trade accounts for less than a percent of the global GDP, the crime that accompanies the drug trade and the effects of the drug trade on human lives are effects that aren't justifiable from a societal standpoint. Even though certain aspects are lucrative and beneficial for certain members of society, we have to question whether the benefit to a few is worth the degeneration of our collective moral fiber.

CHAPTER 1: FORCED LABOR

CHILD LABOR

Child labor refers to the employment of people who are below a legally specified working age. The primary problem with child labor is that children are often forced to work in poor conditions and with dangerous machinery. The children who are working in such circumstances are often deprived of education. As such, the issue of child labor is typically classified as 'human exploitation.' The motivation behind manufacturers to employ children is simply that children are cheap to hire; therefore, child labor is most common in third-world countries where poverty and unemployment run rampant. According to a United Nations study conducted in 2009, there are approximately 75 million children not enrolled in primary school; these children with families to support often have no other option than to join the work force. In third-world countries where primary school enrolment and literacy rates are lower, children that are as young as seven years old are forced to toil in fields, mines and factories for the sake of their families. These children make up about 10 percent of the labor force in developing nations.

Child labor is a very diverse global problem because it has many different forms. For example, children work in mines, as prostitutes, in agriculture, or even serve in the military as child soldiers. Children also perform odd jobs like being tourist guides, working at sweat shops or even working as waiters. Children are sometimes targeted for certain jobs according to their gender, race, ethnic origin or socio-economic status. A very obvious example of this is the gender divide: girls may serve as child prostitutes, and young boys may be forced into the military. Other children are chosen for certain jobs because of a physical deformity. For example, if a disabled or malformed child works as a tourist guide, the

employer hopes that tourists will take pity on the child and pay more for the same service. These children are sometimes forced into extreme forms of labor. These extreme forms of child labor often constitute permanently separating a child from his/her family and exposing them to extreme hazards and illnesses. This labor deprives children of a proper, caring childhood, an education, health, and exposes them to dangerous machinery or manipulation.

According to UNICEF (the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund), there are approximately 250 million children between the ages of 5 to 17 in child labor worldwide. The terrible working conditions alone qualify child labor as a form of exploitation, and yet the practice of child labor remains. Working conditions that are safe and healthy for adults are not for children, and this can cause long-term physical and psychological effects on the child due to the unsanitary and perilous working conditions. Approximately 22,000 children are killed while working each year.

Child labor is a rising and important reality that affects about 250 million children who are harmed physically, psychologically or emotionally. This type of human exploitation is becoming known all over the world and is causing young children to suffer under terrible circumstances. However, motions are being made against the extreme forms of child labor that harm children physically, allowing them to have a normal childhood. Organizations like UNICEF and the International Labor Organization (ILO) have taken initiatives by creating laws against and raising awareness for such issues. Through these organizations, child labor as a form of human exploitation can be mitigated, or even completely abolished.

INDENTURED SERVITUDE

The idea of indentured servitude stemmed from the need for laborers in the new colonies of North America, an idea that eventually spread to the Pacific Region. The indentured servant signed a legal document agreeing to work for a specified period of time, usually between five and seven years for the individual paying his/her passage to the colony. In Virginia, the planting and harvesting of tobacco was labor intensive, so the need for farm workers was high. The indentured servant would do all the work, and receive the minimum necessities to live on – food, clothing, shelter, and sometimes training. The landowner/farmer would profit from this arrangement, and the indentured servant would get to the New World to start a new life. Colonies like Maryland and Virginia practiced the “Headright System,” another name for indentured servitude. This system meant that farmers were also rewarded with fifty acres of land for every laborer that they brought in to the country from overseas. After the contract was over, the indentured servant would get additional benefits, apart from what they had received during their period of service. Called “freedom dues,” freed indentured servants would receive items that had been previously agreed upon in the contract. These items included things such as land, clothes, guns, money, and food. The practice of indentured servitude was short-lived in Virginia; there was a major rebellion in 1673. Bacon’s Rebellion brought an end to indentured servitude in Virginia, and owners became more in favor of using regular slaves to do their farm work. However, the practice of indentured servitude in the rest of the United States of America did not die out until the early 1900s.

Although most people think of indentured servitude as an antiquated form of employment, it is still a serious problem in the modern world. It exists in all corners of the

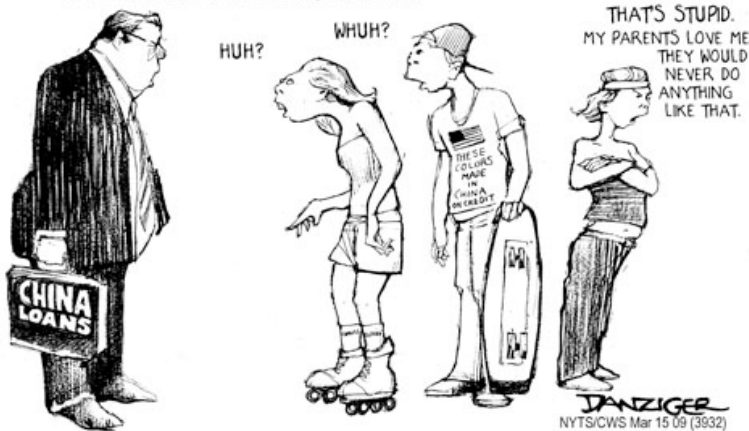
globe from Cote d’Ivoire to the Philippines to even the United States. Today’s indentured servants often enter their servitude unknowingly, tricked into believing that lucrative employment lies ahead, only later discovering that they are in a situation impossible to escape from. It is an illegal form of employment and was officially outlawed by the United Nations in 1948. In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 4 states that “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.” However, only national legislation can enforce this law, and indentured servitude continues to thrive, particularly in less developed countries. In a 2005 report from the International Labor Organization, it was estimated that 12.3 million people worldwide are trapped in forced labor. This includes 360,000 workers from industrialized nations.

In some instances of indentured service, simply the opportunity to work becomes a debt that a bonded servant must repay (a rather oxymoronic contract). Unlike indentured servants of the colonial era, today’s foreign workers, known as “guestworkers,” have no prospect of becoming US citizens. As Representative George Miller, Chairman of the Education and Labor committee of the United States House of Representatives explains it, “Instead of good jobs, workers end up trapped in oppressive employment often unable to repay their debt to recruiters and find other jobs.” A report from the Southern Poverty Law Center strongly criticized the guestworker program, which they say systematically exploits and abuses. “Unlike US citizens, guestworkers do not enjoy the most fundamental protection of a competitive labor market – the ability to change jobs if they are mistreated. Instead they are bound to the employers who import them. If guestworkers complain about abuses, they face deportation, blacklisting or other retaliation.”

All around the world, immigrants are found working in sweatshops to pay for the debts incurred by masters trying to get their immigrants legal working papers. Often, these

papers never appear, and the workers are paying off a debt that does not actually exist. In other cases, desperate parents accept money upfront for their sons and daughters with the promise that their child will work to pay off the debt. In many cases, these children never return to live with their parents. Instead they are bound to an employer who continues to force them to work for little or no pay.

OF COURSE, YOU REALIZE THAT YOUR PARENTS HAVE BORROWED TRILLIONS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE PAID BACK BY YOUR GENERATIONS, WHICH MEANS THAT MOST OF THE MONEY YOU MAKE WILL HAVE TO BE SENT TO CHINA FOR NEARLY ENDLESS DEBT SERVICE...



There are numerous examples that illustrate these illegal and destructive employer/employee relationships globally. In Lesotho, Africa, there are an estimated 60,000 “herder boys”; boys as young as six years old herding cattle in Lesotho’s vast treeless wilderness. United Nations officials say that they are “trapped in an insidious form of indentured servitude that has gone virtually unnoticed by the outside world.” The parents who sell their sons’ boyhoods end up creating a generation of men with no basic education or employable skills. Indentured servitude is also widespread in India. Referred to as bonded workers, they often work side by side with their small children, unable to escape the endless hours of hard labor. They are unable to leave their situations because they fear for their lives and their children’s lives. Very often these workers are illiterate therefore unable to understand how long it will take them to pay off their debt.

Indentured servitude is a serious issue of human exploitation. In most cases it turns into slavery because the workers have no way out. Employers take advantage of illiterate, desperate and frightened people by using unjust hiring practices that deceive and imprison them. Although the United Nations has outlawed indentured servitude, it is up to the separate nations to enforce this law to create fair labor practices for a fairer world.

CHILD SOLDIERS

The use of children in the military has been a growing phenomenon since the 1980s. Currently, there are an estimated three hundred thousand child soldiers around the world. Children who are recruited generally serve three roles in the military: they can be actively involved in hostilities, they can be used as spies or messengers, as sexual slaves, or they can be used as human shields. Some children voluntarily join the army (with the intent of earning money or glory for their families), but most are abducted and forcibly recruited into armed groups to fight. Children may also become involved in the military because of extreme poverty, lack of educational opportunities, and desire for power and social recognition. As a 17-year-old female soldier in Colombia corroborated: “I joined the guerrilla to escape . . . I thought I’d get some money and could be independent.” Pressure from family and friends to enlist for ideological or political reasons is also a motivating factor. Female child soldiers reported enlisting to escape domestic servitude, forced marriage or get away from domestic violence and abuse.

The issues with militarist exploitation of children go beyond violence. Many are given hallucinogenic drugs, brainwashed, and harshly trained before going into battle. The influence of drugs makes them emotionally detached, causing psychological problems later on. These children, some as young as seven, become fighters, spies, and human

shields. Militias recruit children because they are emotionally and physically vulnerable; they are easy to manipulate and will kill without hesitation, partly because their ethical value systems are not yet developed. When recruited, child soldiers are indoctrinated; they are sometimes forced to execute family members and friends, to prove their mettle. Another child soldier in Colombia said "They give you a gun and you have to kill the best friend you have. They do it to see if they can trust you. If you don't kill him, your friend will be ordered to kill you. I had to do it because otherwise I would have been killed."



Every child soldier is affected physically, emotionally, and psychologically by armed conflict. According to UNICEF, during the last decades, two million child soldiers have been killed, five million have been seriously injured or permanently disabled, 12 million have been left homeless, and 10 million have been left with serious physiological trauma. The psychological impacts of violence on children are as severe as physical wounds. Children respond to the stress of armed conflict with increased anxiety, delays in psychological and physiological developmental, sleep disturbances and nightmares, lack of appetite, withdrawn behavior, learning difficulties, and aggressive behavior. After leaving an armed group, a 16-year-old girl says, "I feel so bad about the things that I did. It disturbs me so much that I inflicted death on other people. When I go home I must do some traditional rites because I have killed. I must perform

these rites and cleanse myself. I still dream about the boy from my village that I killed. I see him in my dreams, and he is talking to me, saying I killed him for nothing, and I am crying." The shock and trauma, or more formally, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is generally not medically treatable, as it involves psychotherapy and slow rehabilitation.

In recent years, progress has been to develop an international legal and political framework for protecting children from involvement in the military. The UN Security Council has issued a series of resolutions condemning the use of child soldiers and proposing measures to stop child recruitment. In response to wars (in which child soldiers were extensively used) in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, Sudan and Rwanda, the UN set up the International Criminal Tribunal to try and sentence criminals who used child soldiers to commit genocide. In addition, over the last decade, awareness about the plight of child soldiers and the exploitative nature of using them has increased. For example, the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Courts labels the use of children under fifteen in armed forces a war crime. UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are making worldwide efforts to provide aid for child soldiers. Overall, even though much more is needed, a lot is being done to help children in the military.

CONSCRIPTION

Conscription is defined as compulsory enlistment for state service, typically into the military. Conscription originated from around the reign of Hammurabi during the Babylonian Empire in which they used a system called the Illkum. Some nations draft people to work on farms or in factories and also to fight, but in some countries young men are drafted for military service.

Conscription enables the government to pay lower wages to servicemen than it would

have to if they had recruited volunteer soldiers and mercenaries. This reduction in pay is due to the tax on military personnel. The amount of the tax is determined by the difference between the regular pay and the pay necessary to recruit volunteers.

The idea of military conscription was enforced to permit the countries to develop armies quickly to combat any immediate threat. People who have been conscripted are known as conscripts, inductees, or selectees and they are permitted to refuse or opt out of service based in religious or philosophical beliefs (i.e., conscientious objectors can avoid this recruitment. Orthodox or scholarly Jews in Israel can also opt out of military service). Most countries prefer their military to be comprised of volunteers because conscription is more expensive and volunteers are usually more enthusiastic and willing to perform their duties. However, when there are not enough volunteers or when there are 'periods of manpower shortages,' it is necessary to use conscription.

The process of conscription was most popular in the 1790s in the French Revolution where young men were required to serve in the military. Young men at a certain age and in a certain class were required to serve one to three years of active duty for their country. Many people think of conscription as a forced military service and it is sometimes referred to as a draft. Other times it becomes forced labor, and human exploitation, under governments such as those in Russia and China. The French Republic created an army of 300,000 men through conscription. Later on, countries like Sweden, Norway, Spain and Denmark followed suit and by the twentieth century, most governments were relying on conscription for their military power.

The advantage of recruiting young men (and occasionally women) rather than older men through conscription is that they are more able to pick up on skills and tactics by having access to weapons and military training from an earlier age and they are generally healthier and less susceptible to injury. They can learn skills that will be necessary for future



national defense and will have a longer margin of ability to serve before they age.

A disadvantage of drafting through conscription is the fact that governments will at times force the wrong people to join the military such as people who excel and are more useful in areas other than military combat (i.e., doctors or administrators). In this the country may face serious consequences: it may weaken the overall military because conscripts were forced and therefore unwilling and could not do a good job, thus incurring lower morale and disciplinary problems.

Although the idea of conscription was effective for some countries many others have elected to end conscription for various reasons. It is a controversial method because many people believe it abuses the rights of the country's citizens (such as a right to safety) and also limits their freedom of choice as to whether or not they want to participate in their country's wars. A military force consisting of all volunteers is one that will be stronger, more

efficient, and more enthusiastic than one built through conscription. People who volunteer to serve in the military are generally willing and patriotic, thus contributing to better outcomes in war and post-war life. The U.S. abolished its conscription in 1973; it was debatably one of the most sensible military policy changes made in the past twentieth century.

SWEATSHOP LABOR

A sweatshop is a term with a negative connotation used to describe an unfit, hazardous or abusive work place. The US Department of Labor defines a sweatshop as “any factory that violates two or more labor laws, such as those pertaining to wages and benefits, working hours, and child labor.” Because no single definition exists, it is rather difficult to assess the worldwide scope of the problem. Accompanying this difficulty is the “race to the bottom,” which means that companies don’t always let their sweatshop factories stay in one place, if they can shift their manufacturing to ever-cheaper and less-regulated locations, they will.

For more than 150 years, the sewing machine has been, and still remains to be, the most convenient and fastest way of making apparel and accessories. However, the fragility of the materials used to create clothing, along with the complicated and unique patterns involved generally do not allow for mechanized production. Thus the simplest method of garment production continues to be a laborer, usually a woman, sitting or standing over a sewing machine, and carefully sewing together fragments of cloth.

To keep labor costs low, manufacturing company owners usually pay their workers based on a “piece rate.” That means workers don’t get paid by the hour, rather,

their wage is based on the number of items—shirts, shoes, socks—they complete in a shift. If workers hope to earn a decent income, they have to work hard, and they have to work long. Unfortunately these incomes range from pennies in underdeveloped countries to a couple of dollars per day. Sweatshop workers are trapped in a cycle of exploitation that rarely improves their economic situation, as they will never be able to save enough money to make a better life for themselves and family if they only ever make just enough to be able to afford their indecent lifestyle.

The only explanation for these unfair and cruel conditions faced by sweatshop workers is the morbid greed of the manufacturing companies and the global competition to produce goods at the lowest possible price. As retailers compete with one another by seeking low cost workers, they put pressure on suppliers to keep their costs down. The result is forced overtime, low wages, punishments and fines for slow work and mistakes, along with other abuses.

Unfortunately, developing countries desperately need foreign direct investment, and compete with one another to produce cheaper goods allowing corporations in more developed countries to influence their retail prices. The governments of these developing nations are reluctant to enforce labor laws for



those working in difficult conditions. From the governments' perspective, cheap labor is an incentive for transnational corporations (TNCs are the main source of foreign direct investment, FDI). Essentially, the governments believe that sweatshops will encourage TNCs to invest (because of the cheap labor) and provide the capital for economic development. They also claim that working in sweatshops provides better working conditions to people who might otherwise be forced into prostitution, begging or substance farming.

Some people believe that sweatshop labor is a modern day form of slavery. Although many people deny it, sweatshops play a major role in international trade, and it has yet to be completely abolished. Since the 1990s, many lawsuits have been filed against massive corporations, like Sears, Wal-Mart, and The Gap, for using sweatshop labor in less developed countries to produce their merchandise. These lawsuits aren't a preventative measure, but they raise awareness and add to the worldwide fight to reduce sweatshop labor. There are also many groups and corporations like "Co-op America," that sponsor programs like "No Sweat!" to combat sweatshop labor. Their goal is to spread the word of the impact and abuse sweatshop labor causes through the Internet and other media. They also recommend individuals and businesses to organize group meetings to discuss what can be done about sweatshop labor, and urge them to only purchase union-made, local, and fair-trade approved goods.

DEBT BONDAGE

Debt bondage is a form of slavery in which a person offers his or her services and labor in return for a loan or to repay a debt. It is defined by the United Nations Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery as "the status or condition

arising from a pledge by a debtor of his personal services or those of a person under his control as security for a debt, if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied towards the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited or defined." Once the value



of the labor (i.e., the individual performing the labor is not allotted wages) ceases to be a factor for repaying a debt, the situation can be classified as debt bondage. Debt bondage is most common in South Asia, and is a popular means of continuing to enslave indentured workers even after the abolition of the slave trade. It is estimated by the International Labour Organization (the ILO is another United Nations specialized agency) that currently, globally, around 12.3 million people are in debt bondage. Other sources estimate that the true value for the population of those in debt bondage is over 27 million, which is a possibility because bonded labor is almost never statistically reported and widely unknown or disregarded.

The work of the indebted includes farm labor, industrial work, domestic chores, and even prostitution or involvement in the sex trade. More specifically, indebted laborers could work in the Brick kilns industry. This industry is common in rural areas throughout India, where workers toil in stone quarries, crushers, and mines, and process fish, polish silver, and weave mats and carpets.

There are typically no contracts or legal documents involved in the system of debt bondage. Most of the laborers are poorly educated or illiterate, and have no alternative

options to pay their debt (i.e., they have no form of sustainable income). In order to ensure cooperation, the laborers (or perhaps more accurately, the victims) are threatened and terrorized by warnings of physical violence and imprisonment. The system is manipulated so that the initial debt and the cost of living while in debt bondage (food and rent) will always exceed the value of the work, and the person will forever have to pay off the mounting debt. With this distortion of repaying a debt, people forced into debt bondage are very often unable to escape for decades. Bonded laborers are generally kept under surveillance, or even under lock and key, to ensure that they do not run away.

Intergenerational debt bondage is also very common. When parents are no longer able to work, the debt is passed down to their child, and the child is forced into working to pay off their parents' debt. In many other cases, a child's labor is directly pledged for a loan. Child bonded labor is disputable because unlike some forms of adult bonded labor, child labor (at least from the child's perspective) is always involuntary.

Debt bondage is technically illegal according to Article 1 in the United Nations 1956 Supplementary Convention of the Abolition of Slavery. Of the 194 countries recognized by the United States, over half have no laws or regulations against human trafficking. The Fair Debt Collection Act,

prepared by the Federal Trade Commission, also prohibits the "unfair, deceptive, or abusive collection of debts." This act also protects the rights of the indebted. Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 also declares that "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms." Despite the fact that bonded labor is illegal in most countries where it is prevalent, governments are unwilling to enforce the law or to ensure the punishment of those who profit from this illegal trade.

The issue of debt bondage, however, is controversial because in most cases, the debtor voluntarily places himself in a position of servitude. In many situations, evidence suggests that bonded laborers could be better off than if they were free workers. In this relationship, labor most often concerns the poor workers who have more limited opportunities; therefore, this kind of arrangement would be their best option.

As the economy is falling and the demand for cheap labor is increasing, debt bondage is becoming progressively more common. As shocking as it seems, there are more people in some form of slavery today than at any other time in human history. Even though debt bondage is prohibited under international law, it still runs rampant and it is crucial that debt bondage be controlled, if not abolished.

CHAPTER 2: SEXUAL EXPLOITATION PROSTITUTION

Prostitution, otherwise known as the world's "oldest profession," is the practice of

providing sexual services to another person in return for payment. Prostitution used to be primarily a profession for females, but it is becoming increasingly common for men to be prostitutes as well; prostitution and sex trafficking are also international issues.

5,000 SOLD DAILY



The types of prostitution are diverse. The most stereotypical type is known as 'street prostitution' (or in the vernacular, 'nightwalkers'). Street prostitutes usually operate independently. However more organized establishments like brothels (organizations dedicated to sex trafficking) and escort services (typically where a customer calls a prostitute to his residence) exist. Sex trafficking is a more extreme form of prostitution; it involves a high degree of coercion to force a person into providing sexual services.

The reasons why women and men become prostitutes are also diverse (however, because there is considerably less anthropological and statistical data on male escorts, only females will be considered in this paper). A percentage of women voluntarily become prostitutes (not because of lack of education, financial stability or any other factor). However, this group of women is in a great minority; most women are forced into the profession, typically because they lack the education or training for another job or they need some source of income. Oftentimes, young women are tricked into prostitution; they are encouraged to leave their homes with promises of jobs and an education in a larger city. Instead, they are sold as prostitutes (sometimes a group of prostitutes will be managed by a single person, colloquially known as a pimp). In many countries, there is a social stigma attached to prostitutes, so the girls who were fooled into prostitution are often incapable of acquiring work later or going back to their families. Some women are tricked into debt (this can be done by introducing the individual to a drug, then miring them in debt due to their addiction), then forced to repay said debt through indentured sex trafficking. Prostitutes that are forced into the profession are frequently mentally and physically abused (either by a pimp or by their customers), and they incur almost irreversible psychological damage. Prostitutes often lose all self-esteem and personal identity.

The legalities of prostitution differ internationally. In most of the United States (save Nevada), East Asia (and Russia), and

Africa, prostitution is illegal. Generally, the arguments against prostitution constitute the justification that it is a form of exploitation and not a legitimate occupation. The United Nations General Assembly is firmly anti-prostitution, and stated, "prostitution and the accompanying evil of the traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person." In these countries, both prostitutes and clients are seen as unethical and criminal individuals. Another attitude that is being adopted is 'Neo-Abolitionism.' This is a policy (or rather, a belief) that prostitutes themselves are usually not at fault. They are often exploited and tricked. However, prostitutes' customers and managers are liable and therefore criminals. In most of continental Europe, South America, Australia and Canada, prostitution is either completely legal, or legal and regulated (regulated usually implies that brothels are illegal). The arguments for legalizing prostitution are that it is a massive source of revenue; the yearly revenue from international prostitution is over \$100 billion. Organizations like the Scarlet Alliance (Australia) and Coyote (call-off-your-old-tired-ethics) importune governments to legalize prostitutions and decriminalize prostitutes based on the justification that it is a valid profession, a labor like any other. However, extreme forms of prostitution, like child prostitution, (estimated to be over 1 million worldwide) are illegal everywhere. There are clashes over whether or not

prostitution should be legalized, but the fact remains that most cases of prostitution are exploitative in nature. Prostitutes are forced into providing (often demeaning) sexual services because of a lack of education or a lack of income. Women are often forced or tricked into becoming prostitutes, which is a form of human exploitation. However, as long as there is a global demand for prostitutes, desperate people and immoral managers will create a supply. The issue of whether to criminalize or decriminalize the seller or buyer of the 'services' is debatable.

CHILD PROSTITUTION

Child prostitution is the sexual exploitation of a minor for monetary gain. Most often, the child prostitutes receive little to none of the money they make. Child prostitution is a widespread issue that spans not only across the United States, but also around the world. Last year, an estimated 293,000 minors were at risk of becoming victims of child prostitution. Children are used mainly because they are vulnerable and easy to exploit. These children are most often runaways, people who have come from abusive homes, or were abandoned. In other cases, children are lured by seemingly kind men who promise them food and shelter; these men end up being the children's pimps and exploit them for monetary gain. The traffickers are able to prey on their insecurities and offer them a 'better life,' which

ends up being a life of violence, forced drug use, and constant threats. Sometimes, these children go into prostitution of their own accord, but more often than not, it is because of forced abduction, parental pressure, or misleading deals between parents and traffickers.

In the United States, child prostitution is a rampant issue. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation 100,000 to 300,000 children in the United States are sex slaves. Statistics vary, and the extent of these atrocities is unclear because the exploitation occurs behind closed doors. A major conflict in the U.S. is whether to treat child prostitutes as victims or criminals. In the United States, there have been several laws passed in attempt to prevent child prostitution. In Los Angeles, if children are found being prostituted, they are arrested and detained in order to keep the children safe. In Boston, these children are considered victims of child abuse. In New York, the Safe Harbor Act ensures that girls fifteen and under who are arrested for prostitution for the first time are given a safe house, and protection.

Outside of America, child prostitution is a fast growing trade. In Cambodia, there are 30,000 child prostitutes. Some girls are prostituted as young as five years old. Cambodia is a major destination for sex tourists because of the existence of large brothels. In Thailand, there are over 800,000 child prostitutes under the age of sixteen. The girls can be as young as ten to twelve and have sex with as many as twenty to thirty men a day, and in some cases the girls can be as young as eighteen months old; a truly shocking reality. One child prostitute in Brazil told a BBC reporter: "I've been doing it for so long now, I don't even think about the dangers. Foreign guys just show up here. I've been with lots of them." Sex tourism has contributed greatly to child prostitution in Thailand, India, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico. In less developed countries, child prostitutes are kept in extraordinarily unsanitary conditions, denied any form of healthcare and are constantly monitored to ensure their subservience.



The aftermath of this dangerous trade on the children is severe. Most end up with cases of HIV/AIDS. Others have unwanted pregnancies, and profound mental damage. This can include anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, self-mutilation (e.g. cutting) and suicidal tendencies. Girls who cannot find refuge after leaving child prostitution often are sent to juvenile detention centers for safety or end up on the streets or back with a pimp. Some child prostitutes also become addicted to alcohol and other drugs as a way of dealing with their traumatic childhood.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Under US Federal Law, child pornography is classified as “any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct [. . .] [that] involves the use of a minor.” Child pornography is one of the most rapidly developing forms of online media that currently draws around \$3 billion in revenue. Surprisingly, the producers of child pornography are usually those who are either physically or emotionally close to the child. For example, babysitters, family friends and relatives are statistically likely to exploit a child. Images and videos produced for this form of exploitation range from exposure of genitalia to sexual abuse to bestiality. Child pornography harms a child’s physiological and psychological well-being.

Many children in pornographic films are forced to pose to cater to the desires of the offender (typically a pedophile, but not always); because children are young, they are usually defenseless and unable to escape from their plight. There is no compensation involved, although sometimes children from poor backgrounds sell provocative images of themselves to pedophiles to support themselves or their families. However, such videos and images are almost always created

for the pleasure of pedophiles and are shared via the Internet. Young victims of sexual exploitation get their childhood and innocence stolen from them.



Children who have been sexually abused often develop depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse (children may resort to drugs as a coping mechanism), eating disorders, and, long-term psychological trauma. As mentioned before, most offenders know their victims personally, and this can further impact a child’s psychological well-being. A 2006-2007 Idaho study of 430 cases found that “82% of juvenile sex offenders were known to the victims.” When sexual predators are close with their victims, the long-term effects shape the rest of the child’s life. The USA National Institute of Drug Abuse concluded that “women who experienced [. . .] sexual abuse in childhood were 2.93 times more likely to suffer drug dependence as adults than were women who were not abused.” As well as relying on drugs and suffering from depression, victims of sexual exploitation end up in an abusive

relationship once they have matured, as either the abuser or the person who is abused. For children who have been forced to participate in any kind of pornographic material, the long-term psychological effects are overwhelming and destructive.

A subset of child pornography involves violent sexual abuse. Although the amount of harm caused by abuse during child pornography varies from child to child, there are often lacerations and bleeding depending on how physical the abuse was. In some cases, a child can suffer fatal injuries to internal organs. Depending on the amount of sexual contact between the victim and the molester, there is also a high chance that sexually transmitted diseases may be contracted. These diseases have their own set of implications, one of which is (obviously) health concerns. Particularly with bestiality (another subset, albeit a small one, of child

pornography), there are endless possibilities for physical and emotional damage.

Currently, there are an immense number of organizations that work against the production of pornography. The Child Pornography Prevention Act of 1996 was a federal law that was enacted to restrict and try to eliminate child pornography on the Internet. This included a penalty of fine or incarceration for possession, creation, and solicitation of pornographic films involving children. These federal statutes have harsh sentences. The mere possession of child pornography can lead to a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

Restrictions and laws against child pornography are very rigid and with good reason; the damage caused by this form of human exploitation damages children for the rest of their lives. Producing and soliciting child pornography is a federal offense that results in long-lasting psychological trauma.

CHAPTER 3: DRUG EXPLOITATION

DRUG MULES

A drug mule, or drug courier is a person (usually a male, child, or animal) who smuggles an illicit substance across a national border. Drug mules often operate within a criminal body, working to exploit young and financially struggling individuals to smuggle these substances across international lines. The mule is typically paid a small fraction of the total profit, and is put at extraordinary risk. A common form of this smuggling is to swallow capsules of the drug (there are famous instances in which women ate sealed, lubricated rubber gloves or condoms filled with hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of cocaine), and excrete the capsules at the destination. Of course, this method puts the



carrier in a great deal of risk. If one of the gloves bursts inside the person, the mule will almost certainly expire due to drug overdose; as the drug is not ingested or metabolized in a normal way, it is likely fatal. Sometimes, the

drugs are stashed in the luggage or vehicle of an unsuspecting and uninvolved person. If the drug mule is caught (sometimes with X-Rays) they will often be detained, deported, or sentenced, while the original perpetrator remains unpunished.

Children or animals (usually dogs) often act as drug mules, because they are less suspicious in an airport; they will be less scrutinized as potential drug traffickers. The drug mules are often given a chloraseptic, a compound that loosens the throat muscles to allow the mules to swallow the drug packets more easily. A child drug mule can usually smuggle up to a kilogram of cocaine (50-90 latex packets) internally. This type of exploitation is harmful to the child's health. If for instance one packet ruptures, the chances for successful treatment are extremely limited. The methods of detection of drug smuggling vary; however, oil based laxatives, emetics and endoscopic retrieval cannot be used because they run high risk of rupturing the latex packets. X-Rays are the most commonly used tools to detect drug mules; under the X-Ray, cannabinoids (like Hashish) appear denser than a stool, and heroin appears as pockets of air. Cocaine appears as having the same density of stool, which is why it is sometimes missed.

There are many reports of drug mules that exemplify it as a form of human exploitation. For example, there was an 82-year-old woman in 2004 from Bogota who turned to drug trafficking to pay for her mentally disabled son; she managed to transfer the drugs from Colombia to the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. However, as she got into a taxi, one pellet of cocaine burst in her stomach, and she perished before the taxi could reach a nearby hospital.

There are a plethora of substances that drug mules ingest to avoid detection during the transportation. For example, they take medication to inhibit bowel movements, they take tablets to reduce stomach acid production, and they are given laxatives to help with the post-transport bowel movement. These drugs take their own tolls, as does the extreme

anxiety that accompanies transporting drugs across borders.

Drug trafficking is widespread, and the fact that drug lords now resort to hiding drugs on or in various people shows a great level of desperation. This desperation is the reason why drug mules are exploited to such a high degree. Some measures have been taken to minimize the number of drug mules transporting illicit substances. One of the main arguments is the legalization of certain drugs. This would reduce the desperation of drug lords to smuggle drugs across international borders; instead, they could transport drugs in a legal and safe fashion, without involving the drug mule, without harming or exploiting a third party.

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug trafficking is an illegal trade which focuses on the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of various narcotics and substances. It is a highly lucrative trade which amasses global revenue of over \$300 billion, a



mere 1% of the \$36 trillion global GDP. Yet, it is an extremely dangerous market that is omnipresent, spanning from the US all the way to South-East Asia. Countries such as China, Pakistan, Germany and the United States of America are not untouched by this industry. In 2009, the quantity of lethal drugs (cocaine, opium, morphine, heroin and amphetamines) confiscated reached an astounding 1,576 metric tons. This statistic shows the

gargantuan scale of the drug trade. And many involved suffer greatly. Along with its legal and medical ramifications, drug trafficking also reinforces the issue of human exploitation.

Where there is illicit drug commerce, there is crime and violence. Drug lords, cartels and drug dealers are constantly at war with one another over smuggling routes and revenue coming from drugs. In addition, drug trafficking organizations are prompted to protect their supply and substances from their rivals or police through firepower and arms. Innocent civilians are also caught in the crossfire as most drug violence takes place in urban environments. For example, in Mexico, as many as 9,000 people, civilian or criminal, were killed in 2008. Moreover, between 2006 and November 2011, 25 mayors and high-ranking political figures have been killed in Mexico by drug traffickers. Besides murder, other crimes that have been committed as a result of the drug trade include extortion, kidnappings, assassinations, corruption, bribery, and armed robberies.

The global drug trade includes diverse substances and drugs such as cocaine from Colombia, heroin from Thailand, Afghanistan and China, marijuana from Mexico, and methamphetamines from the US. Others include ecstasy, LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), PCP (phencyclidine), Xanax, GHB (*gamma*-hydroxybutyric acid), and steroids. Major medical side effects arise from these various drugs. Hallucinogenic drugs, like LSD and PCP cause nausea, vomiting, bad hallucinations (colloquially referred to as a "bad trip") and anxiety. Stimulants such as cocaine and methamphetamine can lead to mood disorders, irritability and behavioral problems. Lastly, depressants, which include marijuana, GHB and heroin, can cause chronic sleep problems, impaired coordination and death. It was estimated in 2009 that around 125 million

users took marijuana illicitly, 17 million took cocaine, and 20 million took ecstasy on a global scale. Drug organizations also exploit people in order to make a profit. They either bribe or force individuals to smuggle substances across borders by swallowing tubes containing drugs, hiding them away in their luggage, or soaking them into paper or books. These individuals are called drug mules and are used in order to lessen the risk of members of smuggling organizations getting caught by authorities. These smugglers have been paid large sums of money (as much as 5000 US dollars) to carry drugs to places like China. For those in developing nations, the drug trade can be advantageous to some as 1 in 4 live on less than a dollar a day. Between March and July 2011, 238 smugglers were caught crossing the border into the US. Of those 238, 67 were under 18 years old. The juveniles usually accept the terms of smuggling the substances in exchange for a pay up to 2,000 dollars. They are also assured that no serious punishment will be imposed on them if caught since they are underage. However, in reality, apprehended teen drug mules could face a year in custody, heavy fines to pay, and a tarnished reputation that can haunt them later.

Drug trafficking has very serious repercussions: for one, drug trafficking is connected closely to violence, in order to protect or steal profits from rivals. Secondly, the drugs and substances being manufactured and traded themselves have side effects on their users. However, there are the few people who profit off of drug trafficking: drug lords and dealers make tremendous amounts of money through this questionable business. Moreover, for those who are willing to risk their lives to smuggle drugs across borders for pay, the profit is worth the danger.

CHAPTER 4: FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION

Exploitation, as defined by the Oxford Dictionary, is “the action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work.” Capitalist exploitation of lower income groups, otherwise known as corporate abuse is when, employees, the public, or even the environment are exploited by a higher business power, namely a corporation, or a figure of authority acting on behalf of a corporation. Some very obvious abuses, which are often enacted by businesses and corporations include ethnical discrimination, overwork, harassment, systematic humiliation, arbitrary manipulation, demotion without cause, and withholding resources (i.e., wages and other forms of employee compensation). However, corporate abuse doesn’t necessarily only affect employees, it may also affect the business as a whole.

There are multiple theories as to how to prevent the exploitation of lower income groups. For instance, one suggestion to reduce or eliminate corporate abuse would be to strengthen the criminal liability standards for corporations, executives and directors. Since corporations are very large organizations, they seem to lack the mental capacity required to act on internal criminalities. However, recognition that entire corporations can be held accountable for their actions as opposed to simply apprehending the employees or executives working for them has been achieved. In other words, it is now possible for a corporation as a cohesive entity to violate the law, rather than just the executive of a corporation to do so. Therefore, standards for criminal sanctions for both corporations and

their top executives should be strengthened, especially for occupational, consumer and environmental crimes resulting in death or serious injury.

Another possible method to reduce corporate crime would be to strengthen the sanctions against corporate crime. For instance, there should be a requirement for companies to publicize their crimes. There should be measures taken to reform the criminal or abusing corporation’s behavior and



culture. There should also be probationary reforms specific to the company’s degree of offense. Such changes can be made through court-appointed monitors or public directors charged with monitoring the company and recommending mechanisms for changing corporate culture.

The corporate ‘extinction’ may even have to be considered appropriate in cases involving law-breaking violators, corporations that are deemed to be incapable of reform, or companies whose crimes are considered to be a serious breach of the public trust. In such a case, the corporation could be forced to go out of business (going out of business is the equivalent of the ‘corporate death penalty’) by a revocation of its business license or charter. An example of this specific strategy is the

event that occurred in March 2005 when the Federal Trade Commission shut down three consumer debt companies accused of violating the Do-Not-Call-Registry and cheating customers out of \$100 million by charging them for debt relief that didn't work, effectively worsening their personal debts; in many cases they were forced to file for bankruptcy. Also, rather than revoking the business license of an entire company, governments should revoke the operating authority of the corrupt division or subsidiary in violation of the law.

Another proposal to end corporate abuse would be the use of equity fines. Under this punitive action, complicit corporations would be forced to issue stock with an expected market value equal to the amount of a fine deemed necessary to deter criminal activity. Since equity fines would reduce the value of existing shares and thus the value of stock options, they would likely create an incentive for executives to reduce law-breaking behavior at the company. Also, equity fines would create a motivation for Wall Street analysts to recognize inappropriate or unlawful corporate behavior that would lead to such fines, potentially causing them to markdown the ranking of companies liable to engage in corporate abuse.

EXPLOITATION BY TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

History has proven that countless times, terrorist organizations have exploited human beings, especially women and children, to further promote their interests. Children and women are the main victims of these terrorist organizations because they are viewed as less suspicious, more vulnerable and more easily manipulated.

In order to recruit the children to carry out attacks, they are uprooted from their homes and families by the terrorist

organizations and are then brainwashed into thinking that what they are doing is just. Another common way terrorist groups recruit is by using religious indoctrination or heterotelic dogma. One of the main motivations for religious terrorism (terrorism that sometimes involves martyrdom or suicide) is the importance of symbolic acts of blood sacrifice. By telling the children that their religion is asking for them to commit these acts of terror, the children feel it is their duty. The children are obliged to kill themselves for what they believe to be a higher purpose, while in fact it is only to advance the interests of older, corrupt individuals who may or may not have any religious inclination themselves. By indoctrinating large groups of children, these corrupt individuals make the children feel as though they are alienated, alone in the grand scheme of religion. The children feel as though the only way to distinguish and glorify themselves (or their families) is through martyrdom. In addition, the children are often dragged away from their families, into harsh and unsanitary conditions. These conditions must be extraordinarily unpleasant, and the children exploited by terrorist organizations have miserable existences. Another part of the motivation for terrorist attacks is the promise of paradise will be their reward. Terrorist organizations have used these techniques in order to gain control of the children, who then carry out the attacks, which helps achieve the political agendas of these groups.



Children and women are seen as an easy target for most of the terrorist organizations, because they blend easily into crowds. In the recent years, there have been multiple cases of women being exploited for terrorist attacks.

One of the motivations of women to engage in terrorist activities is rooted in social status. Women who are labeled as promiscuous or who have extra-marital affairs have a very low social standing, and believe that joining a terrorist group (which is based on religion) will cleanse them of their malfeasant reputations.

The United Nations is fully aware of the danger of those who spread extremist worldviews and strive to end this form of human exploitation. The terrorist organizations are constantly exploiting the media and through this, send out messages that glorify mass murder and martyrdom. The United Nations wants to challenge the terrorist's narrative of hate by showing the world the effect that terrorists have on their victims, the communities broken by terrorist acts and the lives of the innocent people who risk their health just by going about their daily business. The United Nations also arranges meetings between respected representatives from different religions in order to explain that the terrorist organizations killing innocent lives is antithetical to all religions. The United Nations promotes religious and ethnic tolerance through education. The UN wants each nation to provide their citizens with a system of education that allows them to be open-minded and also encourages tolerance in contrast to militancy and extremism.

ORGAN TRAFFICKING

Organ trafficking is the trade of human organs for transplant. The number of people who need organ transplants far outnumbers the supply of organs viable for transplant; there is a worldwide shortage of organs available in hospitals. Therefore, people resort to trading

organs illegally, so that they may procure a transplant.

It is mainly the trafficking of kidneys because removal of virtually all other organs requires the donor to be deceased, which is rarer. The black market in organ trade is a bustling business; The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 50,000 kidney transplants take place every year. 15,000 of these transplants are from live donors. Poverty is the main reason for organ trafficking as well as loopholes in anti-organ trafficking legislation. The organ trafficking market is on the rise worldwide. There have been many unfortunate stories of networks of brokers, physicians, and hospitals engaged in illicit trade. There are enterprises that exploit the poor in under-resourced and third world countries, and offer poor quality medical care with undesirable outcomes to the rich recipients. At the same time, the universal rise in the number of patients with organ failure and the shortage in the supply of organs keep this illegal trade flourishing.



The benefits of organ trade can be immense. For example, before 1994, when organ trafficking was banned, India was the organ trade capital of the world. Organs were cheap and accessible, and the waiting list for organs was always short. In Iran, however, organ trading is still legal, and no wait list exists. Egypt, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, India, and Iraq also currently tolerate organ

trafficking. While the organ trade is widely criticized, many owe their lives to it. The most trafficked organs are kidneys, because they can be transplanted from a live donor. Other transplantations that occur (albeit less frequently) are cardiac, pancreatic, respiratory, hepatic or intestinal. Trafficked organs make up over 10% of the world's aggregate transplants. The price of an organ transplant is very high, ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000. This price makes organ transplants inaccessible to those below a certain income group.

While some believe legalizing organ trafficking could be beneficial to society, many think it is not a good idea to legalize payment for organ donors, as it sets a belief that the upper class have property rights to the body parts of the poor. Members of the armies in third world countries have seized hundreds of people for involuntary organ harvesting. These organs are then flown to foreign clinics for transplantation. Also, many of the black market organs sold worldwide are done so by poor and vulnerable people in desperate need of money. They are typically paid only a fraction of the amount for which the organs are sold. Oftentimes deceitful brokers deny them payment. As a result, these targeted donors receive inadequate or no medical care for their recovery. These donors are often left debilitated by the lack of care, and sometimes never fully recover. There was even a bizarre incident in China in which a student, unable to afford an Apple iPad, sold his kidney to be able to purchase one.

According to the organization 'Organs Watch,' illegal organ trade is transcontinental and organs bought by patients in the Persian Gulf states, Japan, Italy, Israel, the United States, and Canada are provided by donor nations, like India, Pakistan, Turkey, Peru, Mexico, Romania and South Africa. A medical expert, David Rothman, stated that illegal organs sales account for at least several thousand transplants per year.

If the organ trade was made legal, it would save many more lives, however the fact that it is illegal today supports that it is inhumane to sell organs that a human needs to

survive while the donor is still living. Although lives are being saved today, we have to think more about the negative effects of the organ trade in order to decide whether or not it would be a good decision to legalize organ trade.

FAIR TRADE

Fair trade is an organized social movement that is entirely market based. The aim of fair trade is to help producers in developing countries, and to promote sustainability. Fair trade products are most commonly handicrafts, coffee, cocoa, sugar, tea, bananas, wine, honey, fruit, chocolate, flowers and gold. It is an alternative approach to increasing globalization, internationalization of markets and economies, and the widespread and global exchange of goods, services, and resources. Fair trade is a trading and business partnership that ultimately strives to create greater equity in international trade by offering better trading conditions, involving small-scale farmers in global markets, and empowering consumers to support the fair trade values. Fair trade aims to combat the exploitation of industrial and agricultural workers (especially in the developing world) by big businesses and manufacturers through models of improved terms of trade, sustainability, people-to-people connections, and most importantly, justice.



Although origins of fair trade have roots in eighteenth century European societies, early fair trade initiatives were formed post World War II. The earliest traces of modern fair trade started in 1946 in the United States, where Ten Thousand Villages (a fair trade international craft supplier) began buying needlework from Puerto Rico. At the same time, SERRV International (not an acronym) started to trade with small, poor communities, and soon developed fair trade supply chains in developing countries. In 1958, the first formal “Fair Trade” shop, which sold handicrafts made by people in poor communities, was opened in the United States. By the late 50’s, similar initiatives were taking place in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and other European countries. Many fair trade non-governmental organizations began to develop in the 1960s and 1970s due to socially motivated individuals all over the world. The goal was to promote greater equity in international commerce.

The way that fair trade works is by increasing the price of products or produce so that the producers get a fair amount of money for their activities. The extra money goes towards covering the cost of production, living, the basics of food, shelter, clothing, education and medical care. It also goes towards certain projects such as the building of health care clinics, schools and housing. In 2008, an estimated 7.5 million producers and their families benefited from fair trade. To make sure that money is actually used where necessary, all importers and retailers are screened and certified by Trans Fair USA to make sure that they are paying the fair trade price for products.

Fair trade promotes better trading. It is rooted in people to people connection. Fair trade importers purchase from fair trade cooperatives as directly as possible. By doing so, they cut out the middleman and thus spend less money where it is not needed and more money where it is needed. This process also ensures long-term and stable relationships between the producers and importers. Another quality of fair trade is that the workers are guaranteed freedom of association and safe working conditions. Fair trade also encourages

women’s participation in business and the leadership of cooperatives. Human rights laws and child labor laws are strictly enforced.

Critics of fair trade argue that the problems of regulating fair trade lead to exploitation of farm workers and in some cases falsification (when non-certified products are falsely exported as fair trade). A rising criticism is that the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) misleads consumers about its ability to monitor and enforce fair production practices. Although it has its drawbacks, fair trade has benefited an estimated 1.2 million workers in 58 countries since 2008, and it continuing to do so. As the Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (FLO) is certifying more products, the diversity of products (ranging from handicrafts to foods) is increasing. Fair trade is inevitably leading to higher economic growth and diversification; proponents see a bright future for fair trade, one with greater equity in all trade markets around the world.

While there are numerous benefits to fair trade, there are also disadvantages in the system. Some of the “fair trade” is actually criminal offense under the European Union law. In fact, many of the farmers work very hard and under unfair conditions, and yet they still receive a wage that is less than the legal minimum. “[No one] certified is able to check that at no time are workers paid below minimum wage,” says Luuk Zonneveld, Managing Director of FLO in Bonn. This is another reason why we cannot rely fully on fair trade. “There is no way to enforce, control and monitor – in a remote rural area of a developing country – how much a small farmer is paying his temporary workers,” says the founder of one Peruvian Fairtrade-certified coffee producer. “Many farmers are earning less than minimum wage themselves.”

It is important to support fair trade because it improves the lives of many farmers and their families. It gives children the chance to have an education, to have food, clean water, and clothes to wear. Even though the money doesn’t make it to all the farmers, it still helps a large number of people. It also goes towards organizations that work to better the

lives of these people and strengthen developing economies.

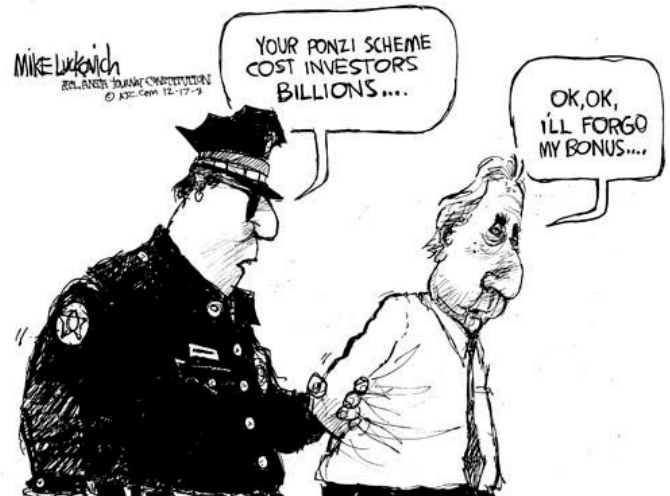
PONZI SCHEMES

A Ponzi scheme is an investment strategy in which one set of investors are paid from another set of investors, rather than from any normal profit from a company. A quote from a recent *New York Times* article described Ponzi schemes as a strategy in which “potential investors are wooed with promises of unusually large returns, usually attributed to the investment manager’s savvy, skill or some other secret sauce.” Investors are attracted by the higher investment returns/dividends offered by the Ponzi schemes, which pay unusually high and consistent returns. The scheme falls apart when there are insufficient new investors to keep repaying the older investors. Named after Charles Ponzi, who conducted one of the largest and first recognizable fraud-based schemes in the 1920s, the concept of a Ponzi scheme has become an infamous aspect of corporate history.

Ponzi schemes are one form of white-collar crimes, which originally referred to crimes committed by successful and well-respected people in society and financial communities. Today, white-collar crimes are often synonymous with corporate crimes, which include a wide range of fraud. The primary difference is that white-collar crimes benefit the individual criminal, whereas a corporate crime benefits the company. Corporate crimes can be just as damaging to society as groups of people may be financially or personally hurt. For example, ten years ago a company named Enron was operating an accounting fraud. When that fraud was discovered, the company went bankrupt and thousands of its employees lost their pension investments. Ponzi schemes are fraudulent investment schemes that tend to attract people who are most vulnerable and unable to rationally analyze the scheme. Usually those who are victimized by Ponzi schemes have

less education, are often in financial need, and are eager to make fast money. However, it is not uncommon for Ponzi victims to come from upper income earners.

Ponzi schemes are deleterious for society because they distort what normal and



honest investments can return. By promising irrationally high returns, Ponzi schemes force other investment options to promise more than they can deliver. Ponzi schemes also take money away from both the credible investors as well as other investment options, which offer honest and lower returns.

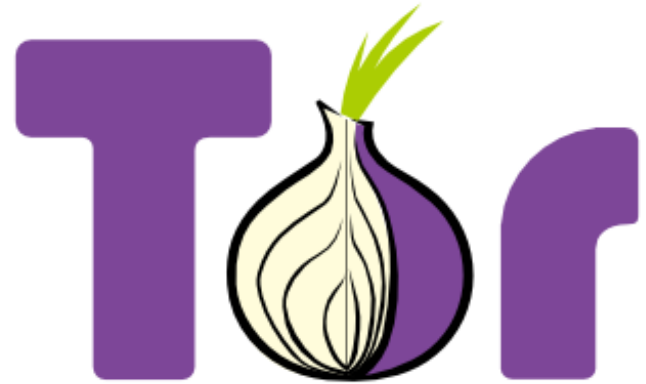
From 2008 to 2009, over 30 companies were charged with corporate fraud by using Ponzi schemes. The largest of them was by an Investment banker/stockbroker named Bernard L. Madoff. Madoff led a multi-billion dollar fraud over the course of 50 years through his Wall Street Company, Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC. Some estimate that the Bernie Madoff Ponzi scheme led to more than \$50 billion in losses for later investors, whose money was used to pay the earlier investors. Unlike the promoters of many other Ponzi schemes, Madoff did not promise spectacular short-term investment returns. Instead, his investors’ phony account statements showed moderate, but consistently positive returns — even during turbulent market conditions, which is unusual as most funds often have years with losses as well as gains. While Madoff kept some of the money for himself, the vast majority of the money was used to repay

earlier investors. Because the size of his scheme was so large, many innocent people lost money. Madoff was a well-respected member of the investment community. Many of Madoff's investors trusted him because they shared a common contact or were from the same community. These people believed that he could give them large returns every year for a long period of time. Most of the investors were elderly and retired citizens who lost everything in the economic downfall. Markopolos, the man who exposed Madoff's scam, says that "Whenever somebody has outstanding performance, Wall Street assumes genius. I assume fraud until genius is proven."

Many people consider bubbles as another form of Ponzi schemes. Real estate or stock bubbles are created when prices rise and then buyers pay the higher prices, which in turn spiral to even higher prices. The recent recession that started in 2008 was the result of a real estate bubble in the US as well as in other countries. Banks increasingly loaned money to homeowners based on overvalued prices for their homes. When the homeowners could no longer pay their mortgages, the loans defaulted and unraveled the economy. The loans had been packaged into securities, called mortgage-backed securities. Investors, large banks, companies, the government and wealthy individuals in these securities lost their money.

Money and business have become increasingly more dominant aspects of society. The income and wealth gaps in society are also growing. More people have access to money that they can invest than ever before, making people more vulnerable to Ponzi schemes from unsuspecting investment opportunities. The government tries to regulate all of them by requiring investment firms to disclose vast amounts of information. Despite rules and the government enforcing those rules, people will always attempt to find ways around the laws. So long as investors have agreed to achieve fast and unreasonably high returns, there will always be investment bankers who will prey upon them. The most damaging parts of Ponzi schemes are the costs to society and to the individual victims.

TOR (THE ONION ROUTER)



TorProject.org

The TOR project (The Onion Router project) is an online system that allows its users to navigate the Internet with a high degree of anonymity. TOR users can visit websites, engage in communication forums and send instant messages without undermining their privacy or compromising their personal freedom of information. In essence, TOR clients can use the Internet without being monitored by any surveillance program. The particular method in which TOR enables anonymity is complex, but the process constitutes hiding personal data under layers and layers of encryptions (hence the "onion" nomenclature metaphor of the project).

The project is intertwined with the issue of human exploitation because it serves to both prevent and exacerbate it. TOR is preventative in the sense that it protects its users from being exploited on the Internet. For example, websites that engage in "traffic analysis" (a form of surveillance) can exploit users in a number of ways; a website can determine a user's interests, behavior, or country of origin and use this information to

physically harm or extort a user. On a less serious note, the website can also employ price discrimination (i.e., charging different prices for the same product based on nationality) to profit off an unsuspecting user. The Onion Router prevents all this by masking their clients' private information so that websites or other people cannot use them to exploit the clients. On a more political note, TOR was used extensively in Egypt earlier this year so that dissenters and insurrectionists could bypass the Mubarak administration Internet shut-down. The Onion Router is also endorsed by various civil liberty groups, like the Electronic Frontier Foundation, as a method for whistle blowers and human rights workers to communicate with journalists. TOR makes Internet communication more secure, so whistle blowers and other such factions can securely disseminate their information.

However, the same technology that makes The Onion Router secure for whistle blowers, political dissenters and ordinary clients also, to a certain extent, endangers them. TOR is not 100% foolproof. Although it may provide a certain degree of security and anonymity, it is not a perfect system. Users may be less careful with personal information while using TOR; if their information is eventually uncovered (which is possible), they may be placed in a very compromising situation. In addition, TOR may be used to allow individuals to leak classified government information; having sensitive information public sometimes endangers public safety. The Onion Router project also encourages anonymous defamation; individuals on the Internet have a sort of unspoken credibility, and TOR can allow anyone, anywhere, to make a slanderous (perhaps completely falsified) claim about a person or organization that can obliterate their reputation. TOR also encourages a degree of intellectual property right violation. Without the constraints of being monitored on the Internet, piracy and copyright infringement flourish. This can destroy people's (mainly the musicians, artists, and film-makers who distribute their material through the Internet) livelihoods by allowing the Internet at large to access the

copyrighted content for free. The anonymity and security of The Onion Router project also provides ample ground for the distribution of illegal content (content that is primarily sexual, like child pornography). The availability of this content online obviously has deeper repercussions, like the exploitation of the children forced to create such content, and the illegalities of producing and owning it. The Onion Router project may not condone the distribution of content like child prostitution online, but it provides a convenient medium for people to do just that.

The Onion Router project is one that provides online anonymity. However, the use of such anonymity is highly debatable. On one side, the anonymity can be used as a shield to protect from malevolent website surveillance, but it can also be used as a mechanism to distribute harmful content over the Internet, violate copyrights, propagate and publicize sensitive information.

MAIL ORDER BRIDES

Mail order brides are a part of a modern industry in which women advertise their desire to marry someone from another country. They publish their personal details in catalogues so that foreign men can pick the wife of their choosing. Today, these advertisements are commonly published online on matchmaking services. Many mail-order brides come from countries in the Eastern world such as Russia, Ukraine and the Philippines, and they commonly marry men from countries in the Western world such as the United States and Canada. Most of the time, the women get married to people from the developed world because they are more financially stable than the men from their own countries. Mail order brides are now part of a worldwide business in which money is exchanged for temporary or permanent domestic partnership.

Many women search for husbands abroad out of economic need. However for some, money is only part of the issue. Even for



Mail order bride.

possible dangerous outcomes of these marriages for the women. It often lacks information about the male clients such as past criminal records or records of domestic violence, abuse or restraining orders. In addition, women coming from countries in the Eastern world suffer due to their lack of language skills and support systems. Without any support, they are subject to abuse.

Immigration laws in certain countries often affect the mail-order bride industry. In the United States, a woman who arrives on a fiancée visa must marry her fiancée within 90 days of entry or she could be deported. Divorce cannot be an option for her for two years after the marriage; otherwise she loses her immigrant status. In Canada, changes in marriage law allow men to deceive women into entry to Canada with a promise of marriage, and then the women are not able to leave the man without threat of deportation.

One instance showcasing the horrors of the mail-order bride industry is the story of Raco. Raco, a twenty-four year old Filipina, was a mail-order bride. After ten years of romantic correspondence with a US citizen, she married him. Shortly after the marriage, her husband beat her severely. Her unwillingness to have children immediately led to even more abusive assaults. When she did become pregnant, her husband threatened that he would not sponsor her permanent residence if she did not carry the child to term. The beatings intensified even after she decided to keep the child, so she fled to a shelter.

Raco's story is only one of the many horrible case studies of mail-order brides. What commonly transpires in these marriages is that husbands abuse their wives, restrict their right to use the telephone, and stop money from being sent to their families. Women often end up escaping to transition houses, or domestic violence shelters. An even more heinous possibility for mail-order brides is that they end up being murdered by their husbands. Anastasia King, a twenty-year-old woman from Kyrgyzstan, was strangled to death by her husband in 2000. In her diaries, she wrote that he sexually and physically assaulted her, withheld her college tuition, restricted

women who are financially stable, there may not be men for them to marry. In many eastern countries, the population and male/female ratio have grown so out of balance that there are simply not enough men available to marry. In Russia many women are compelled to look outside of Russia for a husband. In Ukraine, the overall ratio of men to women is 86 to 100.

The men who are seeking mail-order brides are often wealthy men who have been divorced or have not had success with women in the past. In many cases, they choose women from less developed countries because they believe that these women will be obedient to them seeing as they rely on the husband's financial stability. Frequently, these men choose mail-order brides who are significantly younger than them.

In the mail-order bride industry, women are always the victims. The industry is a commercial enterprise, so it favors the interests of the paying men over the interests of the accepting brides. Therefore, it ignores the

her freedom of movement, and he threatened her with deportation and death. Her husband turned out not only to have had a restraining order put against him from a previous mail-order bride, but to be seeking a new, third wife through the matchmaking industry as well.

There are now laws in the United States regulating how the mail-order bride system

must work. The Violence against Women and Department of Justice Re-authorization Act of 2005 requires men to give certain information about themselves in a questionnaire and is then given to the women in their home language. This way, the woman can decide whether she wants to marry that person or not.

AFTERWORD

As we expand and integrate our society, we have to question whether we want a moral society of legitimate labor or one that ruthlessly advances and improves at the expense of smaller, less privileged portions of the population. There is no question that human exploitation is a growing phenomenon. Certain issues are pervasive and sinister: The drug trade is expanding exponentially, economic scandals (like Madoff's Ponzi Scheme) run rampant, and as education and training become rare, illegitimate labor becomes commonplace. Other issues, like the ethics of legalizing prostitution and child labor are more debatable and force us to think about whether or not these forms of labor have a legitimate place in a modern society. Human exploitation is an issue well assimilated into the global scene. Human exploitation touches upon all parts of life: it affects and twists economics, politics, and our international culture; now, marriage can take place between a man and a woman he ordered from the Internet or from a catalogue. Illicit and extraordinarily dangerous narcotics can be available in the most pristine and refined environments. In addition, faceless banks and corrupt investors can swindle billions of dollars while the public remains unaware. We may think globalization is thrusting us towards a more utopian society, but does that allow room for us to leave our exploitative habits behind? When do extreme circumstances like poverty and hunger blur the boundaries of fundamental human rights? Can society as we know it, founded on the exploitation of the weak, survive and thrive through an upheaval to uphold basic human dignities?

As one might imagine, the answers to these questions will have significant weight in the evolution of our global society. However, the purpose of this Working Paper is not to preach, pontificate or impel you to follow our train of thought. We seek to allow you to develop your own opinions and solutions to many of the issues developed in the articles of the Paper. We hope to be a basis upon which you may begin your own dialectics, raise awareness, and spread knowledge and understanding throughout your respective countries. Our mission is to enable you to develop your own perspectives on the expanding problems of Human Exploitation; we hope that the articles set forth will allow you to cultivate your own worldview.

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