

capitalist values and philosophical principles?; Is this really what is happening in the old Soviet Union?; Is Africa really engaged in the voluntaristic surge toward Westernisation after so many tragic attempts to impose it?; Are the peoples of China, outside the sliver of capitalist opulence on the east coast, really committed to the Western way?; Are the great majority of peoples on earth really looking to the UN, the IMF, World Bank and the new WTO as the fount of future cooperation, wisdom and security?; Are these exemplar liberal institutions really seen as constitutive of fairer, more responsible forums of prosperity for the increasingly impoverished of the planet?

I suggest not. For many, on the contrary, this whole scenario is just another "fairy-tale" invoked by those in the wealthiest societies who celebrate the positives of a market-driven global economy while effectively ignoring its devastating impact upon the global losers - i.e. the 1.3 billion people designated by the World Bank in 1993 as the absolute poor; and/or the 2 billion people who daily do not have access to clean water; and/or the 1 billion people worldwide who are chronically malnourished; and/or the estimated 55 million child labourers in India working to produce goods and services at the lowest possible costs. From this perspective then this is a fairy tale, like many others, with a sinister dimension, one that, for example, speaks the language of gross national product, gross profit and per-capita income etc., but which leaves silent questions of structural impoverishment, environmental devastation, the destruction of identity, the promotion of landlessness and refugee flight, and the continuing tragic story of the failure of "trickle-down" logic.

This, moreover, is a fairy-tale which promises a happy ending centred on a restructured new world order but which ignores or glosses over the evidence that things are likely to get worse for those left out of the convergence-based success story. Evidence that in the period between 1982 and 1990 there has been a net transfer of capital from the Third World to the industrialised countries of some \$418 Billion US dollars; and/or that of a recent OECD/World Bank study which indicates that the new WTO structure is set to intensify the gap between rich and poor by channelling at least 70% of the profits of increased global trade to the major industrialised states. ⁴⁷

⁴⁷The "fairy tale" theme comes from Jeremy Brecher's "Introduction" to Brecher, et al eds. *Global Visions: Beyond the New World Order* (Montreal: Black Rose Books, 1993) p3; The figures cited come from The Commission on Global Governance, *Our Global Neighbourhood* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995) p. 21; M. Gurtov *Global Politics in the Human Interest 2nd Edition* (Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner, 1991) p. 4; and J. Brecher and T. Costello, *Global Village or Global Pillage* (Boston: South End Press, 1994) p. 24 and p. 60; The child-labourer figures and many like them in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh come from a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* April 22, 1995: 4;