

Technology, the New Agrarian Question, and Growing Resistance Part I. Political Economy of Labor Replacement

Tony Zaragoza

March 7, 2006

- I. Announcements (5 min)
- II. Evergreen Geoduck Union (10 min)
- III. End of *Revolución Bolivariana* (20 min)
Discussion
- IV. Intro, Film & Discussion: *The Golf War* (45 min)
Imperialism and Resistance

∞∞∞∞∞Break (10 min)∞∞∞∞∞
- IV. Overview of Wed. Lecture, Questions and Discussion (30 min)
 - A. Change, Technology, The Labor Process, Displacement, Migration, Economic Transformation, New Agrarian Question, Social Control and Global Resistance
 - B. Generating Questions in Groups
 - C. Discussion
 - D. Film Intro
- V. Film and Discussion: *The Spectre of Hope* (60 min)

Today's Films

Revolución Bolivariana: People and Struggle of the Fourth World War. Marcelo Andrade Arreaza. Calle y Media Collective. 2004. 76 minutes.

The Golf War. Anthill Productions; directed and written by Jen Schradie and Matt DeVries. Oley, PA: Bullfrog Films, 2000. 39 min.

The Spectre of Hope. Minerva Pictures production. New York, NY: First Run/Icarus Films, 2000. 52 min.

Technology, the New Agrarian Question, and Growing Resistance Part II. Ongoing and Emerging Movements

Tony Zaragoza

March 8, 2006

- I. Announcements (5 min)
- II. Multimedia Lecture (60 min)
 - A. Political Economy of Labor Replacement
 - 1. Technology Generally and Computers & Automation Specifically
 - 2. The Labor Process, Deskilling & The Race to the Bottom
 - 3. Global Labor Replacement and Displacement of People
 - 4. Capital Movement & Human Migrations
 - 5. Global Changes, Global Challenges
 - 6. Need for Social Control or A New Set Up
 - B. Questions and Discussion on Other Ramifications (15 min)
∞∞∞∞∞Break (10 min)∞∞∞∞∞
- III. Film with Discussion: *Battle for Broad* (45 min)
- IV. Participatory Lecture: Ongoing and Emerging Movements (20 min)
 - A. Sustainable Human Development
 - B. The Challenges of "Building a Different Society" (10 min)
 - C. Questions and Discussion (15 min)

Today's Films

Introduction to Successful Robotics Solutions. Ann Arbor, MI, Robotics Industry Assosication, 2001. 9 minutes.

Battle for Broad. Peter Kinoy and Pamela Yates. NY, Skylight Pictures, 2002. 29 minutes.

Further Reading

Berger, John. *Ways of Seeing*. New York, Viking Press, 1973.

Braverman, Harry. *Labor and Monopoly Capital*. New York, Monthly Review Press, 1974.

Huws, Ursula. *The Making of a Cybertariat: Virtual Work in a Real World*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 2003.

Katz-Fishman, Walda, Jerome Scott, and Ife Modupe. "Globalization of Capital and Class Struggle." *Labor and Capital in the Age of Globalization: The Labor Process and the Changing Nature of Work in the Global Economy*. Berch Berberoglu, Ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002.

Marx, Karl. *Capital*. Vol. I. Especially Chapters VII-IX & XIV-XV.

Noble, David F. *Digital Diploma Mills: The Automation of Higher Education*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 2001.

Rifkin, Jeremy. *The End of Work: The Decline of the Global Labor Force and the Dawn of the Post-market Era*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1995.

Salgado, Sebastião. *Migrations: Humanity in Transition*. NY: Aperture, 2000.

Shaiken, Harley. *Work Transformed: Automation and Labor in the Computer Age*. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1985.

Further Viewing

* Available at the TESC Library

∞ Available at The Labor Center (Sem II E)

** Available via Summit

For Man Must Work: Or the End of Work** The 20th century has seen the creation of colossal wealth and exploding economies. But the days of industry providing mass employment are over. In the global economy, human resources are being replaced by technology. We are moving from a mass labor force to an elite corps concentrated in the knowledge sector. Will this change result in a sort of economic apartheid in which a third of humanity is made redundant? Will this revolution mean the end of work as we know it? *For Man Must Work* raises crucial questions and suggests rethinking the future. Filmed in the United States, Canada, France and Mexico, the film shows how living and working conditions are deteriorating for many people. NFBC Dir. Jean-Claude Bürger, 2001.

The Fourth World War *While American airwaves are crowded with talk of a new world war, narrated by generals and filmed from the noses of bombs, the human face of war is rarely seen. The Fourth World War weaves together the images and voices of*

the war on the ground - from the front lines of struggles in Mexico, Argentina, South Africa, Palestine, Korea, 'the North' from Seattle to Genova, and the 'War on Terror' in New York and Iraq. BNF, 2004.

Labor Women A portrait of three immigrant daughters who are part of a new generation transforming the American labor movement. 2002, 35 min. Renee Tajima-Peña.

The Phantom of the Operator This wry and delightful found-footage film reveals a little-known chapter in labor history: the story of female telephone operators' central place in the development of global communications. With an eye for the quirky and humorous, Caroline Martel assembles a dazzling array of clips - more than one hundred remarkable, rarely seen industrial, advertising and scientific management films produced in North America between 1903 and 1989 by Bell and Western Electric - and transforms them into a dreamlike montage documentary. As the first agents of globalization, this invisible army of women offered a way for companies to feminize and glamorize what was a highly stressful, underpaid and difficult job. (WMM) Caroline Martel, 2004. 65 minutes.

Secrets of Silicon Valley∞ Shocking exposé of the hidden downsides of the Internet revolution and also a funny and moving meditation on America's love affair with technology. Told without narration, the film chronicles a tumultuous year in the lives of two young activists grappling with rapid social change and the meaning of globalization on their own doorsteps. Dir. by Alan Snitow & Deborah Kaufman, 2001, Bullfrog Films, 60 min.

Occupation: Millworker Textile mills once were the backbones of Bombay's economy, and their laborers provided the city its working class culture. Today, foreign investment and rising real-estate prices have made selling mill lands more profitable than running them. Mill 'sickness' is now an epidemic. *Occupation: Millworker* records the courageous action of workers who, after a four-year lockout, forcibly occupied The New Great Eastern Mill. 25 min. FRIF, 1996.

Working Women of the World** Focusing on Levi Strauss & Co., *Working Women of the World* follows the relocation of garment production from Western countries to nations such as Indonesia, the Philippines, and Turkey, where low wages are the rule and employee rights are nonexistent. Behind the new gospel of free trade are the real lives of women in the North and South. Filmed in Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkey, France, and Belgium, *Working Women of the World* puts these women's stories into the larger history and development of globalization. FRIF, by Marie France Collard, 2000.