“Water is the blue soul of the planet”

Fourth World Water Forum
Mexico City ~ 16-22 March 2006

International Forum in the Defense of Water

photos by Orin Langelle
Global Justice Ecology Project
60% Of The World’s Rivers Have Been Dammed

38 million indigenous peoples have been DISPLACED by 840,000 dams worldwide
1.4 Billion People (one in six) lack access to safe drinking water

Currently, 12% of the world’s population uses 85% of its water

Currently, 3 Million Gallons of water are needed to produce one day’s supply of newsprint in the U.S.

A 10-Minute shower uses 10 Gallons of Water

A single toilet flush uses 3-7 Gallons of Water

Without water we would die within 3 Days

It takes 20 Gallons of water to run the Dishwasher

The average African family uses 5 Gallons of water a day

Cost ratio of bottled water to NYC tap water: 1,000 to 1

The average American home uses 293 Gallons of water a day

Source: UN Environment Programme
Water privatization is taking place between corporations and governments as water commons are being sold off to private companies, who then sell the water back to communities - to whom the water belonged to in the first place. Democracy has been circumvented by corporations denying public participation in the process.
Market based solutions for water have created incentives for overexploitation.
“If the wars of this century were fought over oil... The wars of the next century will be fought over WATER.”

World Bank vice president, Ismail Serageldin
In Stigomta, Sweden they hold an annual “PEE OUTSIDE DAY” Where Nobody Flushes A Toilet They Save A Full 50% Of The Water The Town Would Typically Use In a Day
$30 Billion

The projected cost per year of bringing poor people universal access to water by 2015

Source: UNEP
The World Water Forum is in reality something like a free-trade fair, corporate expo, and platform for the corporate water sector to set an agenda for the coming years.
It is clear water is being treated like a tradeable good - dependent upon profit.
Coca-Colanization: \( \text{[koh.kuhKOH.luh.ny.zay.shun]} \) n. The spread of Western (especially America) culture throughout the world.

Coca Cola’s main Latin American bottler, Panamco, is on trial for hiring paramilitaries to kill & intimidate union leaders at the plant.

Since 1989, 8 union leaders have been murdered

Source: Amit Srivastava, India Resource Center
“It struck me - that all you had to do is take the water out of the ground and then sell it for more than the price of wine, milk, or for that matter, oil”  Perrier executive
"...privatization has been a direct attack on Bolivia's poor. Families with monthly incomes of around $100 have seen their water bills jump to $20 per month - more than they spend on food."

Oscar Olivera: “...the rights of the people are undeniable.”
“We the Indigenous Peoples from all parts of the world, reaffirm our relationship to Mother Earth and responsibility to future generations to raise our voices in solidarity to speak for the protection of water. We were placed in a sacred manner on this earth, each in our own sacred and traditional lands and territories to care for all of creation and to care for water.” - The Indigenous People’s, Kyoto Water Declaration, 2003
Foro Internacional en Defensa del Agua
International Forum in the Defense of Water

Día Mundial del Agua
World Water Day
MOVIMIENTO MAZAHUA
AGUA PARA TODOS,
AGUA COMO DERECHO HUMANO.
“EL AGUA ES DEL PUEBLO”
STOP

NO AL IV FORO MUNDIAL DEL AGUA
CON EL DINERO QUE ME GANÉ POR SU AGUA SERÉ FELIZ
One Billion people worldwide do not have any water within a 15-minute walk of their homes.
Global Justice

Ecology Project

Mission: advance global justice and ecological awareness by identifying issues, creating strategies, organizing campaigns, building alliances and disseminating photographic images that demonstrate the interconnections between the social and the ecological, promoting a crucial holistic analysis to unify and strengthen movements

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