

Development in the Americas

Questions Raised,
Spring 2002

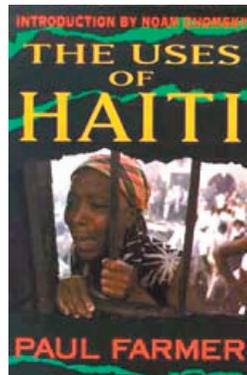


What Part of You is NOT for Sale?
February 6, 2002, 7 p.m., MIT 6-120

Goods in the Third World are produced under conditions we often know nothing about. Or worse, we sometimes know they are produced under conditions we would not accept here in the United States. What is our responsibility as purchasers and consumers in a global marketplace? Attend this panel discussion we are co-sponsoring with the MIT Technology & Culture Forum.

Colombia's "Dirty War" Against Trade Unions
February 13, 2002, 7 p.m., MIT 1-236

Two years ago, 130 labor-union activists were murdered in Colombia. Last year another 169 were slaughtered. This year, in the first three weeks alone, 6 more were killed. Since 1985, over 3,800 union workers and leaders have been assassinated in Colombia, making it by far the most dangerous place on earth to fight for workers' rights. What is going on?

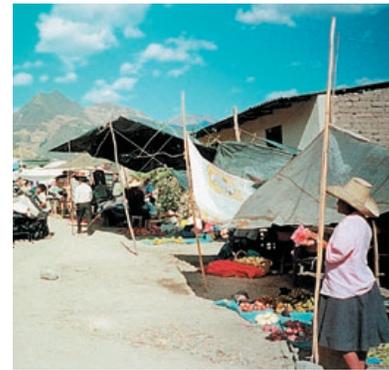


Uses of Haiti: Talking with Paul Farmer & Noam Chomsky
February 20, 2002, 7 p.m., MIT 34-101

What's happening in Haiti? Did the United States government restore democracy to Haiti in 1994? Do elections in Haiti work now? Is Haiti treated as a sovereign nation? Who controls the nature and rate of economic development in Haiti? Why are Haitians paying interest on a loan they haven't even received? Why does the US government have sanctions in place against the most impoverished nation in the Western Hemisphere? In fact, why is Haiti so much impoverished to begin with?

Serving with the Peace Corps in Latin America
March 15, 2002, 12.30 p.m., MIT 24-619

Ann Pagle & Karin Chamberlain are Peace Corps volunteers who spent several years in Nicaragua and Ecuador, respectively. We will have lunch with them and find out what they discovered about Latin America & about themselves.



Andean Villagers Battle the Mining Industry
April 19, 2002, 12 noon, MIT 7-338

In June, 2000, a toxic spill traced to a US-owned mine in Peru ignited a battle between the villagers of Choropampa and the global mining industry. More than a thousand people suffered mercury poisoning. Organizing themselves, the villagers confronted and negotiated with the mine owners and the Peruvian government: an agreement was reached to cover clean-up and compensation. What happened next? What can we learn from this experience?

The Landless Workers Movement in Brazil
May 2, 2002, 7 p.m., MIT 4-231

In Brazil, less than three percent of the population owns two-thirds of the arable land. The Landless Workers Movement grows as a response to this fact of colonial history. It is now the largest social movement in Latin America. How does it work?



Haiti: Waters of Sorrow
May 18, 2002, 7 p.m., MIT Wong Auditorium

A chronic fuel shortage in Haiti has led to deforestation, which, in turn, has led to soil erosion & a depletion of near-shore fisheries. The fuel shortage also makes it difficult for fishermen to venture further offshore. How are Haitians coping with these development challenges? Watch the film by Jacques Cousteau & join our discussion co-sponsored with the MIT Haitian Association.

Life & Debt: Globalization & Jamaica
June 6, 2002, 7 p.m., MIT 54-100

The World Bank. The International Monetary Fund. Free Trade Zones. Structural Adjustment. Currency Devaluation. Wage Guidelines. Benchmark Conditionalities. Rationalized Government Spending. Improved Balance of Payments. Etc. Will Jamaica survive all this aid? Find out at this film screening we are co-sponsoring to mark Commencement 2002.

