Corporatization & Poverty Fact Sheet

In 1978 corporate CEOs in the United States earned, on average, 35 times more than the average worker. Today they earn 320 times more than the average worker.

Despite popular belief, the majority of poor people in the U.S. live in rural areas, not urban areas.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 33% of the U.S. workforce was unionized in 1962. Less than 12.5% of the workforce is unionized today.

The variable which most closely predicts how well somebody will score on the SAT or GRE test is not their high school GPA or parents’ educational achievement, but family income.

Approximately 16,000 people die worldwide each day due to hunger-related causes.

The U.S. military budget is by far the highest of any country in the world. By 2003, the U.S. military budget was roughly equal to that of the next 20 countries combined.

Roughly 50% of the world’s population lives on less than the equivalent of 750 U.S. dollars per year.

According to UNICEF, the wealth of the three richest people in the world is roughly equal to the Gross Domestic Product of the 48 poorest countries combined.

According to United for a Fair Economy, the U.S. government spent approximately $125,000,000,000 in 2005 on corporate welfare (economic incentives, often provided to support corporations’ expansions into overseas markets).

Since 1960 the share of federal tax revenue paid by corporations has decreased by more than half, from 23.2% to 11.4%.

According to the American Association of Publishers, printed materials related to standardized tests increased from $211 million to $592 million between 1992 and 2003.

According to the Tax Policy Center, since 1980, while capital gains taxes and estate taxes have decreased significantly (by 31% and 46% respectively), payroll taxes have increased by 25%.

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