

THE GLOBAL BANQUET

Discussion Guide

1. What was your overall response to this video? What struck you most?
2. What was your impression of the people in the video (the interviewees)? Which one(s) impressed you the most?
3. A 2004 report of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that there are 840 million people in the world who are hungry and the number is increasing at the rate of 4.5 million each year. The report says that hunger is increasing in countries where food is imported (instead of being produced locally), where population is growing too fast, and where HIV/AIDS is spreading rapidly. Why do you think these are the most important factors causing hunger? How are they all related?
4. Proponents of corporate globalization point to studies claiming that many people in the developing world are better off now than they were two decades ago. At the same time, UN studies show that at least 40% of the world's population has not benefited from globalization and the gap between the rich and the poor is increasing. How do you feel about these two realities? Thomas Friedman calls those who don't make it in this new economic order "road kill on the investment highway." Do you agree with him that this is just a necessary evil?
5. Gandhi said, "You can judge the morality of a nation by the way the society treats its animals." Do you agree with this statement? Why is the abuse of animals in factory farming allowed to continue? Do you think that consumers have the power to change these practices? If so, why have we not done so?
6. David Korten says that it will require a spiritual awakening to change the present situation. What do you think he means? Do you agree?
7. *The developed world needs to do its part to reform the international institutions that govern globalization. We set up these institutions and we need to fix them If we are to make globalization work for the billions of people for whom it has not, if we are to make globalization with a human face to succeed, then our voices must be raised. We cannot, we should not, stand idly by.* (Joseph Stiglitz, former chief economist, World Bank.) If you agree with this statement, what do you think can we do?

There is a wealth of good information about Globalization on the internet. You will see both sides of the argument if you type "Globalization" into your search engine. The following sites deal directly with the issues raised in this video:

Alternative Farming Systems: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/>
FiftyYears Is Enough: <http://www.50years.org>
Global Exchange: <http://www.globalexchange.org/>
International Forum on Globalization: <http://www.ifg.org/>

Bread for the World: <http://www.bread.org>
Food First: <http://www.foodfirst.org/>
Heifer International: <http://www.heifer.org>
Oxfam International: <http://www.oxfam.org>