



American Friends Service Committee

AFSC NATO/G8 Powerpoint Script

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What have you heard about the NATO/G8 summits? Anything? Where have you heard about it? Okay, well this presentation will give you some background and analysis and hopefully we can look at the question of “Whose security and interests are being promoted by NATO and G8.”

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Chicago will be hosting the NATO Summit this May, just following the G8 Summit at Camp David. The last time both a NATO and G8 summit were held together was 1977 in London and it will be the first time NATO and G8 summits have ever been held at the same time in the U.S. This is a huge world event and it has consequences and ramifications for those who live in Chicago and beyond. This presentation is meant to introduce you to some basic facts about NATO and the G8, talk about why it matters, how it affects all of us and then talk about what we can do.

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The G8 (Group of 8) began in 1975 as a forum to discuss economics and trade issues, but their impact soon expanded to politics and beyond.

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Can you name the G8 countries? What do you notice from this picture? Who is in the G8 and who isn't? Notice that no countries outside of North America, Europe, Russia or Japan are in...

This excludes a lot of people – many times these countries are referred to as the Global South – many are countries that have developing economies...

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The G8 countries represent about 15% of the world population but 65% of the world economy. (According to the G8G20 Magazine)

The G8 is essentially the 1% of global powers.

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How did 15% of the world's population end up controlling 65% of the world's economy? Decades and decades of slavery, wars, exploitation, racism, colonialism, repression of workers and other methods used to control resources and accumulate money. You'll notice that all of the G8 countries are represented on this map of colonial powers from 1914. Where are many of the countries that were colonized at this point in history (1914) – the Global South....

Slide 9: G8 is an elite global agenda-setting forum where politics, the economy, international trade and military power are intertwined.

- Members meet and discuss policy options that are not compulsory, but the G8 has clout in other world bodies because of the economic and political muscle of its members.
- Due to this clout, many policies suggested become drafted, passed, and enforced around the world.

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Many of the policies that the G8 pursues are the globalization of the world through militarization with the assistance of NATO. More on the NATO piece later, but what is globalization?

What this means is that workers around the world are pitted against each other to provide cheap labor, while corporations are free to travel the world in search of the cheapest labor and the least regulations possible. This leads to jobs leaving the US and workers in other countries working for unfair wages with bad conditions.

Other policies pursued by the G8 countries include privatization of state run industries and curbing environmental regulations. All of these policies together are referred to as “globalization” or sometimes “neoliberal economics.”

Do these policies make us more secure?

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One recent example of the way that globalization puts pressure on workers is the controversy over the Apple iPad and iPhone. President Obama famously asked Apple CEO Steve Jobs what it would take for the iPhone to be manufactured in the US and Jobs replied “those jobs are never coming here...” In the midst of a recession when the iPad and iPod have record sales, an Apple factory here in the US would be great... Why do you think that Apple won’t manufacture these products in the US?

but Meanwhile, there have been a lot of articles coming out recently that expose the conditions that factory workers who do make these products – in Shenjen China, workers at the Foxconn plant typically work 10 hours a day plus one week-end day and end up making \$360 a month or less than \$17 a month. Do you think that sounds fair to workers in China? The picture on the right shows “suicide nets” that were placed outside of buildings in the Foxconn factory and dormitories....

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Have you noticed jobs leaving your community for other countries? How has that affected your community?

Have you heard about bad wages and poor working conditions in other countries?

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G8 countries have for many years favored “austerity” as a means to deal with high debt, unemployment or economic crises.

What is austerity? This means that even though the economic crisis might have been created by lack of regulations and corporate misdeeds, the 99% must take the brunt of the corrective measures. In essence it means making sure that the government stops spending money on things like social services or job creation and focuses all of its resources on paying off debt.

AUSTERITY MEASURES IN GREECE: 22 percent cut on the standard minimum wage and a 32 percent cut in the minimum wage for workers under 25

Monthly pensions were cut by 12 percent and “supplemental” pensions, which are funded out of worker’s own contributions are cut 30%

Do these policies make the people in Greece more secure?

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Have you noticed austerity measures in your city or community? Have schools or other public services closed or been cut? Are you worried about your access to education, healthcare or social security in the future?

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What is militarism? The other important aspect of what the G8 does has to do with using military might to help enforce its will. In fact, READ TEXT ON SLIDE

Other facts: Seven of the G8 countries are the top nations for military expenditure

They control almost all of the world’s nuclear weapons

You might think these policies make us secure... but there are costs and consequences

Slide 16: So, here is a visual breakdown of how US military spending stacks up...

Well, according to a report put out by the Stockholm International Peace Initiative last year – the US is overwhelmingly the largest spender in absolute terms, with 43 per cent of the global total, six times its nearest rival China. And again, the US accounts for 66% of the G8 combined total.

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AFSC calculates this 60% as the Department of Defense, the cost of the wars, Veterans Affairs and nuclear weapons programs that are part of the Department of Energy. So 15 other program areas have the share the other 40%. The Department of Education gets 6% or ten times less than the military out of our yearly budget.

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Because the G8's policies of globalization, austerity and militarization are so harmful to so many people in the Global South and around the world, they are not always accepted by people living outside the G8 countries. That's where NATO comes in... to enforce neoliberal economics around the world and to often promote the G8's interests with military force. So, let's take a closer look at NATO

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The blue countries are part of NATO, who is NOT part of NATO? Notice that the Global South is not part of NATO – similar to G8

- There are 28 member nations of NATO, they include all of North America, all European members of the G8, and most of Europe. (
- These are non-elected military elites, who have a history of defying international law, to protect the interests of NATO countries and business elites (especially the U.S.)
- Notice who is not a part of NATO? (the global south/the majority of the world!)
- NATO is like a private army for the world's 1%.

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SO, why was NATO founded? Well, it was founded in 1949, after World War II. So, why would the US want to be part of a military alliance with European countries after WWII? In the word's of the first Secretary General Lord Ismay, NATO's founding motto was:

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Since the end of the Cold War (with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991), NATO continues to expand in size and find new reasons to justify its existence, rather than phase itself out. It has been in search of a strategy.....

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G8 member nations pay for 75% of NATO's total operating budget. So, while the G8 and NATO were founded for completely different reasons under different historical circumstances... as time has gone on, the interests of the countries involved have at many times become interwoven and we'll see how NATO has become helpful to the G8

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So, what war is the US still engaged in? Afghanistan – how long has it been going on? So, you may or may not know that NATO is also an occupying force in Afghanistan and they have engaged in airstrikes there and in Pakistan that have been quite controversial because they have killed many civilians... this is a picture of children displaced by a NATO airstrike in Afghanistan. Let's take a closer look at how NATO operates in general

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NATO uses military aggression to control and hoard resources, and control access to those resources. NATO often is used as cover of a coalition for attacks on states and people that do not agree with the g8's ideas about globalization.

"The hidden hand of the market will never work without a hidden fist. McDonald's cannot flourish without McDonnell Douglas, the designer of the US Air Force F-15..." this is a quote by New York Times journalist Thomas Friedman, who has been a proponent of globalization.

The combined military spending of NATO members amounts to 70% of the world's 'defense' spending.

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Despite its claims, NATO was never a defensive alliance, and since the end of the Cold War has been transformed into a global alliance structured to wage "out of area" wars in Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa, as well as to "contain" China. From Yugoslavia to Afghanistan and Libya, the US has used NATO to enhance and extend a military, economic, and political agenda that aims to ensure US and European dominance of the Global South. It has spread the cost of these adventures to its NATO partners. Though NATO uses the guise of 'humanitarian intervention' to justify its military engagements, innocent civilians in [poorer] countries are the most frequent victims of NATO's violence:

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NATO troops are called "peace-keeping forces." In Libya there was a ruthless dictator, and NATO used the guise of 'humanitarian intervention' to engage in open military conflict -- which it often does with countries who pose a threat to its interests...

NATO forces non-cooperative countries and populations to comply with the interests of the rich and powerful.

Last year, NATO engaged in a seven month air war against Libya. Over 26,000 attacks on approximately 6,000 targets.

Civilian casualties due to NATO force were between 2,000-30,000. Widespread damage due to airstrikes. Infrastructure that now needs to be rebuilt. NATO countries' corporations poised to bid on contracts for rebuilding. NATO bombed one section of the Great Manmade River Project on July 22, 2011, cutting off water supply to millions. This water project taps into the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System, the world's largest fresh water reservoir. Now multinational corporations would have access to this supply and could begin selling water to poor people (who cannot afford to buy water), with the possibility of having great impact on the drought-impacted countries in Eastern Africa.

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In 2010 NATO adopted a new strategic concept that mentions these items as threats to NATO security. When NATO members' security is threatened due to cyber attacks, climate change, extreme weather, population transfers, water shortages, global warming, NATO is committed to addressing security challenges that emanate from these "threats," using military force as necessary.

Whose interests would NATO be representing? Why do these problems require military solutions? What other ways could these problems be addressed?

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NATO has been called the 'hidden fist' that enforces the G8's policies, and coerces non-cooperative countries to conform to the US designs. The United States calls the shots in NATO, paying upwards of 70% of its total budget. US support for NATO and dependence on militarism benefits multi-national corporations, such as Boeing and Lockheed Martin, while off-loading the costs of NATO's wars onto US taxpayers.

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Just as the G8 countries control a disproportionate amount of the world economy – there is a small group of people in the US who control a disproportionate amount of the wealth. In this country the top 1% own 42% of the wealth, which is more than the bottom 95% combined..

Do you think the G8 policies of globalization, austerity and militarism benefit the 1%? Have you heard slogans about the 99%? Do you think the policies of globalization, austerity and militarism benefit those without a lot of wealth?

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G8 is meeting outside Chicago but its agenda is left behind. The effects of NATO and G8 policies can be seen at the neighborhood level in Chicago and all over the country. This is a picture of children in Chicago protesting their school being closed. What ways have G8 and NATO policies affected your community?

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Here is one way to look at the decisions our country has made about federal spending priorities – if we spend over half of our discretionary budget on the military, what are we NOT spending money on?

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High school student Raul Vasquez goes to Rudy Lozano Leadership Academy and he's been studying all about NATO and the G8 this semester. He drew this picture – what do you think he is trying to express? Do you agree or disagree?

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So, now we've seen how NATO and G8 policies affect us – let's take a look at how hosting the NATO summit will affect us. Though the city is not sure how much the summits will cost, estimates put the price tag at \$65 million. Meanwhile, a coalition of community, faith and labor groups has called upon the mayor to pledge a sum of money similar to what is spent on the summits to be invested in "Chicago's 99%" through a Chicago NATO/G8 community fund. What do you think about this idea? How could the 65 million spent on the summits be better spent?

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Do you think that people who oppose these policies should have a right to express their opposition? Many people in the city have been working for months and months to secure a permit from the city for a peaceful, family friendly march to express their

opposition to NATO & G8. The city has finally granted a permit, but has still not finalized the route and has said that Homeland Security or the Secret Service could step forward and cancel the permit at any time. The city has passed a new ordinance that doubles fines for arrests during protests; requires people to register any sound amplification for marches and provide detailed information on the signs that they plan to carry.

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Much of the money will be spent on new high tech riot gear and weapons such as Long Range Acoustical Devices, riot gear for horses, special shields and possibly surveillance drones and other equipment that will be part of the Chicago Police arsenal for years to come

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What communities typically experience police force and brutality the most? Which communities in Chicago do you think will be affected for years to come by the additional equipment that the Chicago police will buy for the NATO G8 summits

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This graphic shows the change in police equipment for large demonstrations over the years. Do you think that the way the police are dressed on the right is necessary?

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When you don't like what's going on in your community, what do you do?

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Chicagoans gather to protest the war in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2007.

Not sure if we mentioned it earlier, but the members of these organizations NATO/G8 are not elected. They don't have constituents they need to please and their policies are effecting everyone in the world. How do they know what issues people have and what people want? This is where it is very important to PROTEST!

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There are many things going on in Chicago this spring....

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There will be a People's Summit on May 12-13 and The Network for a Nato Free Future is hosting the Counter-Summit for Peace and Economic justice on May 18-19, at the People's Church on Lawrence Ave.

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Many groups will be marching on March 20

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There are many groups in Chicago and beyond who will be part of the protests but who are working to change things in our communities everyday. One campaign is Move the Money Chicago – it is a campaign sponsored by labor, community and faith groups who are pushing for cuts in military spending, taxes on the wealthy and corporations and increased spending on job creation and important social programs.

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For more resources go to www.afsc.org