

# Sickness, Wealth, Profit, Rights

*Joia S. Mukherjee, MD, MPH, MCMS  
Medical Director, Partners In Health  
Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School*



# Access to Essential Medicines

- What is a medicine?
- What makes a medicine essential?
- What is access?











The website for local production of Plumpy'nut® type products by **nutraset**

News

Presentation

Producers

More info ...



*Nourimamba....  
No ® !!!!!*



# Access to Essential Medicines

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# History of Essential Drugs

- Medicines that are vital for the saving and preserving of life in conditions of public health emergency or endemic serious disease
- WHO model essential drug list 1977



# WHO's Report, 2002

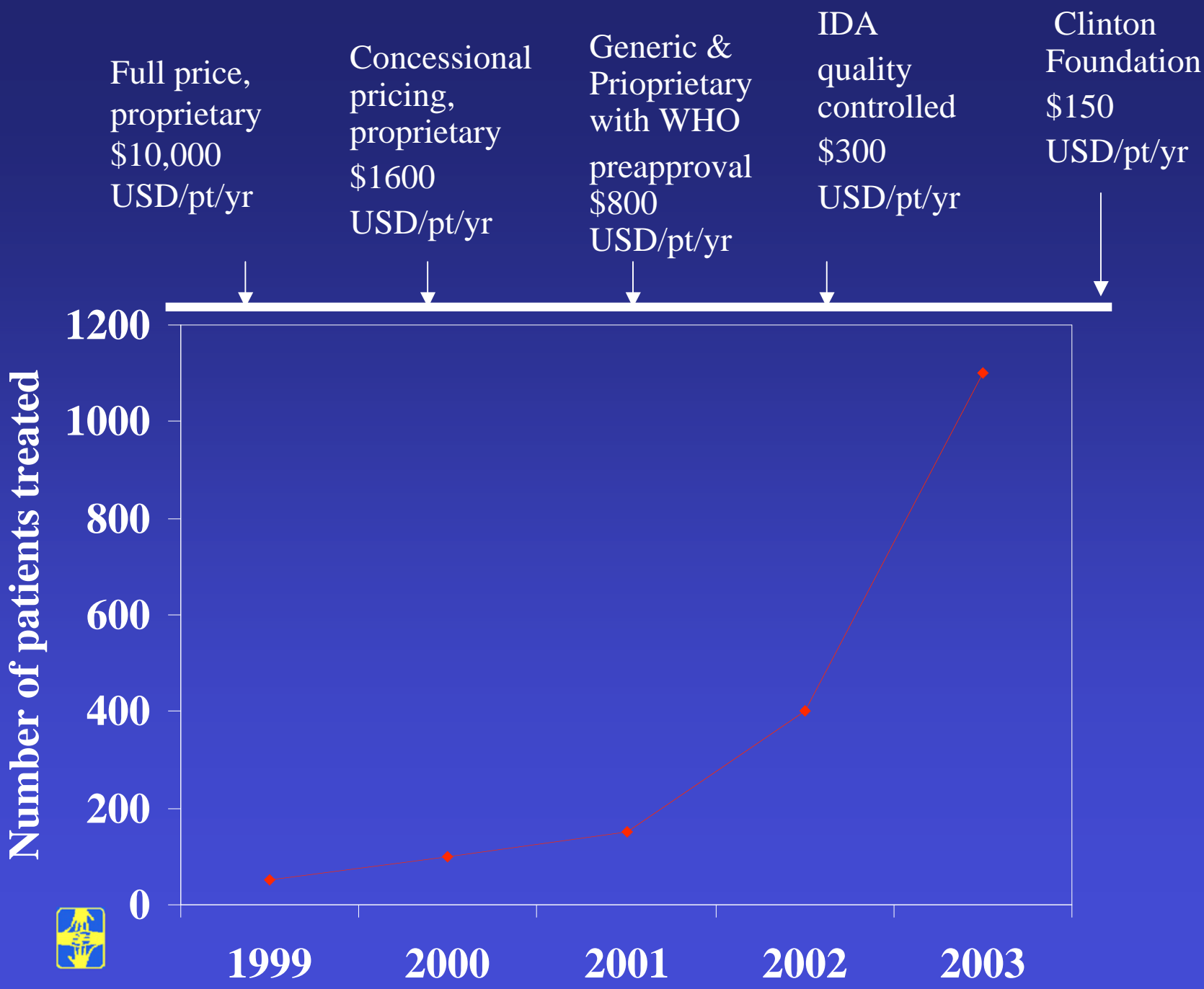
- Medicines that satisfy the priority health care needs of the population
- Are selected with due regard to disease prevalence, evidence on efficacy and safety, and comparative cost-effectiveness
- Are available at all times in context of functioning health systems and at a price the individual and the community can afford.



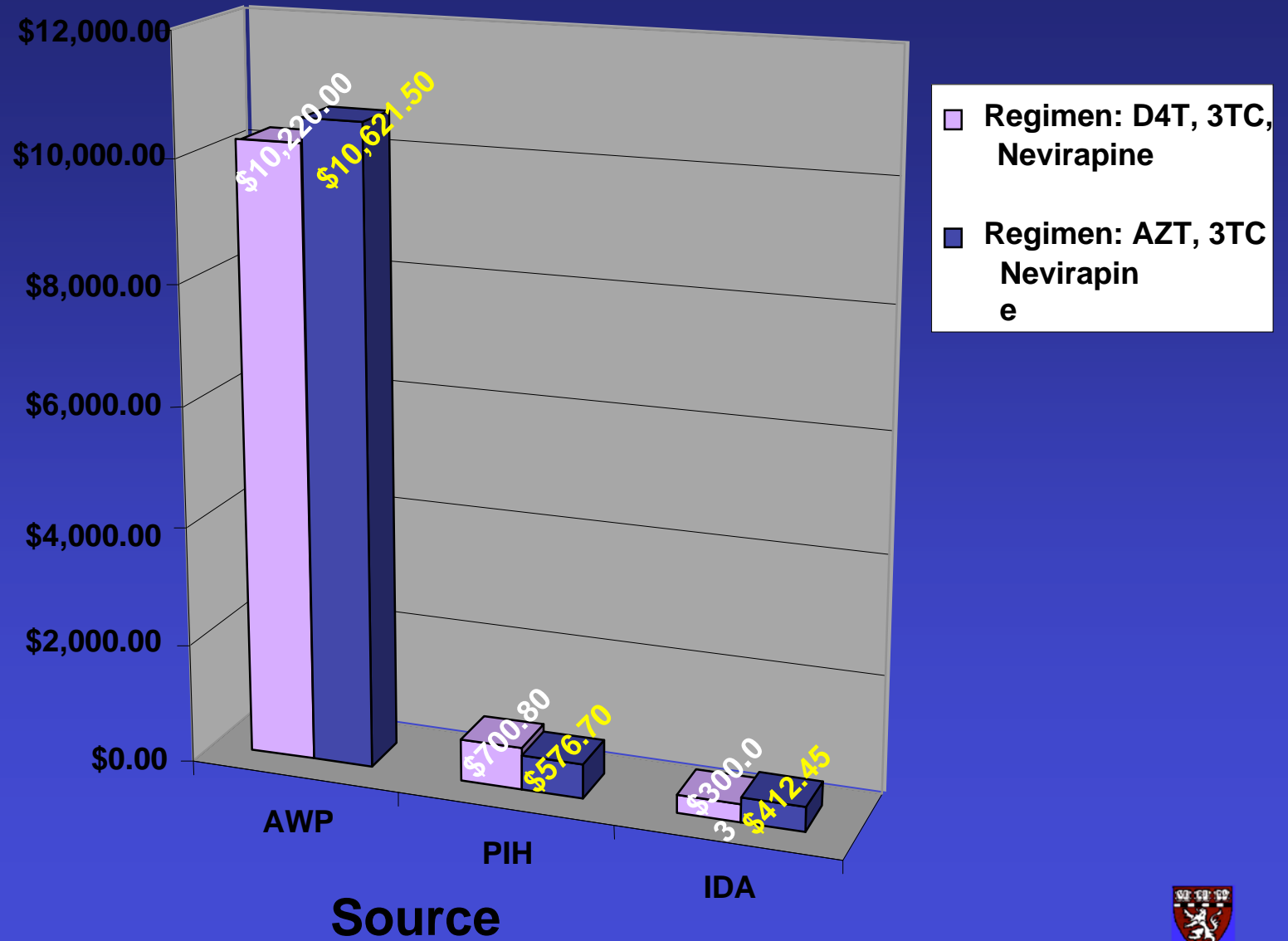
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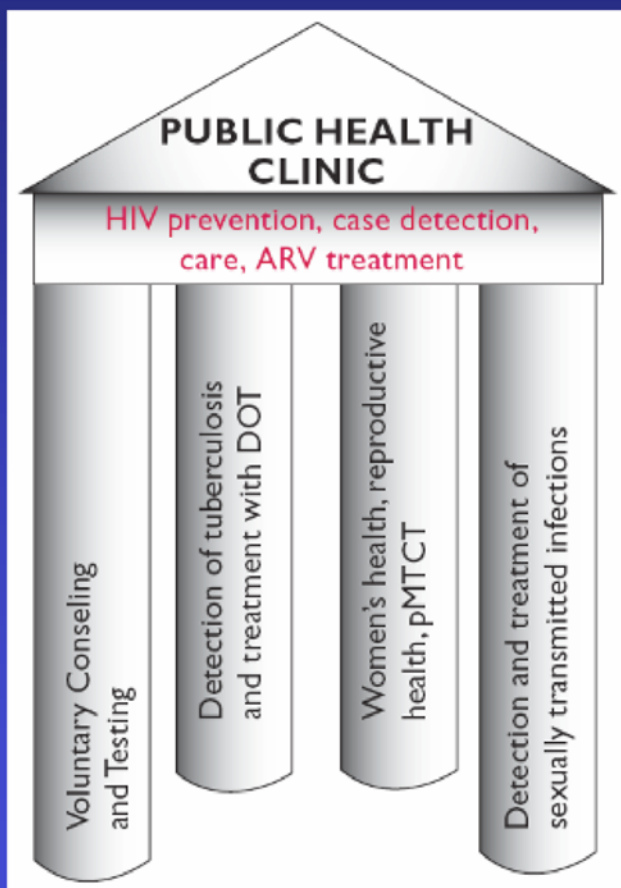
# HAART - Annual per patient treatment costs



# HIV Prevention and Treatment Integration into Primary Health Care



# Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Strengthens Primary Health Care



Site	Before July 02	End of 2003
Lascahobas	20	400
Belledere	0	150
Thomonde	10	250
Boucan Carre	10	250





**Why do we have to fight this?**



# Corporations—Revolutionary Idea

- Ownership by private citizens instead of the crown
- Rights to “incorporate” (and to have the incorporation rescinded) granted by the state/municipality.
  - Corporate charters were closely regulated by the states and required an act of legislature.
  - Limited term
- Public Good--corporate law 1800’s focused on protection of the public interest.

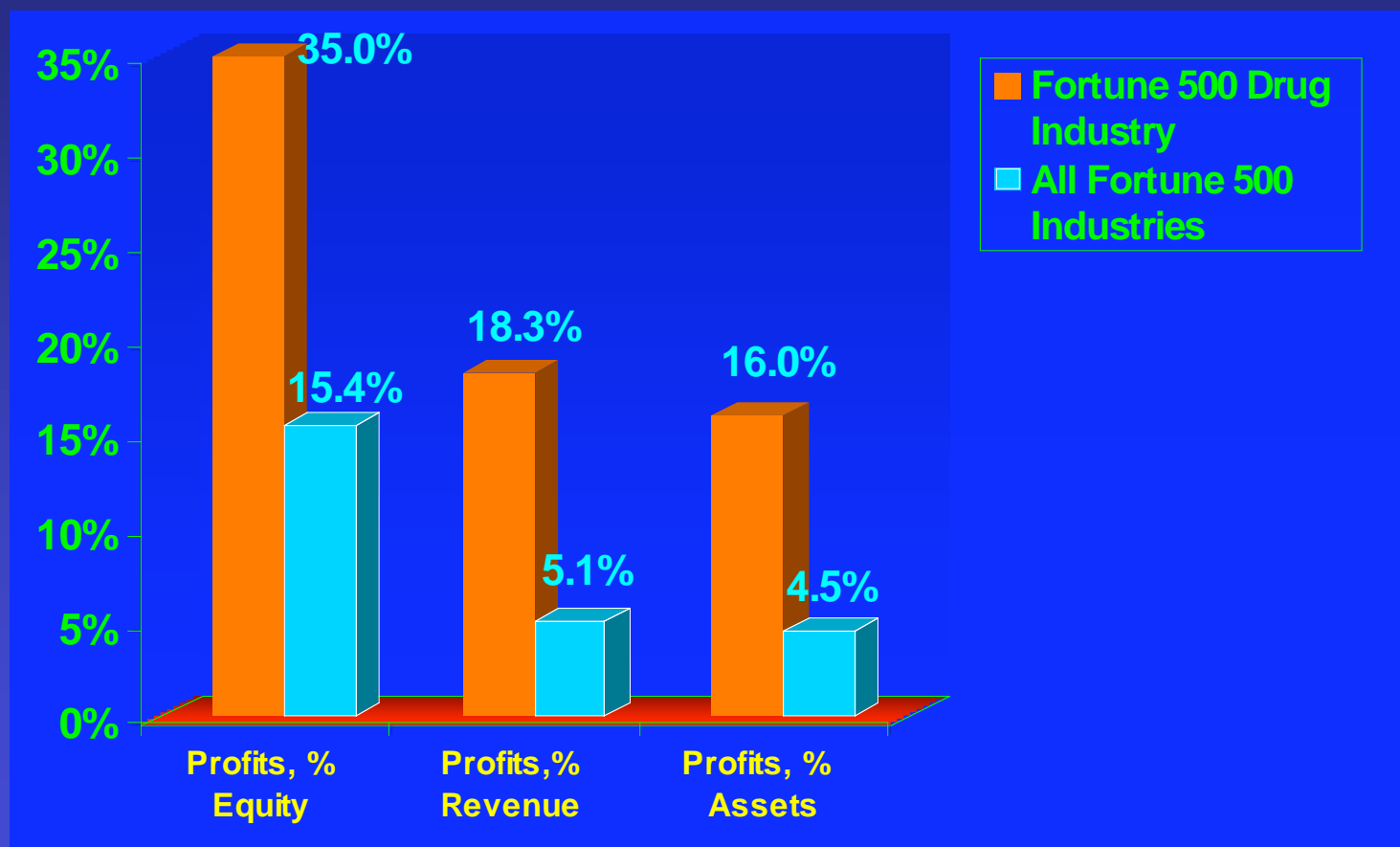


# Corporations—Enriching an elite

- Non-state actor—and relationship to Human Rights
- Health (direct—pesticides, indirect—AIDS drugs)
- Labor: Free trade zones (i.e. anti labor unions and regulations), trade issues and protectionism
- Environment



# Fortune 500: “Drug Industry Ranks #1 in All Measures of Profitability”, 1999

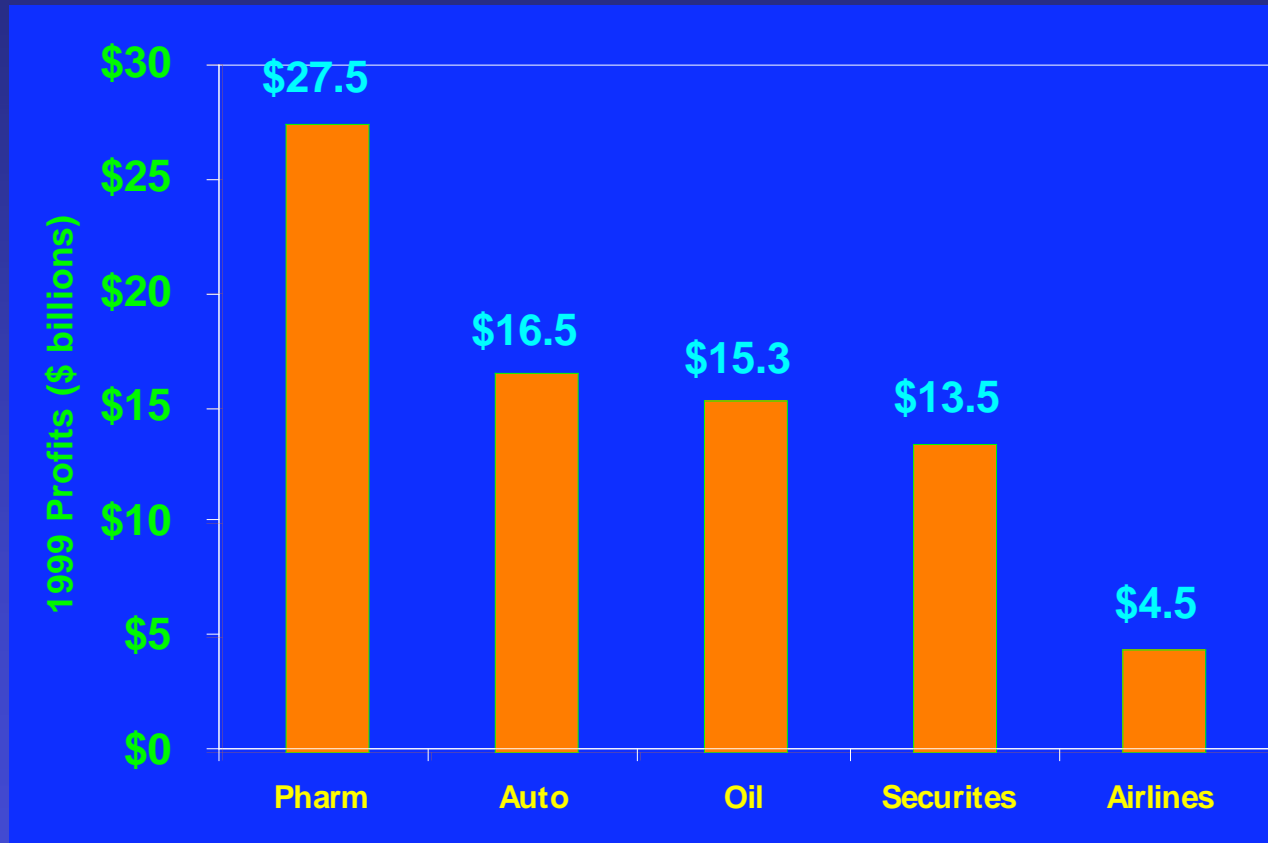


Source: Public Citizen's Congress Watch ([www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org)), from *Fortune Magazine*, April 2000, Fortune 500 ([www.fortune.com](http://www.fortune.com)).



# Combined Profits of Nine Most Profitable Companies

*Select Fortune 500 Industries, 1999*



Source: Public Citizen's Congress Watch ([www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org)),  
from *Fortune Magazine*, April 2000, Fortune 500 ([www.fortune.com](http://www.fortune.com)).



*For globalism to work, America can't be afraid to act like the almighty superpower that it is... The hidden hand of the market will never work without a hidden fist--McDonald's cannot flourish without McDonnell Douglas, the designer of the F-15. And the hidden fist that keeps the world safe for Silicon Valley's technologies is called the United States Army.*

--Thomas Friedman,  
What the World Needs Now,  
New York Times, March 28, 1999



# Transnational Corporations

- Free Trade Zones
- Even less regulation
- “Competitive bidding”
- Outsourcing



# Corporate “Investment” in Developing World

- Lack of environmental, health, safety regulations
- Low taxes—in many cases tax incentives!
- “Flexible labor market” Lower wages and Lack of organized labor





# Lost in the Bretton Woods: formation of IFIs

- 1944: 45 countries in response to the post-World War I economic collapse that lead to the Second World War
- Formation of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) loans for the reconstruction of post-war Europe
- International Monetary Fund created fixed exchange rates for currency and promotion of free trade



# The End of Colonialism?

- 1960s-1970s African liberation movements—colonialism to privatization.
- Soaring OPEC profits—enriched IFIs
- Loans extended to Africa and Latin America
- 1982—Mexico defaults!! SAPs born



# Loans and Structural Adjustment

- Money restricted to governments, earmarked for private sector projects
- Market reforms
- Trade policy
- Public sector cost recovery
- No SAP on military spending



# What gets cut?

- Health
- Infrastructure
- Education
- Government funded jobs







# What gets spent?

- Private sector investments
- Money on large scale development projects—transnational corporations
- Money on military





# Budget Priorities and Sustainability

- 150 million deaths from AIDS, TB and malaria since 1945



- \$15 billion global spending for prevention and control of AIDS, TB and malaria, 1995

- 23 million deaths military and civilian from war 1945 –1993



- \$864 billion global military spending, 1995





**It is yet *another* Civilized Power, with  
its banner of the Prince of Peace in  
one hand and its loot-basket and its  
butcher-knife in the other.**

**--Mark Twain,  
To a Person Living in Darkness,  
1901**



**Praxis: involves revolutionary action  
on behalf of the poor and oppressed -  
and out of this, theological perceptions  
will continually emerge.**

--Gustavo Gutierrez



*Bearing Witness  
to Suffering*

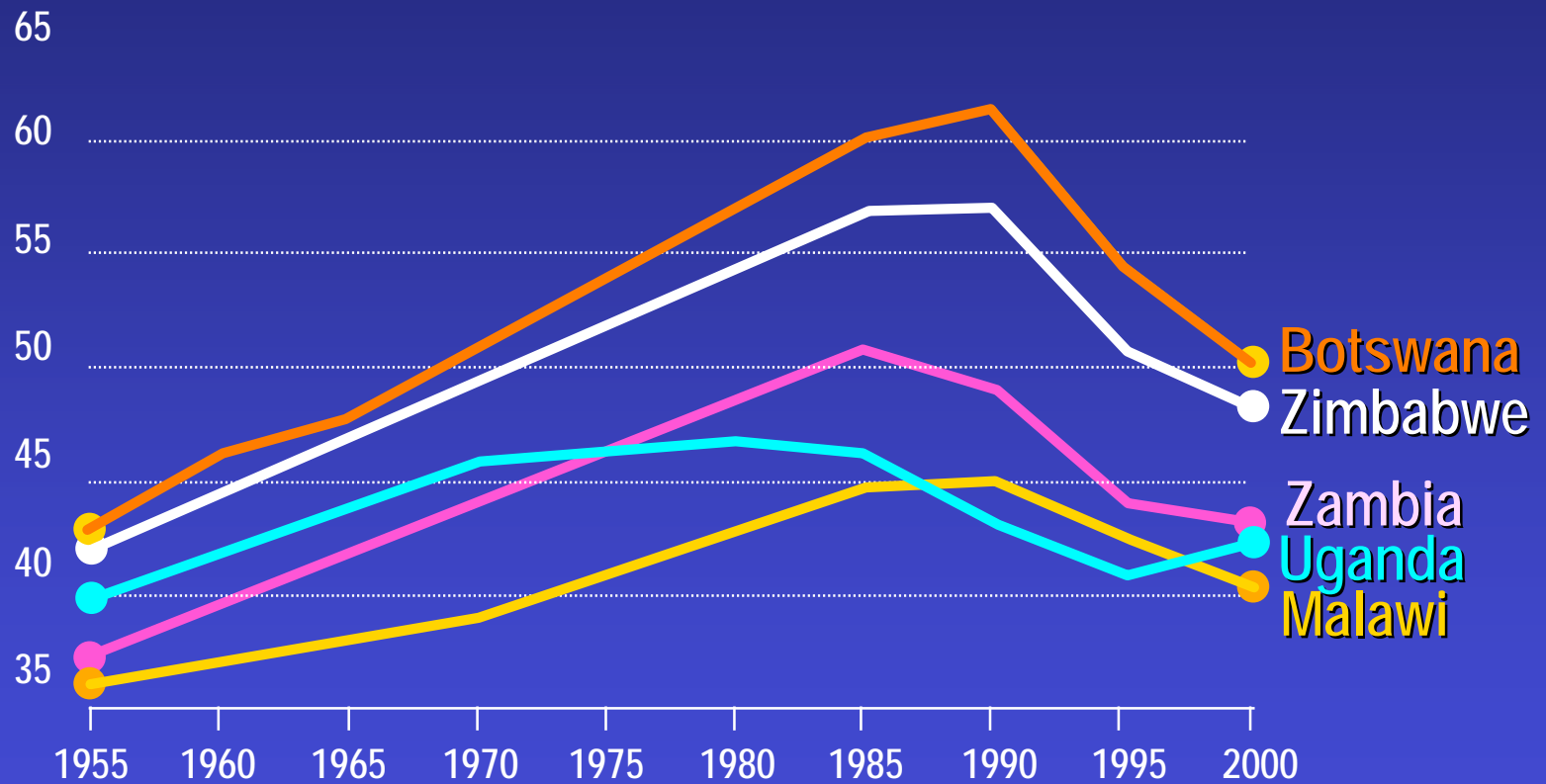
*Action--Medicine*



*Broader Action—  
Public Health,  
Policy, Advocacy*



# Projected Changes in Life Expectancy: 5 African Countries



Source: United Nations Population Division, 1996  
UNAIDS – 1 December 1999



# The Case for a Human Rights Approach....



# Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

The inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,



# An Internal Affair vs. An International Minimum Standard of Justice

- The promotion of human rights should be a chief duty of international bodies.
- Through the consensus of international bodies governments should be held responsible for the treatment of their own



# Declaration vs. Treaty

- The current concept of human rights is delineated in the Universal Declaration
- Ratification of treaties codify the principles of human rights into international law.



# Original Covenants from UDHR

## Civil and Political Rights

- Vote
- Judiciary
- Free speech
- Privacy

## Social and Economic Rights

- Food
- Shelter
- Jobs
- Health Care



# Is access to essential drugs enforceable?

- **71 court cases from 12 countries claimed access to essential medicines part of the governments responsibility to fulfill the right to health**
- **Success was mainly linked to constitutional provisions on the right to health (ratification)**



*Source: Lancet, 2006. Vol 368*



# Solidarity and Social Justice

- Be there
- Listen to the affected
- Collect evidence of the root causes
- Fight for systemic change
- Consider rights fundamental



