

Collective Definitions

A Social Movement is

1. The vision and demand of desired change in identity towards equality and solidarity through action.
2. A massive network of organizations and people collaborating for change focusing on a common goal.
3. A number of grassroots groups challenging collective humans to be heard and change their collective reality.

The US Social Forum is

1. A mass gathering space of the concerned working class to discuss a united movement toward equality.
2. A statement and convergence space in Atlanta for people to network, gather, analyze, and share strategies.
3. The idea of a countersummit to discuss an enemy and to create through discussion a unified movement of coalitions and alliances.

Neoliberalism is

1. The adversarial policies of the wealthy to control power through private property.
2. An economic agenda in which corporate policies exploit by deregulating, privatizing, privatizing and privatizing.
3. Capitalism's evolution, expansion and privatization of the market used to quash restrict and override people by extracting capital.

Constructing Collective Definitions

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The goal of this exercise is to come up with a definition for a particularly important word or concept that the group has been working on. For example, you might define economic justice or solidarity or social movements or popular education. The definition is based upon a contribution from each person that is collectively constructed by the group. The following is a set of guidelines; adjust as you see fit.

1. Each individual writes down her or his own personal definition of the word in question. (5 min.)
2. Each individual then circles the three most important words.
3. Each individual crosses out one of the circled words leaving the two most important words.
4. Each individual crosses out one more word leaving each person with one word.
5. Form groups of 8-12 people. The group collects their words by writing them on a chalkboard or big piece of paper.
6. Groups then construct definitions using ALL the assembled words. Groups can add articles such as “a” and “the,” propositions like “of” and “through, and connectors like “or” and “and.” If individual’s words are repeated the group has the option of using the word once or up to the number of times repeated. No other words can be added. (10-20 min.)
7. Once the definitions are done they should be presented back to the whole group for discussion. The point of discussion is not to judge or evaluate the definitions but to create conversation around the topic based on the definitions that emerge from the process.