

The Simultaneous Policy

A radically innovative approach to solving problems of corporate globalisation that offers win-win solutions for voters, civil society activists, and politicians

Hundreds of thousands of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are said to be at work throughout the world addressing the inequalities created by corporate-friendly economic policies. Through activities based on cooperation and sustainability they seek to provide solutions to problems of human poverty and environmental degradation. And millions share with them unexpressed concerns about the ways in which globalisation enriches the few at the expense of the many.

Competition: The Vicious Circle

By contrast, business leaders claim "there is no alternative" to profit-based pursuits based on competition. For them it is self-evident that growth is beneficial because of the productive wealth it creates. But corporations have to grow because they cannot afford to lose ground against their competitors for fear of reduced profits and, ultimately, the threat of unwelcome takeovers. And nations are forced to compete with one another, to remain relatively more attractive to globally mobile capital and trans-national corporations for fear of investment and employment moving elsewhere. Thus politicians have wholly inadequate margins within which to enact policies that protect society and the environment, making voters increasingly aware that democracy is being subverted as globalisation gathers momentum.

Can the Vicious Circle be Broken?

The clash between street demonstrators and police in Seattle in December 1999 was the first widely visible flash-point between the concepts of economically sustainable democratic cooperation, and socially and environmentally destructive globalised competition. In January 2001, the first meeting of the World Social Forum in Porto-Alegre, Brazil became a focus for CSO-based movements pressing for change, thus creating a new institutional platform for promoting economic and social alternatives. Meanwhile, recognition and concern that globalisation is failing to deliver benefits to the poor is also growing even amongst its most ardent promoters.

Sadly, however, CSOs haven't responded to this significant change of mood by speaking with one voice. A few favour continued confrontation and the creation of global people-power. Others stress the need for local answers to local problems, and the painstaking creation of a democratic framework strong enough in its diversity to withstand attempted returns to global domination.

But, inevitably, the question: How? The Simultaneous Policy (SP) proposes a challenging answer:

What do you think of the Simultaneous Policy (SP)?

"It's ambitious and provocative. Can it work? Certainly worth a serious try." – **Noam Chomsky**

"Your idea for a Simultaneous Policy is excellent. ... Lets hope people start to listen to this important message."

– **Helena Norberg-Hodge**
Director, ISEC.

"SP offers a prophetic and practical approach to the global politico-economic problems of our generation."

– **Steve Whiting**
Quaker Peace & Service

Breaking the Vicious Circle: Global Problems require Global Solutions

The International Simultaneous Policy Organisation (ISPO) invites voters, CSO activists and politicians to assent, by consensus, to a world policy for achieving global cooperation consisting of a range of measures to be implemented by all nations simultaneously. The key part of this bold initiative is re-regulation of global financial markets and transnational corporations such that genuine democracy can be restored to nation states, to be followed by complementary policies that emerge as the campaign gathers pace through active participation by those who sign on. ISPO is encouraging discussion of policies by various means, including an e-mail list devoted to that purpose.

SP additionally offers its adherents several completely new win-win options:

- **Everyone** can express dissatisfaction with global inequalities, and participate in a demand for policy change, merely by posting a letter or sending an e-mail to register their endorsement of SP.
- **Voters** can 'beat the system' by endorsing SP and by creating or joining local SP campaign groups which threaten to vote only for those parliamentary representatives who also endorse SP. They can thereby replace their previous passive or ambivalent function in national politics with direct influence over policy choices.
- **National politicians** can demonstrate their willingness to move on from left/centre/right party politics, but retain voters' support by their successes in joining with other nations in out-maneuvring transnational corporations and thus preserving hard-won civil liberties without risking the national interest.
- **CSOs** who endorse SP can continue to pursue their existing priorities; but, through the variety of their concerns and growing international outreach, can become awareness creating think-tanks or pressure groups which constantly remind national politicians that top-down policies with bottom-up origins are the only ones that function effectively.

"It is a good idea. What we need is politicians who will give this issue a high priority." – **Polly Toynbee**
The Guardian

"..the basic concept is excellent... Let me know what develops!"
- **Jakob von Uexkull**
Chairman,
Right Livelihood Award
Foundation

"I thought [SP] was an elegant idea of how change could occur. It reflects the core ideas of how to create consensus around change. This is the biggest challenge that we have."
- **Ed Mayo**
Director, New Economics
Foundation

Thus the Simultaneous Policy is clearly "ambitious and provocative", as Noam Chomsky described it. *"Can it work? Certainly worth a serious try"*, he concluded. And John Bunzl, the campaign's originator, has written: *"If we don't try, we'll never find out."* So, for a detailed account of the SP campaign, ask us for a copy of *"The Simultaneous Policy – An Insider's Guide to Saving Humanity and the Planet"* or obtain one from your bookshop. Or for more about the new SP movement, its supporters, and its growing networks of country representatives and policy discussants, or for brief guidance on how to set up a local SP campaign group, contact:

International Simultaneous Policy Organisation (ISPO)

PO Box 26547, London SE3 7YT, UK

Fax: +44 (0)208 460 2035. Or send an **E-mail: info@simpol.org**.

Or visit the SP campaign website and register your endorsement of SP at

www.simpol.org