

Free Trade = New Auschwitzes

April 21—Barack Obama’s attempt to steamroll Congress into giving him Fast Track authority is another example of him following the trail of Bush Family fascism. George H.W. Bush devised the “free trade” pact called NAFTA in 1990—a pact finally pushed through in 1992—as a service to his Wall Street/City of London backers. The expanded TPP pact would do the same on a much larger scale.

Lyndon LaRouche denounced the NAFTA free-trade policy as intending to create an “Auschwitz below the border.” That it has done, not only by its sanctioning of slave-labor *maquiladora* operations, but by mandating the destruction of agriculture by phasing out tariffs. Mexico is now a nation desperate for the food it can no longer produce, bereft of modern infrastructure, unprotected from financial, drug, and corporate predators.

Devastation has also been wreaked by NAFTA on the U.S. side of the border. The Economic Policy Institute estimates 700,000 jobs lost to runaway shops in Mexico, but even more widespread was the impact driving down wages and benefits in the United States, as employers used the threat of outsourcing to cow workers into submission.