## **Expulsions** - S. Sassen 2014

Highlights by Nele Schmitz

#### > used for unambiguous good (green transport system) > materialized for ill (arms) opportunity to reorient our enormous > **left immaterial** (speculative financial constructions) capacities to make capital to meet broad range of NEEDS dominates finance since 20 years △ logics capacity to ↑ own value Power of genuine prosperity & governments ↓ value Danger of finance + entirely legal!

#### even as households, economies finance for its OWN GAIN predatory systemic Sticky web of systemic logics Predatory formations = capacities elites = larger challenge we confront, goes beyond powerful individuals concentration at the top > globalisation & institutions ≠ new but today: > ↑ ↑ technical capacities > extreme forms > government enablement > in ↑ # domains > across the world Complexity is part of the condition Major → hard to feel accountable scaling effects → hard to pinpoint accountability Systemic edge: where general conditions tension take extreme forms complex forms brutally elementary > larger trends become visible of knowledge outcomes **Expulsions** enterprises planetary Global systematicity at work Expulsions not faced by majority sub-terranean Economic But, dynamics that expel people > no matter localised instantiations system larger trend are now hardwired in normal ≠ political economies of expulsions functioning of economy & society ≠ countries & places > world's displaced = systemically akin Biosphere localised Social global North: unemployment, out-migration, at the surface places damage foreclosures, poverty, suicide system Profound disjuncture between: global South: war, disease, famine ↑ inequality people ↑ poverty dominant logics shaping planetary condition ↑ technical capacity government responses & its sources ↑ environmental damage & much policy Major systemic trend Switch in economic logics effort ≠ reduce destruction, but POST 1945 FROM 1980s = maximize a state's advantage in the right to destroy ↑ social & economic liberated inclusion for the profit seeking spaces of the expelled average person = invisible to standard measures of our modern states & economies dynamics that: dynamics that: brought people IN push people OUT OWN GAIN > losers = majority of citizens > winners = middle class **Economic cleansing** & governments

### NEEDS

## **Genuine Progress Indicator**

peaked in 1978, ↓ since!

Financial profit:

- > social & environmental negatives
  - ↑ concentrated at top

# are getting rid of outpaced growth & monetary wealth

- > unemployed lose everything (job, home, insurance)
- > small shop & factory owners lose everything
- > students & professionals emigrate
- >> excessive social contract-related expenditures
- >> smaller economic space with \( \) GDP

**F.ex.** recovery of Greece in Jan. 2013 rested on 1/3 of Greek workforce being expelled

expulsion of anything in way of corporate profit

#### mechanisms for ↑ profit:

↑ prosperity of many

mechanisms for ↑ profit:

> mass manufacturing

> public infrastructure

(even if unequal)

development

- > financial innovations
- > privatisations, deregulations, open borders

Capture moment of expulsion before we forget (cf. Sub-Saharan Africa, Russia)

state deficits ↑ corporate profits ↑

vested interests of foreign governments & firms enabled corruption & weaking of these states

Degrades meaning of citizenship

after 20 years of austerity programmes

enabled Foreign land acquisitions

has become the norm vast # micro-expulsions: in ≠ countries & by ≠ buyers flora & fauna

villages

smallholders traditional land tenure rules

#### Mass incarceration

- > became powerful vehicle of expulsion
- > reimbursement for incarcerated bodies created perverse incentive

profits of private prisons = ↑ GDP government run prisons = ↓ GDP

'Refugee warehousing'

multiyear impact of:

> restricted mobility

> enforced iddleness

>> the expelled who probably

never go back to normal life!

predatory logic

#### Housing played economic role, as part of:

governments pay more to lenders

than they invest in health & education

- 1. construction sector
- 2. real estate market
- 3. banking sector via mortgages
- 4. financial sector via securitized mortgages

since '80s

enormously complex & opaque instruments

potential for abuse = massive

↑↑ foreclosures ↔ only some investors affected

GDP (↑) never so extreme financial assets ↑↑

## Contamination of land & water: Lowlights

> dependency in segregated settlements

## Industrial waste > massive toxicity under highly varied political & economic regimes

- > possibility to discharge responsibility via bankruptcy & leave clean-up costs for government
- > largest leather **export** industry in India no access to adequate waste treatment facilities
- > no environmental legislation/lack of awareness of environmental issues
- > solutions considered too expensive
- > employees facing choice between wage or toxicity

## Resource extraction

- > water grabs by soda companies & water bottlers
- >> exhausted whole underground water supplies in ≠ parts of the world
- > mountaintop removal mining: ↑ coal extracted ↔ ↓ benefits for miners & communities
- >> 95% of children health affected ↔ government doesn't acknowledge a problem
- > hydraulic fracturing = water grabs, radioactive wastewater, ↑ earthquakes

## Nuclear waste & poison gas

- > most significant public health issue = ↓ psychological health & economic wellbeing > war among those forced to abruptly relocate fugitives!
- > no plans to intercept toxins before they enter water supply

F.ex. VW in Brazil, Ford in Europe

Shift from investment in manufacturing to mining, oil & land ≠ good for development of national economies

↓ role of people as consumers & workers in profits of ≠ economic sectors