

WORLD ISSUES

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Whose World Is It?

At the start of the 21st century, the global population, resource consumption and the ensuing environmental problems are increasing at an unprecedented rate. The attendant shortage of resources is leading to allocation conflicts that are increasingly played out on world markets – even in the case of vital commodities such as water or arable land, which had thus far enjoyed a certain level of protection owing to their significance. The growing gulf between rich and poor, between the haves and the have-nots, is becoming ever more widespread as a result, both on a global and national level. **Whose World Is It?** explores major problems that will have a significant impact on the future of mankind.

01 The Power of the Financial Concerns HD

Regulators are now paying closer attention to the world's big banks, and so are the media. But a large portion of the world's financial activity is channeled through the shadow banking system, where institutions speculate and lend and invest huge sums of money while eluding public oversight.

02 The Hunt for Land HD

In recent years, investors have been buying up vast tracts of farmland around the world. They are betting on continued population growth and increasing demand for food crops. This is turning the basis of food production into a speculative commodity, and the generation of profit into a chief priority.

03 The Battle Over Water VoD HD

Water is perhaps our most precious resource, and it is scarce. Multinational companies are scrambling to secure the best sources of drinking water. For them, it is simply another commodity they want to sell at the best price.

04 The Raw Materials Business VoD HD

Commodity traders are a powerful force in the global economy, and are rarely subject to close scrutiny. Some of the leading firms have been acquiring mines and farmland, often in developing countries. Profits are high for the investors, but the host countries rarely benefit.

05 The Future of Food Supply HD

In the face of climate change, water shortages, population growth and questionable agricultural policies, urgent questions arise: What will we be eating in the future? Organic or industrial food? Local produce or imports? From small-scale farms or industrial agribusinesses? Fast food or trash food? Who will starve, and who will get to eat their fill?

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06 Poverty in the West HD

It used to be said that desperate poverty had been banished from western Europe. Such claims ring hollow nowadays. Neo-liberal reforms, purportedly designed to streamline economies and generate prosperity, have in fact cast many people into poverty – even in rich countries such as France and Germany.

07 The Patent Wars HD

A patent used to be nothing more than a right to protect an invention. Today, we find ourselves in the midst of a global struggle in which patents are being used as strategic weapons. Anything with the potential for profit is being patented: From designs, to food-stuffs, and even the human genome.