

WARM UP

- 1 What do you know about the anti-globalisation movement and the demonstrations against the World Trade Organisation and G8 meetings?

MORE ABOUT...

Naomi Klein is a Canadian journalist and activist, who writes columns for several US and Canadian newspapers. She became well-known after she published her book *No Logo* in 2000, which was an international bestseller. In the book she strongly criticises corporate globalisation, particularly giants like Nike, McDonald's and Microsoft, and brand-oriented consumer culture. In 2002 she published *Fences and Windows*, a collection of her articles and speeches supporting the anti-globalisation movement, and in 2007 *The Shock Doctrine*, both of which also became bestsellers.

Anti-globalisation movement

The anti-globalisation movement obtained the attention of the worldwide media, and consequently also that of the general public, after the protests against the World Trade Organisation Ministerial Meeting in Seattle (USA) at the end of 1999. There had been several demonstrations and protests prior to this date, but the '**Battle for Seattle**' is the one that hit the world's headlines. On November 30th, protesters blocked the entrance of delegates by forming a human chain around the conference centre where the meeting was to be held and they also managed to interrupt the opening ceremony. Over the next few days, there were violent clashes between the protesters and the Seattle Riot Police, who used tear gas to break up the protests. Some protesters rampaged around the city, destroying shop windows belonging to corporations like Nike and Starbucks and the city authorities had to issue a curfew. Over 600 protesters were arrested and many protesters and police were injured. During the next two years, there were more protests at various world summits and meetings, including the meetings of the World Bank and IMF in Washington DC (USA) and Prague (Czech Republic), and the World Economic Forum in Davos (Switzerland). But the most violent protest was at the **G8 Summit in Genoa** (Italy) in July 2011 which resulted in hundreds of protesters and police being injured and the death of a young Italian, Carlo Giuliani. In spite of the preparation before the summit by the Italian army and security forces, Genoa suffered protests, riots and violence which left the centre of the city almost in ruins with burnt cars, broken windows and ransacked shops.

As can be seen by what happened in Genoa, where there were peaceful demonstrators and those belonging to violent fringe groups, it is not possible to consider the anti-globalisation movement as one single organisation. There are many diverse ideological orientations – environmentalists, anarchists, human rights activists and opponents of privatisation to name but a few – which can come under this umbrella term. However, what does link this movement is its criticism of economic neoliberalism, where the policies of multinational corporations and institutions like the WTO and World Bank have contributed to global poverty and inequality. Many supporters actually dislike the word anti-globalisation with its negative implications. Terms such as alter-globalisation or the social justice movement more accurately reflect their support for global co-operation and interaction where human values such as the environment, justice and human rights are put before economic values.

READING COMPREHENSION

- 2 **BEC** Read the text and, using your own words, explain and give details about the following aspects of the anti-globalisation movement and events mentioned in the text.

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| 1 Battle for Seattle | 4 ideological orientations |
| 2 Nike and Starbucks | 5 economic neoliberalism |
| 3 G8 Summit in Genoa | 6 social justice movement |

SPEAKING

- 3 Discuss these questions in small groups.

- 1 What does anti-globalisation mean to you?
- 2 Do you think it is possible to have one definition of the movement?
- 3 Is there a strong anti-globalisation or social justice movement in your country?