

## **Announcing the One Billion Dollar Endowment Drive for Transformational Research**

To all activists, scholars, people of good will:

The United States is a democracy in name only. The wealthy and major corporations govern what is in fact a kleptocracy. The corporate media perpetuates the illusion of democracy in a post-industrial dictatorship whose citizens imagine that they are free. Through free trade agreements, the U.S. has dismantled labor and environmental regulation, creating a global race to the bottom wherein impoverished countries compete to offer the most abysmal working conditions and environmental standards. This situation will not change while corporations dictate mainstream ideology and the wealthy control public policy. To change the workplace, political institutions and media ownership, we must first transform educational institutions and think tanks. After all, wealthy donors transformed public policy through public indoctrination. That is how the elite obliterate independent and critical thinking, replacing it with debates whose boundaries are safely delineated beforehand. That is how raw power legitimizes its crimes and lends them a democratic and moral veneer.

Although there are a few progressive scholars in universities, most educational institutions are controlled by trustees and presidents who are beholden to the power elite, both Republican and Democrat. Since critical research often leads to firings and harassment, academics widely engage in self-censorship. Corporate funding has encouraged the spread of ultra conservative institutes and think tanks that are staffed by rightwing political ideologues. This situation has inhibited the formation of mass social movements.

True change begins with ideas that challenge elite ideology. To this end, TSI announces the drive to create a one billion dollar fund that will counter the well-funded rightwing think tanks and corporatist universities that are eroding human rights.

With this fund, TSI will finance progressive scholarship and programs rooted in grassroots activism to build a mass movement that will result in a global fight for universal equality and freedom. True liberty begins with true intellectual production free of masters and unfiltered by media barons. Societal change begins with education that unmask the exploitation, corruption, hypocrisy and violations of human rights that oligarchic media have hidden from view.

If you share this vision please contribute, promote, and join our common struggle for social justice.

In Global Solidarity,  
Dr. John Asimakopoulos  
Founding Director