

Walter Wink quote (Week one)

'The New Testament's "principalities and power" is a generic category referring to the determining forces of physical, psychic, and social existence. These powers usually consist of an outer manifestation and an inner spirituality or interiority. Power must become incarnate, institutionalised or systemic in order to be effective. It has a dual aspect, possessing both an outer, visible form (constitutions, judges, police, leaders, office complexes), and an inner, invisible spirit that provides it legitimacy, compliance, credibility and clout... The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation and the other institutions of globalisation would seem to deserve the label "principalities and powers" in our age, and we need to learn how to bring them into captivity to Christ, how to make them "ministering spirits", serving human need and supporting justice and human dignity.'

(Walter Wink, *Unmasking the powers*, Philadelphia, 1986, p.4)

The powerful vs the powerless (Week two)

South Africa

'South Africa is one of the countries in the world where inequality is most extreme. 34% of South Africans live on less than £1 a day and unemployment levels are at a staggering 33%. The post-apartheid South African government was keen to sign the trade deal with Europe as 47% of its exports end up there.

'But since the deal was signed in 1999, South African people have suffered from job losses, poorer wages and worsening working conditions. Many local fledgling industries have been unable to compete with increased imports from Europe and have been unable to take advantage of new opportunities to access European markets.

Overall, the deal is unfair on South Africa and in many ways reflects its weaker negotiating position. While South Africa agreed to cut tariffs on 40% of European exports, Europe only agreed to cut its tariffs on 25% of South Africa's exports. To make matters worse, this cut in tariffs did not include key export products for South Africa, such as wine, which is one of its main agricultural exports to Europe.'

(World Development Movement – www.wdm.org.uk)

Philippines

'The Philippines used to be almost self-sufficient in food. However, since 1995, tariffs and restrictions allowing them to protect industries have been [re]moved and the Philippines has become a food importer. Millions of peasants are losing income because cheap maize and rice imports make it difficult for them to sell their own crops.'

(Trade for Life, Christian Aid, 2001)