

## **Billy Bragg on International Trade**

### ***NPWA (No Power without accountability)***

I grew up in a company town  
And I worked real hard 'til that company closed down  
They gave my job to another man  
On half my wages in some foreign land  
And when I asked how could this be  
Any good for our economy?  
I was told nobody cares  
So long as they make money when they sell their shares

Can you hear us? Are you listening?  
No power without accountability!

I lost my job, my car and my house  
When ten thousand miles away some guy clicked on a mouse  
He didn't know me, we never spoke,  
He didn't ask my opinion or canvass for my vote

I guess its true, nobody cares  
'Til those petrol bombs come spinning through the air  
Gotta find a way to hold them to account  
Before they find a way to snuff our voices out

Can you hear us? Are you listening?  
No power without accountability!

The ballot box is no guarantee that we achieve democracy  
Our leaders claim their victory when only half the people have spoken  
We have no job security in this global economy,  
Our borders closed to refugees but our markets forced open

The World Bank says to Mexico,  
We'll cut you off if you don't keep your taxes low  
But they have no right to wield that sword  
'Cos they take their orders from the chairman of the board  
I guess it's true, nobody cares 'till those petrol bombs come spinning through the air

Gotta find a way to hold them to account  
People voted by the way to snuff our voice out (?)

Can you hear us? Are you listening?  
No power without accountability.

## David Ricardo on International Trade

Under a system of perfectly free commerce, each country naturally devotes its capital and labour to such employments as are most beneficial to each. This pursuit of individual advantage is admirably connected with the universal good of the whole. By stimulating industry, by rewarding ingenuity, and by using most efficaciously the peculiar powers bestowed by nature, it distributes labour most effectively and most economically: while, by increasing the general mass of productions, it diffuses general benefit, and binds together by one common tie of interest and intercourse, the universal society of nations throughout the civilized world. It is this principle which determines that wine shall be made in France and Portugal, that corn shall be grown in America and Poland, and that hardware and other goods shall be manufactured in England.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> David Ricardo (1817). *On the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation*. Volume I of The Works and Correspondence of David Ricardo. Piero Sraffa (editor). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pages 133-34.