

Canada's Mining Industry and Popular Resistance

By [Socialist Project](#)

Global Research, August 21, 2016

[Socialist Project](#)

Region: [Canada](#)

Theme: [Environment](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#), [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

Canada is one of the world's centres of the mining and extractive sector. Toronto is the centre of the trade in mining stocks and in financing mining operations. Canadian mining capital operates in more than 100 countries and is among the top five world producers of potash, uranium, nickel, gold, platinum, aluminum, diamonds and steel-making coal.

The Canadian state supports the accumulation of the mining industry at home and abroad. Indeed, it is impossible to separate out the history of Canadian colonialism and the building capitalism in Canada from the mining sector, from the original mining of fish and furs by Europeans to the modern mining of the tar sands, forests, precious metals, and many other sectors. The extractive sector remains at the centre of the Canadian state's colonial – and often coercive, and extra-legal – relationship with the First Nations, and the ecological destructiveness of the Canadian developmental model.

Relations with workers and unions in the mining sector remain turbulent and chaotic – extract the resources and labour-power, and the devil of the consequences for the workers, communities, and environment. Both the Harper and Trudeau governments have pursued strategies to help mining companies expand their exploration and extraction activities around the world.

The Canadian provinces share the same agenda, whatever the political complexion of the government in power. In pursuing international trade and investment treaties, Canadian governments have had the protection of the extractive sector at the core of their bargaining. Signing investor protection deals with foreign countries and pushing consulates and embassies to promote Canadian mining projects are two of the main modalities by which Canadian imperialism operates. Canadian royalty regimes are, perhaps, the most generous in the world among large countries for mining capital.

Confronting Canadian capitalism necessarily means a confrontation with the Canadian mining sector. Solidarity with First Nations people requires support for struggles with the mining corporations. Ecologically-responsible production can only occur with democratic and social control of the mining sector.

More information:

- [“The Mining Issue: Taking on the Canadian Goliath,”](#) *Canadian Dimension*, Nov/Dec 2013.
- [“The Battle for Canada's North,”](#) *Canadian Dimension*, May/Jun 2013.
- [“Canadian mining companies invade the global south,”](#) *Canadian Dimension*, Jan/Feb 2011.

- [“Democracy in the Pits,”](#) *DeSmog Canada*, 16 April 2014.
- [“No Silver Medal,”](#) *The Bullet*, 27 August 2012.
- [“Military Coups are Good for Canadian Business,”](#) *The Bullet*, 3 March 2011.
- [“Canadian Mining and Popular Resistance in Honduras,”](#) *The Bullet*, 29 January 2010.
- [“Mining in Conflict, an Interactive Map.”](#)

The original source of this article is [Socialist Project](#)
 Copyright © [Socialist Project](#), [Socialist Project](#), 2016

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Socialist Project](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca