

ORGANIZING, STRIKES, AND LABOR SOLIDARITY IN LATIN AMERICA

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Latin America

- ▶ Wars and dictatorships (1960s-1980s)
- ▶ Neoliberal reforms and inequality (1990s)
- ▶ Rise of left and center-left governments (2000s)
- ▶ Labor's challenges...



Brazil: Strikes & Lawyers

- ▶ Strikes rise in the 1980s and then fall.
- ▶ Then, more courts cases.
- ▶ China: Brazil's largest trading partner...

Figure 1 *Strikes and strikers in 20 year*

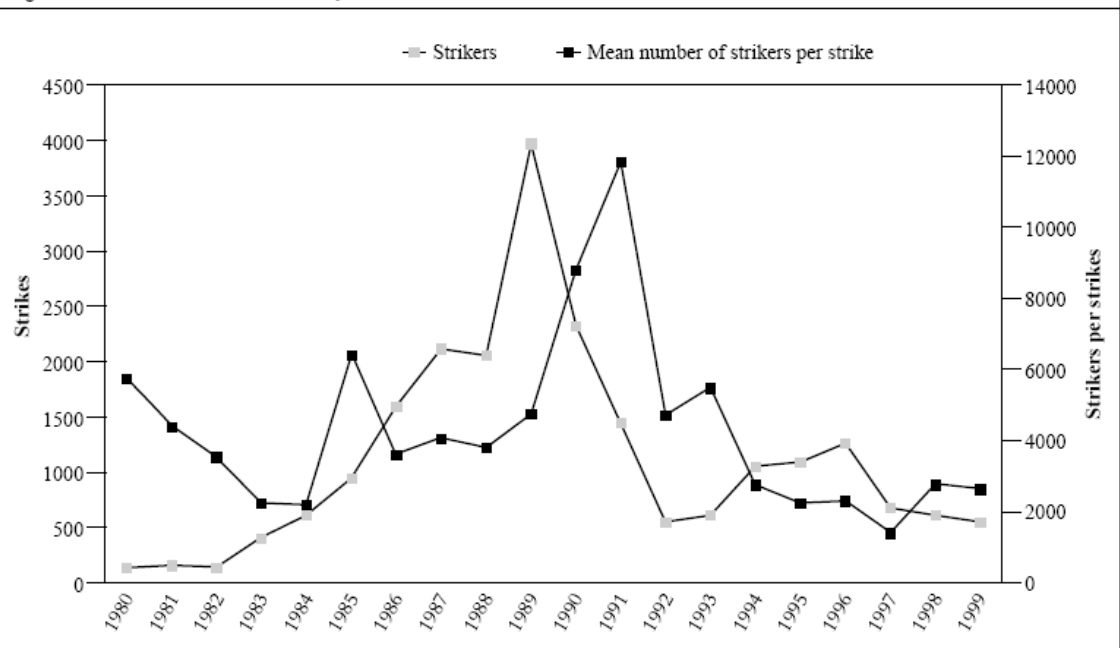
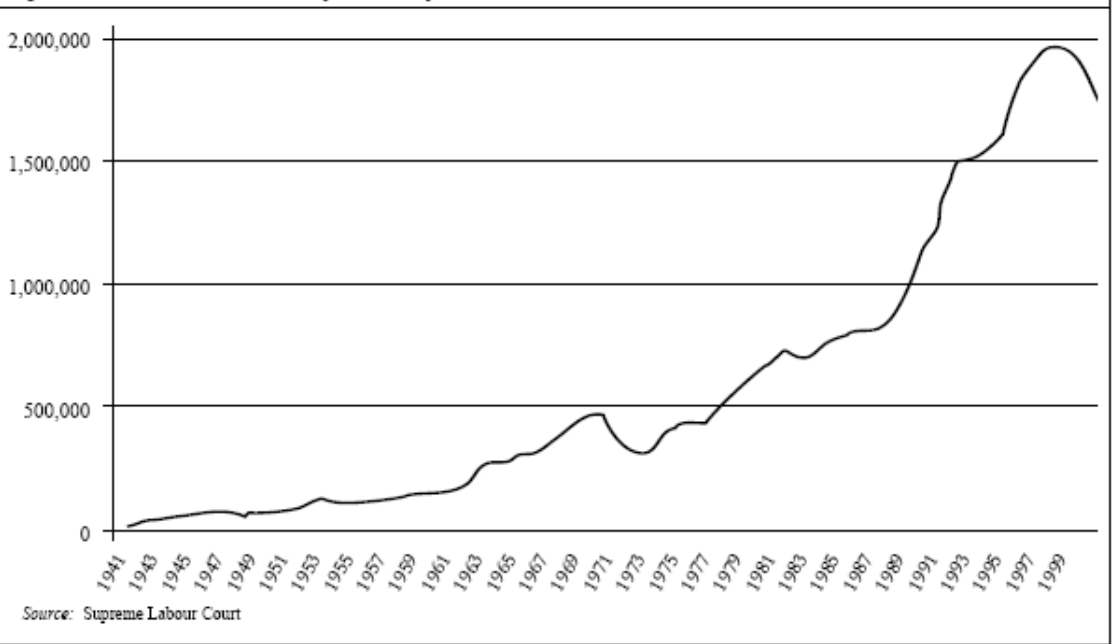


Figure 2 *Judicial demands in the first level of labour court in Brazil, 1941-2000*



Central America



- ▶ War
- ▶ Repression
- ▶ Resistance

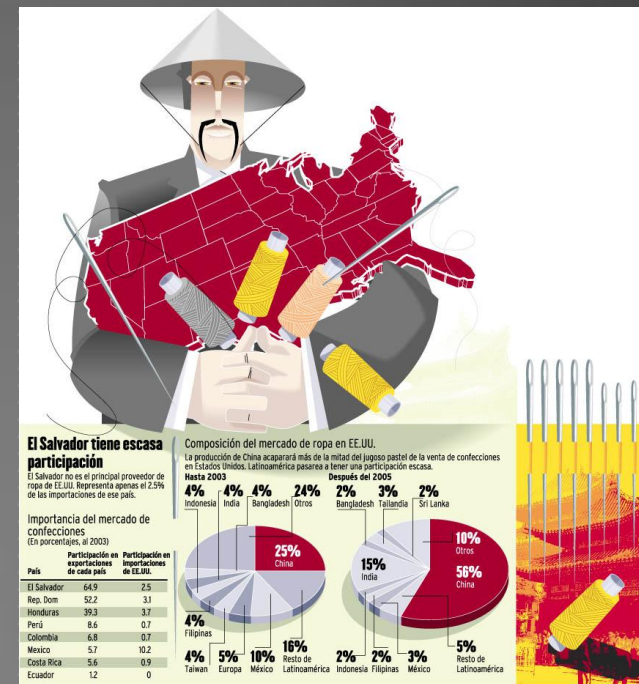
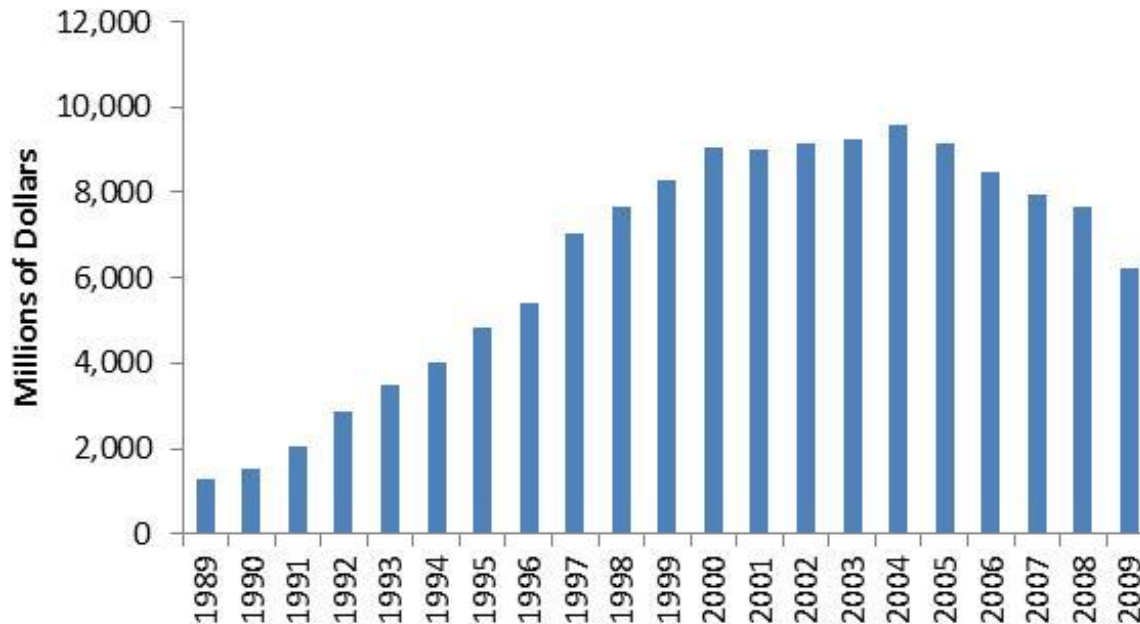
- ▶ Post-conflict society?
- ▶ Apparel exports;
Asian Tigers model?



Export Processing Zones: Rise and Decline

- ▶ Rise in competition from China.
- ▶ Rise in Chinese investments in Central America.
- ▶ Also, US recession & CAFTA..

CAFTA-DR Apparel and Textile Exports to the US

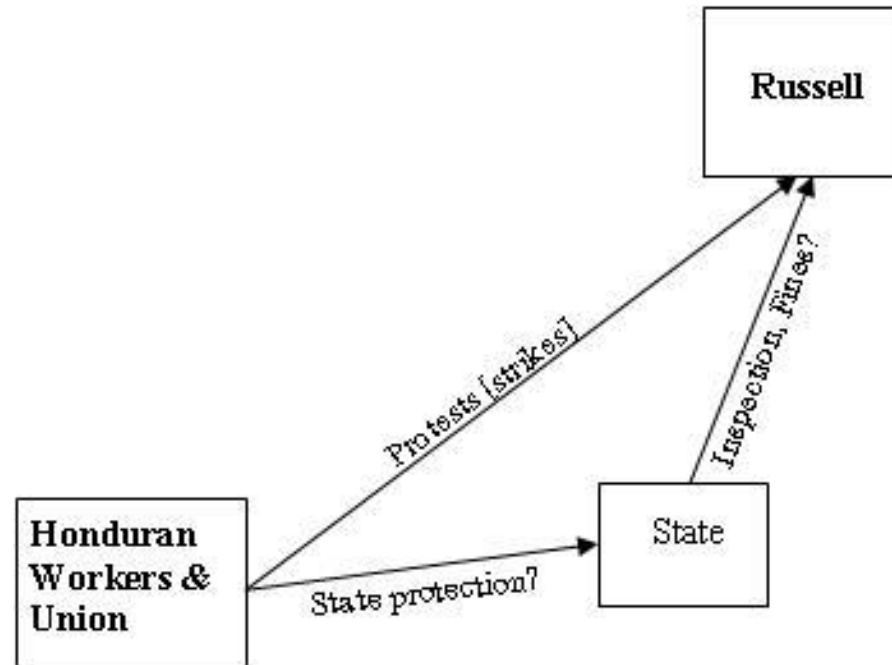


How to organize in this context?

- ▶ Strikes?
- ▶ State protection?
- ▶ International solidarity? China/Asia?
- ▶ CSR (WRC/FLA)?

Actions Used in Organizing Campaigns	
Strikes	46%
Work slowdowns	51%
Pressure on state institutions	88%
International Solidarity	41%

Source: Anner (2011), *Solidarity Transformed*.





US
Students
& Labor

alliance

Honduran
Workers &
Union

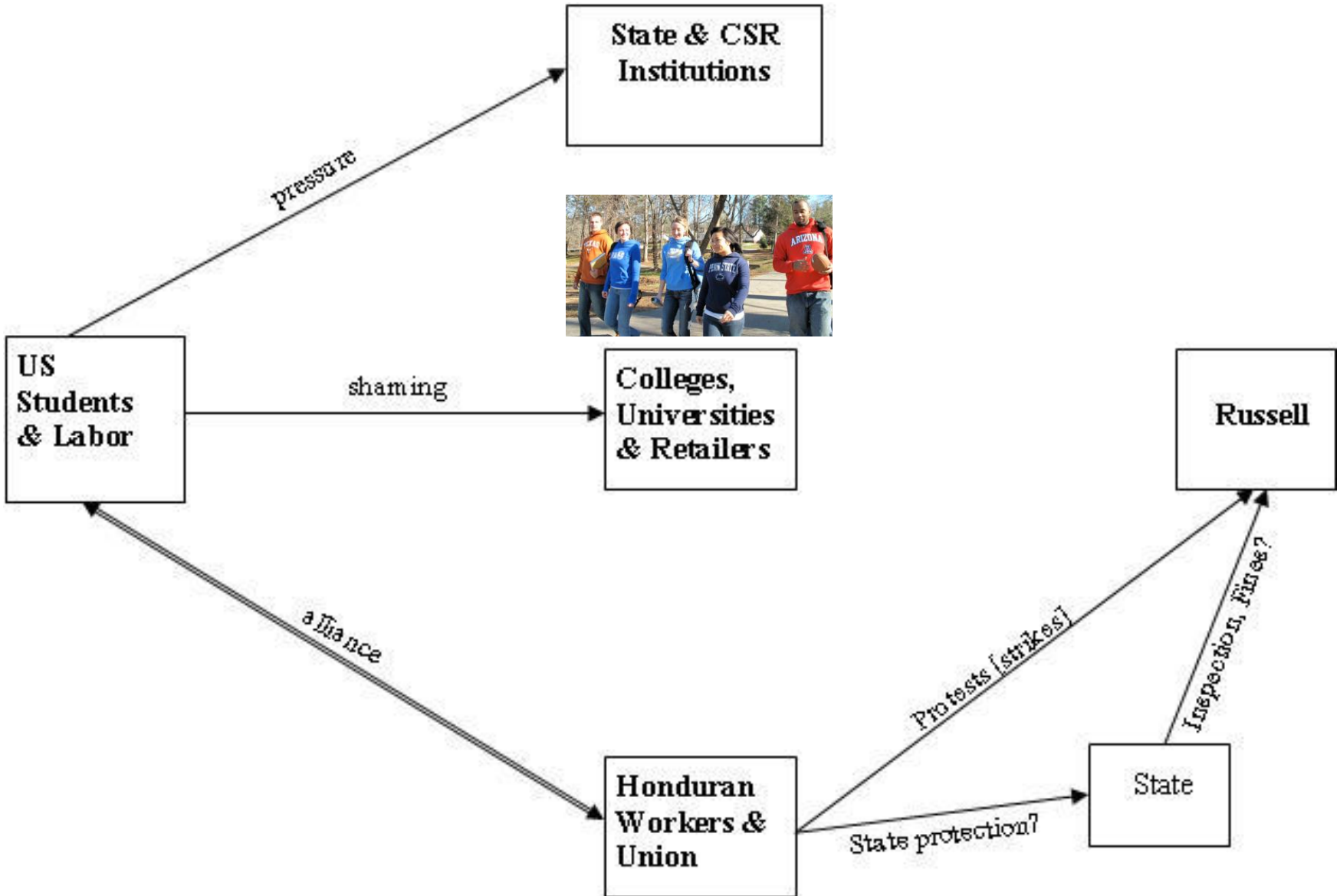
Protests [strikes]

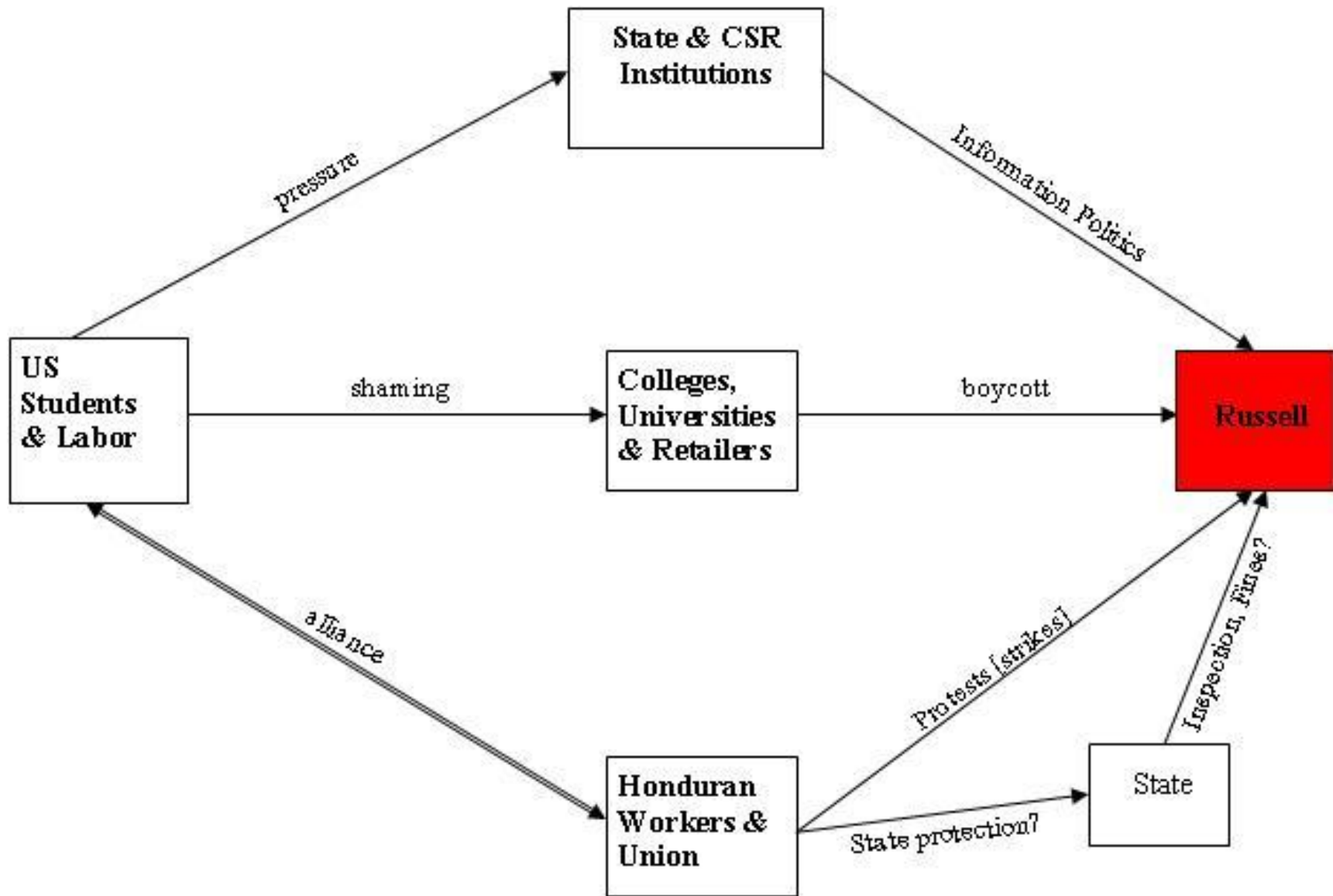
State protection?

State

Inspection, Fines?

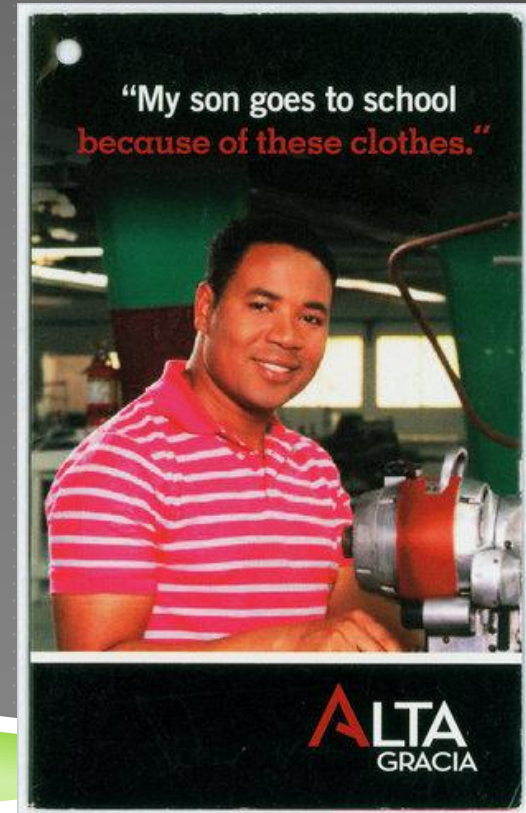
Russell





The Aftermath: Nike and Knights

- ▶ Nike: USD 2.2 million in severance pay.
- ▶ Knights Apparel: Living wage & union.



Conclusions

Success?

- ▶ Protest/Strikes +
- ▶ Shaming +
- ▶ International Solidarity
- ▶ China? Communication? Research?

THANK YOU!

Muchas gracias.

谢谢