


# Marginalized communities, power, and precarious livelihoods

**4.4 Watch “On Contact: The Radical Transformation of Jackson, Mississippi with Kali Akuno,”** starting at minute 1:18. (26 minutes)

<p>On Contact: The Radical Transformation of Jackson, Missi...</p> 
<p><b>Hedges, Chris and RT America.</b> “On Contact: The Radical Transformation of Jackson, Mississippi with Kali Akuno,” video, 27:31, posted by RT America to YouTube, March 4, 2018. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2Ew8Qi0ADY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2Ew8Qi0ADY</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2Ew8Qi0ADY&amp;start=78">_https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2Ew8Qi0ADY&amp;start=78</a></p>

The dynamic by which labour is marginalized and commodified is not confined to corporate owners digitally extracting value from unassociated individuals. Indeed, entire communities can be cast adrift. The examples are many. Historically, slavery, aggressive colonization, and racism rendered entire communities devastated. Banks cutting off access to credit to entire communities, a practice known as redlining, is a well-documented practice, one that in the United States deepened the marginalization of scores of poor and often black and latino neighbourhoods. In module one we witnessed the precarious circumstances of Puerto Rico being deepened, not only from the devastation of Hurricane Maria, but also from the corporate and political forces rapidly positioning themselves to take advantage of disaster—Naomi Klein’s shock doctrine at work. Perhaps more common to many of us are impacts that structural changes in the economic landscape generate: free trade, deregulation of the financial system, eroding social security and labour market protections, the decline of trade unions, and technological change being among the examples one can elevate.

Pulitzer Award winning author Chris Hedges interviews Kali Akuno on “The Radical Transformation of Jackson, Mississippi.” This piece brings several of the above themes together in a dynamic, real time analysis of one of the poorest cities in America and what the movement Akuno co-founded—Co-operation Jackson—is struggling to bring into being. Think deeply about how he links basic needs, livelihoods and cultural change together context political and economic context that is profoundly challenging. The interviews strength is the big picture analysis and the vision flowing from it. Its practical expression is in process and not yet far advanced. However, it speaks well to the politics of change in a very challenging

context.