

**Recap of last week's lecture:**

- Gave us general framework to help us understand what this discussion is all about
- Focused on ownership and private property; the goal is to emphasize whether private property is good or bad, we have to acknowledge that private ownership are not natural, they are created by humans getting together in society, creating the notion of private property and ownership
- Not all humans follow these notions
- There are pre capitalist and non capitalist society that don't recognize these concepts
- These are social constructions only

***Housing policy (Last week)***

- Focused on history of social housing in history is short
- No involvement of federal gov't before WWII
- Starting in the 40s
- Involvement in federal gov't started in the 40s, these were short lived
- 1980s: coming to power of conservative of Brian Mulroney 1984, the federal gov't, they said they weren't financing anymore
- 1990s: provincial gov't followed the example of the federal gov't, Mike Harris decided to step out of affordable housing; stopped building them
- Municipal had to shoulder financial cost of social housing; but they were the poorest, had now more financial responsibility
- The problem was that they didn't have enough funding for it
- Solution they thought, establish partnership with private sector
- ie. Dundas Square
  - It's a public land, but it operates otherwise. Only specific events allowed decided by BOD made up by private individuals (store owners of nearby shops)
  - Initially public, but increasingly seen private sector taking over
- ie. Regent Park
  - 1950s: all public hand, public housing
  - 2000s: more and more increased role of private sector, some new buildings today are still public, for public housing, but some units are private even if they are in the same building
- ie. Ice rinks in Toronto
  - To prevent closure, Mayor Tory, established relationship with private sector, Tim Hortons
- Issues: risk that whenever a private interest gives you money, they are going to ask for something back from the public, public sector held hostage
- Due to the scarcity of funding my fed and prov, the list of people needed for public housing have been on the rise, waiting for 10-15 years. Also increased number of homeless people, overcrowding shelters.

- Shelters are operating at full capacity every night
- We can't even stabilize the waiting list, let alone improve it

### **Parkdale**

- Located in Southwest Toronto
- Grey line: King St West; where property was occupied by OCAP located

#### History of Parkdale:

- Up till WWII: upscale neighbourhood, best of Toronto, residents were wealthy, living in nice big mansions of Victorian style
- What made it good: not directly downtown Toronto, on waterfront
- 1900s: Downtown Toronto was filled with factories
- Federal gov't started to realize that there were a lot of immigrants they needed to expand, also had to provide people with infrastructure (Water lines, sewer lines) and roads!
- Started intensive project of highway construction
  
- Gardiner Expressway; people were not happy with traffic, moved to the suburbs
- No one wanted to live close to a highway, Parkdale became a poor neighbourhood
- This situation went on for decades, worse in 1980s when the Ontario Institute for Mental Health closed and lots of people with mental disabilities were left out
- The institution: if you have any type of illness, you were locked up
- When the area seems to be falling apart, property values go down...some people took advantage of this
- 1990s: When this is the situation, developers come in! Bought the properties, renovated them and property acquired more value
- Up to today, gentrification happening is not as evident as compared to other parts of City

### **The Pope Squat**

- Late 1980s: OCAP was formed
- Summer 2002: OCAP occupied a vacant building in South Parkdale
- Occupation operates under direct action, doesn't deal with authority; believe it's pointless to enter into any conversation because they do whatever they want; actions that will force authorities to do something
- The occupation was ended
  
- 1510 King St. West: several councillors supported OCAP action, despite doing something illegal
- Late Jack Layton (leader NDP at federal level) most supportive
- Despite support at City Hall, occupation was ended by police in November 2002, people were evicted
  
- 4 months occupied, local media dealt with affordable housing, they were successful in creating awareness

***Conclusion***

- Ownership and private property and how it's positioned in the City, in terms of their use and development
- OCAP raised awareness of housing crisis in Toronto which is getting worse today
- Put back on the agenda the issue of ownership as framed within the capitalist system

**Capurri**

- Nothing to do against provincial decision
- If Harris was supporter of neo cap
- 1997: Mayor Lastman finished in 2003, David Miller replaced him
- When he was running against Tory, was a progressive (left center of political spectrum) Tory was center right
- Left: impression that they are against neo cap, thought that Miller will counteract but people realized that wasn't the case, Miller had policies that were less criminalizing
- Wasn't opposed to gentrification, was strongest when Miller was in power
- Wasn't pro-labour

## 2010: Rob Ford

- Focus: what he was telling before he was elected
- Rob Ford campaign: Video "Respect for Taxpayer"
  - Stop gravy train
- The people we should elect should be people like him, they're not going to steal our money
- Faulty argument because you could say hire rich people because they're not going to steal your money because they're only rich. But they're only going to make decisions that will benefit the rich people, not poor. It's not always about the money
- Rob developed argument around saving taxpayer's money
- Quote: positioned himself as someone who will look after taxpayer's money, and not wasted
- Safe street acts that was criminalizing homeless people
- It's your job to represent every single resident, whether you like it or not. He did this mistake with LGBTQ community. From day one, he said he wasn't going to participate in pride parade, it's a huge event by City Hall bringing in lots of money. For 4 years, Ford refused to step in any pride parade.
- If it's important for the city, you need to be there! Picking and choosing who you want to represent is very evident from the beginning, only representing the groups he liked, which is a big mistake.
- Quote about money: Despised public sector, wanted to display themselves as politicians
  - Public sector is wasteful and should be replaced by the private sector, who

- doesn't waste time and money
- People like Ford like to represent themselves as a member of private sector

### **Is it really about all money?**

- Never should be a business!
- Workers, supervisors, supervisors of supervisors, CEO and president
- Decisions in the business industry operate from top of pyramid, not workers. They only follow orders from authority
- If you're not satisfied, you can quit but there's no authority to oppose decisions
  
- If a city functions in this way, it's not a political community, it becomes a dictatorship, situation where there's a group of people who just obeys order
- More fluid exchange of opinion is needed, so that residents can vote and give input to their representatives about the decisions being made. That's why you can go to the meeting at City Hall, because as a resident you have the right to listen and voice your opinion.
  
- Because Ford and other politicians have referred to people as taxpayers, and he has never once referred to the people of Toronto as residents or citizens. The problem is that it shows a different understanding of who matters in the city.
  
- There's lot of people who are getting wages just below the poverty line, they have no money to spend on entertainment, etc.
- To those that don't pay taxes in the city (property tax), like children. Their family pays but not them. Tenants too!
  
- Word citizen and taxpayer doesn't mean the same thing. When we are talking about citizens, we imply members of a community that work together to help each other.
  
- John Tory: where do you position him based on what he said so far?
- Does he fit into the neo-liberalism discourse we have discussed so far? Yes, perfectly! Not much of a difference b/w him and Rob Ford. There's a difference in style, like he won't catch him saying something scandalous.