

TAKING BACK MARKETS

CHAPTER 4 TOOL

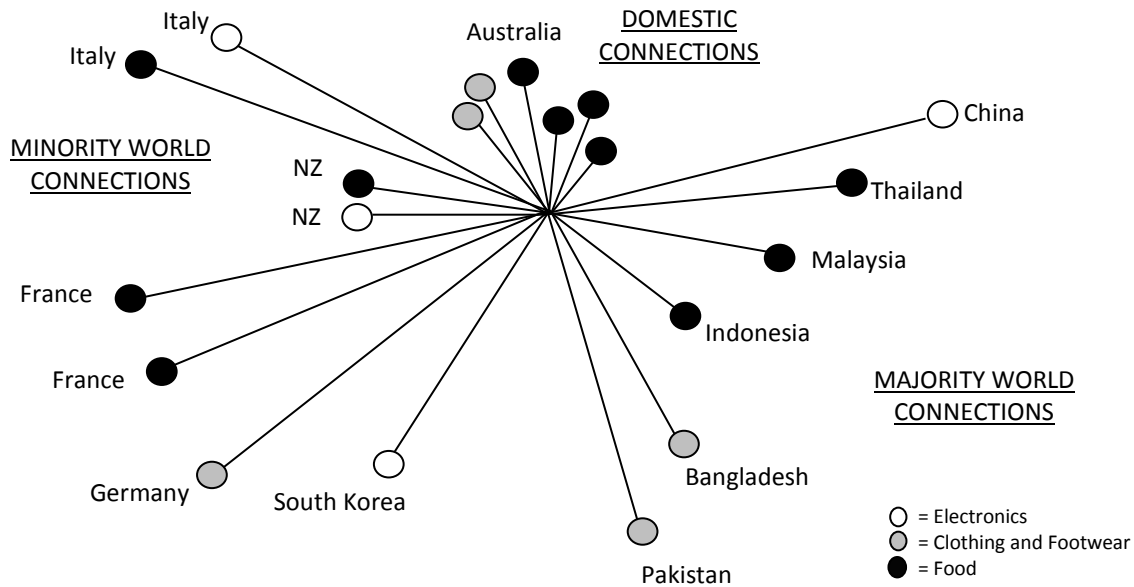
Taking back markets involves recognising the diverse means we use to secure a range of goods and services, and attending to the ways we are interconnected with other people and environments through these transactions. There are four steps for taking back markets.

1. We start with the diverse transactions we use to secure the goods and services that we cannot produce for ourselves. On the right is the diverse transactions identifier. Have a think about the goods and services that you have acquired over the last week or so. List these goods and services, and use the diverse transactions identifier to help categorise the different kinds of transactions you have used.
2. Next, have a think about where these goods and services come from. The inventory (below) will help you to do this. You could complete this version, by looking at a selection of food and electronics products that you have recently acquired and by looking at the clothes you are currently wearing. Domestic products will come from the country in which you live, minority world products will come from the so-called developed world (the world where the minority of the population lives) and majority world products will come from the so-called un or underdeveloped world (the world where the majority of the population lives). You may have sourced these products through conventional markets, through alternative markets (such as farmer or fair trade markets) or through other means (such as gifts).

DIVERSE TRANSACTIONS IDENTIFIER
MARKET
ALTERNATIVE MARKET Fair trade and direct trade Reciprocal exchange Alternative currency Local trading system Community-supported agriculture Barter Underground economy Informal market
NONMARKET Household flows Gift giving Gleaning State allocations Hunting, fishing, gathering Theft, poaching

WHERE FROM? INVENTORY			
ITEM	DOMESTIC	MINORITY WORLD	MAJORITY WORLD
FOOD			
Fresh
Canned
Frozen
Preserved or dried
CLOTHING			
Outerwear
Underwear
FOOTWEAR
ELECTRONICS			
Appliances
Communication equipment
Entertainment equipment

3. We can also construct a distant others dandelion to show how we are connected with others, near and far. Below, is an example of a distant others dandelion showing how one person in Australia is connected to others in their part of the world and in other regions via goods and services they have recently acquired. Construct your own dandelion based on the information in the inventory (above).



4. Next, select some of the goods and services from the inventory and dandelion, and use the ethical interconnection checklist (below) to identify what you know about how these goods and services are produced. If we are to take back markets and build more people and planet-centered economies, we need to be able to tick as many boxes as possible for the goods and services we acquire. If we can only tick a few boxes in the checklist below, then we need to consider whether we can source the product elsewhere or if we actually need it.

ETHICAL INTERCONNECTION CHECKLIST		
THE ETHICAL CONCERN	THE ETHICAL QUESTIONS	THE PEOPLE AND PLANET CONNECTIONS
<input type="checkbox"/> Are both my needs and the needs of others being met?	<input type="checkbox"/> Am I connecting with others more directly? <input type="checkbox"/> Am I taking only what I need? <input type="checkbox"/> Are there other ways I can give back to help others meet their needs? <input type="checkbox"/> Are there other ways I can share or reciprocate?	Animals <input type="checkbox"/> Are animals being treated humanely? Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Are the environmental impacts of production being addressed? People <input type="checkbox"/> Is well-being taken into account? Politics <input type="checkbox"/> Are the politics just? Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Does the product have a neutral or positive impact?

Source: Gibson-Graham, J.K., Cameron, J. & Healy, S., 2013, *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, Chapter 4.