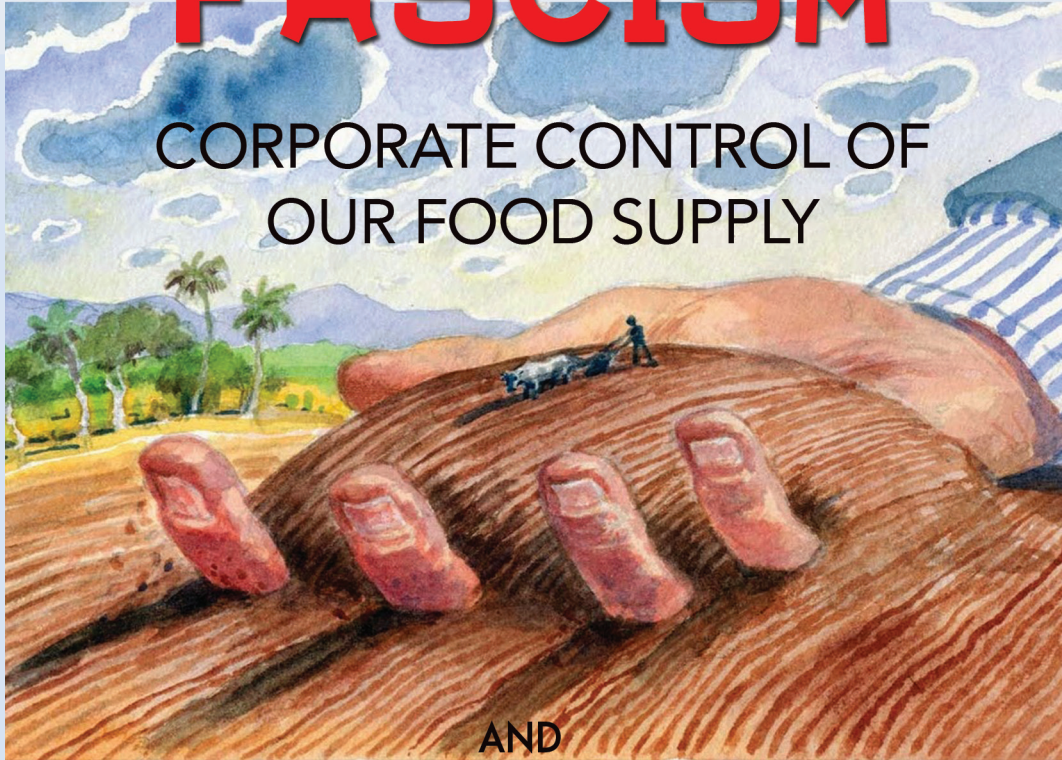


FOOD FASCISM

CORPORATE CONTROL OF
OUR FOOD SUPPLY



AND

Criminalization Of
Home-Produced Foods

DR SAHADEVA DASA

FOOD FASCISM

CORPORATE CONTROL OF OUR
FOOD SUPPLY

AND

Criminalization Of
Home-Produced Foods

By

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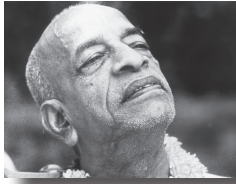
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Dedicated to....

His Divine Grace A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



*A picturesque scene of green paddy fields enlivens the heart
of the poor agriculturalist, but it brings gloom to the face
of the capitalist who lives by exploiting the poor farmers.
~ Srila Prabhupada (Light of Bhagavata - Verse 9)*

By The Same Author

Oil-Final Countdown To A Global Crisis And Its Solutions
End of Modern Civilization And Alternative Future
To Kill Cow Means To End Human Civilization
Cow And Humanity - Made For Each Other
Cows Are Cool - Love 'Em!
Let's Be Friends - A Curious, Calm Cow
Wondrous Glories of Vraja
We Feel Just Like You Do
Tsunami Of Diseases Headed Our Way - Know Your Food Before Time
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Cow Killing And Beef Export - The Master Plan To Turn India Into A
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Corporatocracy : The New Gods - Greedy, Ruthless And Reckless
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Two Terrorist Organizations That Are

Devastating The Developing World

The Author

Preface

Henry Kissinger, the former US national security adviser and secretary of state says, “Control oil and you control nations; control food and you control the people.”

Food fascism is all about controlling the food supply and thereby controlling the people. The vested interests get to decide who eats and who starves.

US strategy in last few decades has deliberately destroyed family farming in the US and abroad and led to 95% of all grain reserves in the world coming under the control of six multinational agribusiness corporations.

As the family farms drop off the radar, these agribusiness corporations have come to control our food supply. The family farms are associated with the values of conservation, independence, self-reliance, family, and community and these agribusinesses are here to destroy these values. They exist for sheer profiteering and nothing else matters to them.

Before the first supermarket appeared on the American landscape in 1946, our food was in our homes, gardens, local fields, and forests. Now this is all a history. Growing your own food or preserving

your own seeds is becoming a criminal offense. Most US cities are making it illegal to hand out food to the homeless. In Florida, a 90 year old veteran was arrested for feeding the homeless.

This isn't normal. For a healthier and a better world, we need to get back to the land, back to our freedom. Our freedom begins with food freedom. As Fukuoka says, "The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sahadeva dasa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the word "dasa".

Dr. Sahadeva dasa
21st December 2015
Secunderabad, India

1.

Food Fascism

A handful of Corporations are seeking total global domination (and corporate ownership) over the entire food supply. This concept is called “food fascism,” and it would allow corporations and governments to determine who eats and who starves.

They intend not only to steal our wealth, but also our ability to feed ourselves without total dependence on their “products.” This is all part of the food fascism assault that’s already underway in our world.

Illusion of Choice

Choice at the supermarket is merely an illusion. Behind the thousands of seemingly unique brands available, only a few multinational corporations control the majority of the food we eat, which is harmful for the consumers, farming communities, environment, and ultimately, our so called democracy.



A handful of companies that control the majority of the food we can buy, make most of the decisions about what we eat.

Right now, we’re headed toward a future where decisions about our food future is decided in closed boardrooms by executives putting profits before people.

2.

Foodopoly

The Food Monopolies

To witness the root of the problems with our food system, you need look no further than the business section of the newspaper. Pro-corporate policies and lack of government oversight have led to merger mania in the food and agricultural industry. Monsanto, for example, now owns a staggering number of seed companies that were once its competitors.

This lack of competition allows companies to enhance profits by driving down the earnings of farmers and workers in the food system. They control the market price that farmers get for their crops, and dictate the terms of payment to poultry and livestock farmers. Thanks to this unchecked power, multinational corporations like Cargill, Smithfield, Nestlé and PepsiCo essentially shape the food system to maximize their profits alone—at the expense of eaters, farmers and the environment. It means:

- More unhealthy processed foods
- More factory farms
- More loss of family farms and devastation of rural communities
- More ecologically damaging farming practices, including pesticide use and polluting factory farms

10 Companies Control The World's Food

From 24/7 Wall St.: The agriculture and food production industry employed more than one billion people as of last year, or a third of the global workforce. While the industry is substantial, a relatively small number of companies wield an enormous amount of influence.

In its 2013 report, “Behind the Brands,” Oxfam International focused on 10 of the world’s biggest and most influential food and beverage companies. These corporations are so powerful that their policies can have a major impact on the diets and working conditions of people worldwide, as well as on the environment. Based on the report, these are the 10 companies that control the world’s food.

In an interview with 24/7 Wall St., Chris Jochnick, director of the private sector department at Oxfam America, discussed the impact that these 10 companies have on the world. “If you look at the massive global food system, it’s hard to get your head around. Just a handful of companies can dictate food choices, supplier terms and consumer variety,” Jochnick said.

These 10 companies are among the largest in the world by a number of measures. All of them had revenues in the tens of billions of dollars in 2013. Five of these companies had at least \$50 billion in assets, while four had more than \$6 billion in profits last year. Additionally, these 10 companies directly employed more than 1.5 million people combined — and contracted with far more.

Nestle is the largest of these 10 companies. Converted into dollars, Nestle had more than \$100 billion in sales and more than \$11 billion in profits in 2013. The Switzerland food giant alone employed roughly 333,000 people.

Top 10 Global Food And Drink Companies

<i>Company</i>	<i>Sales 2002 (US\$ million)</i>
Nestle	54,254
Kraft Foods	29,723
Unilever	25,670
PepsiCo	25,112

Food Fascism - Corporate Control of Our Food Supply

Archer Daniels Midland	23,454
Tyson Foods	23,367
Cargill	21,500
ConAgra	19,839
Coca-Cola	19,564
Mars	17,000

Top 10 Global Food Retailers

<u>Company</u>	<u>Sales 2002 (US\$ million)</u>
Wal-Mart (US)	246,525
Carrefour (France)	64,979
Royal Ahold (Netherlands)	59,455
Kroger (US)	51,759
Metro (Germany)	48,714
Tesco (UK)	40,387
Costco (US)	38,762
Albertson's (US)	35,916
Safeway (US)	34,799
Ito-Yokado (Japan)	27,606

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Review), Mar 12, 2013

3.

An Hourglass Food System

Our food system, which is increasingly controlled by a small number of multinational corporations, has been described as an hourglass, with thousands of farmers selling their produce to millions of consumers via a small number of corporate food processors and retailers. As the number of corporations in every sector of the food system has fallen, competition between them has diminished and the market power of the survivors has increased, enabling them to extract ever larger profits from the food system. According to the principles of competitive economics, markets are most effective when there is strong competition between a number of businesses. But the small number of corporations that now dominate each stage of the food system have created an oligopoly/oligopsony which distorts market prices.

These firms can exert significantly more upward pressure on their selling prices and more downward pressure on their buying prices than would be the case in a truly competitive market, especially when they enter into transactions with players several orders of

"There are two hundred thousand farmers, dealing with, basically speaking, three supermarkets, two grain merchants, four fertiliser companies.

Not a chance .. they've got power, real power.'

~ Charles Peers, Oxfordshire organic farmer

magnitude smaller, such as farmers or consumers. It is no surprise, given the market power imbalance between food corporations and the farmers who must do business with them, that farmers do not get a fair price for their produce.

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4.

Food Fascism

Waging A War Against Humanity

For an increasing number of people from around the world, agrochemical companies like Monsanto are the symbol of industrial agriculture. This chemical-intensive form of production pollutes the environment, accelerates biodiversity loss, and massively contributes to global warming.

These companies promote an agroindustrial model that contributes at least one third of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions; they are also largely responsible for the depletion of soil and water resources, species extinction and declining biodiversity, and the displacement of millions of small farmers worldwide. This is a model that threatens peoples' food sovereignty by patenting seeds and privatizing life.

These unscrupulous companies like Monsanto are able to ignore the human and environmental damage caused by their products and maintain their devastating activities through a strategy of systemic concealment: by lobbying regulatory agencies and governments, by resorting to lying and corruption, by financing fraudulent scientific studies, by pressuring independent scientists, by manipulating the press and media, etc. The history of these companies would

thereby constitute a text-book case of impunity, benefiting other transnational corporations and their executives, whose activities contribute to climate and biosphere crises and threaten the safety of the planet.

“Big 6” Pesticide and GMO Corporations

The “Big 6” pesticide and GMO corporations are BASF, Bayer, Dupont, Dow Chemical Company, Monsanto, and Syngenta. They are so called because they dominate the agricultural input market -- that is, they own the world’s seed, pesticide and biotechnology industries.

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), corporate concentration of the agricultural input market “has far-reaching implications for global food security, as the privatization and patenting of agricultural innovation (gene traits, transformation technologies and seed germplasm) has been supplanting traditional agricultural understandings of seed, farmers’ rights, and breeders’ rights.”

Monsanto Going To Trial For Crimes Against Humanity In The Hague, International Criminal Court

By Christina Sarich, December 3, 2015

If you’ve been waiting to finally see Monsanto – one of the most hated companies in the world – to pay for its ecocide, knowing harm of human life, and devastation of our pollinators, then you won’t have to wait much longer. Several activist groups joined by food and farming experts are suing Monsanto for their crimes against humanity.

Finally, Monsanto, the US-based, transnational company responsible for introducing multiple genetically modified crops and numerous toxic chemicals into our environment – including saccharin, aspartame, polystyrene, DDT, dioxin, Agent Orange, petroleum based fertilizers, recombinant bovine growth hormones (rGBH), Round Up (glyphosate), Lasso (an herbicide used in Europe), Bt toxic plants, and more – will have to answer to the world

for its reign of terror. Monsanto has acted with severe negligence, and the hubris and supremacy of a corporation given personhood, but no longer.

The Organic Consumers Association (OCA), IFOAM International Organics, Navdanya, Regeneration International (RI), and Millions Against Monsanto, along with dozens of global food, farming, and environmental justice groups announced at the United Nations conference held recently in Paris that an international court of lawyers and judges will assess Monsanto's criminal liability for their atrocious acts.

The court, in The Hague, Netherlands, will use the UN's 'Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights' developed in 2011 to assess damages for Monsanto's acts against human life and the environment.

The court will also rely on the Rome Statute that created the International Criminal Court in The Hague in 2002, and it will consider whether to reform international criminal law to include crimes against the environment, or ecocide, as a prosecutable criminal offense.

This International Criminal Court, established in 2002 in The Hague, has determined that prosecuting ecocide as a criminal offense is the only way to guarantee the rights of humans to a healthy environment and the right of nature to be protected.

Speaking at the press conference, Ronnie Cummins, international director of the OCA (US) and Via Organica (Mexico), and member of the RI Steering Committee, said:

"The time is long overdue for a global citizens' tribunal to put Monsanto on trial for crimes against humanity and the environment. . . Corporate agribusiness, industrial forestry, the garbage and sewage industry and agricultural biotechnology have literally killed the climate-stabilizing, carbon-sink capacity of the Earth's living soil."

The proceedings will take place from October 12 to 16, 2016.

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5.

Food Fascism

Using Seeds In Place Of Bullets

Percy Schmeiser and his wife Louise are third generation farmers from the prairies of Western Canada in the province of Saskatchewan near the city of Saskatoon. They feel really blessed not only that his grandparents moved there, but by the fact that in Central Saskatchewan so many types of grain crops can be grown; pulses, oil seeds, in what the locals call God's Country.

The Schmeisers, like hundreds of thousands of farmers all over the world, were using their canola (oilseed rape) seed from year to year and developing new varieties suitable for climatic soil conditions on the prairies. Percy had also been the Mayor of his town for over thirty years, a member of the provincial Parliament and an active member of agricultural committees representing his province on new agricultural policy, law and regulations for the benefit of farmers.

In 1996, the Canadian Federal Government and the US Government gave regulatory approval to four genetically modified (GM) crops: soya, corn or maize, cotton and canola. At the time not all GM crops in Canada were herbicide tolerant except for Monsanto's Roundup Ready canola and soya, both resistant to

the company's herbicide Roundup. The US Government had also approved Bt cotton and Bt corn that has the added GM toxin from *Bacillus thuringensis* (Bt). The Canadian government were fully complicit in allowing Monsanto to develop GM crops on Government test plots and research stations in return for a royalty on every bushel of GM crops sold.

Monsanto versus Farmer

In 1998, two years after the introduction of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Canada, the Schmeisers received a lawsuit notice from Monsanto which said that they were growing Roundup Ready canola without a licence from Monsanto and that this was a patent infringement. Monsanto had a patent on a gene to make GM canola resistant to the glyphosate herbicide in its formulation Roundup. This came as a complete surprise to the Schmeisers who immediately realised that all their research and development on canola over the past fifty years had been contaminated by Monsanto's GMOs. They felt that they had a case against Monsanto for liability and the damages possibly caused to them, and that was the beginning of Schmeiser's Battle for the Seed. And 10 years on, the Schmeisers have been invited to London to tell their full story.

The Schmeisers stood up to Monsanto's claims of patent infringement in the Federal Court with just one judge and no jury. The pre-trial took two years to go to court in which Monsanto claimed that despite having no knowledge of Percy Schmeiser ever having obtained any GM seed, he must have used their seed on his 1030 acres of land because ninety-eight percent of the land was GM contaminated. And, because the Schmeisers had contaminated their own seed supply with Monsanto seed, ownership of the Schmeisers seed supply reverted to Monsanto under patent law.

Monsanto Owns All Crops Or Seeds Contaminated, The Court Ruled

The Court ruled after a two-and-half-week trial that it was the first patent infringement case on a higher life form in the world.

The Judge's ruling and Percy Schmeiser's name became famous overnight:

- It does not matter how a farmer, a forester, or a gardener's seed or plants become contaminated with GMOs; whether through cross pollination, pollen blowing in the wind, by bees, direct seed movement or seed transportation, the growers no longer own their seeds or plants under patent law, they become Monsanto's property.
- The rate of GM contamination does not matter; whether it's 1 percent, 2 percent, 10 percent, or more, the seeds and plants still belong to Monsanto.
- It's immaterial how the GM contamination occurs, or where it comes from.

The Schmeisers tracked down the source of the contamination. It was their neighbour who had planted GM crops in 1996 with no fence or buffer between them. Nevertheless, the Schmeisers' seeds and plants reverted to Monsanto, and they were not allowed to use their own seeds and plants again, nor keep any profit from their canola crop in 1998.

The Schmeisers appealed against the ruling, and after another two years, it was upheld by the Federal Court of Appeal judges even though they did not agree with all the trial judge's statements. The Schmeisers believe that the case should have been thrown out of Court and not upheld. After having lost the two trials costing them \$300 000 of their own money, Percy took the case to the Supreme Court of Canada. He was warned that there was only a very small chance that the case would be heard; but was granted a second leave of Appeal by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Schmeiser Raised Important Questions During The Supreme Court Appeal

The Appeal was good news for the Schmeisers, but in the meantime Monsanto had brought another lawsuit against them for \$1million in legal costs, fines and punitive damages. Monsanto said that the Schmeisers were recalcitrant and that they wanted a million dollars from them. For good measure, Monsanto brought

a third lawsuit against the Schmeisers to seize their farmland, farm equipment and house, in an effort to stop them mortgaging their assets to pay their legal bill.

Percy Schmeiser effectively raised several important questions at the Supreme Court Appeal:

- Can living organisms, seeds, plants, genes, and human organs be owned and protected by corporate patents on intellectual property?

- Can genetically modified traits invade and become noxious weeds that then become resistant to weed killers and become superweeds? (The answer was obviously yes, as these are now all over Western Canada and almost the rest of Canada.)

- Can the farmers' rights to grow conventional or organic crops be protected, especially organic crops?

- Can farmers keep their ancient right to save their own seeds and develop them further if they so desire?

- Who owns life? Has anyone, either an individual or a corporation, the right to put a patent on a higher life form?

GM In Canada – Lessons Learnt

Thirteen years ago when GM soya and rapeseed was introduced in Canada (and in the US) the Corporations and Government told farmers that GM would increase yields, be more nutritious, use less chemicals, and feed a hungry world. Now we will always have a sustainable agriculture, they claimed. The Canadian Department of Agriculture figures states canola yields have decreased at least ten percent and soya at least fifteen percent, but worst of all, farmers are using three to five times more chemicals because of the GM superweeds that have developed. The reality is that the nutritional content of all crops are down fifty percent of what they were before GMOs were introduced and now we have less yields and more chemicals used, exactly the opposite of what Monsanto promised.

Percy Schmeiser said, "Once you introduce GMOs, believe me the days of organic farmers are over, the days of the conventional farmer are over, it all becomes GMOs in a matter of a few years."

In addition, he said, there is no such thing as containment, you cannot contain pollen flow. It doesn't matter if contamination is by seeds blowing in the wind, or by bees, or by farmers transporting their seeds to market, or so on. Ultimately, farmers, growers and consumers will no longer have a choice because despite Monsanto's promise that farmers will have choice, they won't because it's absolutely impossible for organic and conventional farming to co-exist with GM crops.

Mountains Of Contaminated Produce That Cannot Be Exported

Canadian organic farmers can no longer grow canola and soya crops organically. The seed stocks of those two crops are now totally contaminated by GMOs, which cross-pollinate into other market garden crops from the brassica family. Percy describes the devastating effect GMOs have had on Canada's markets, as a nation reliant on exporting eighty percent of what it produces. The markets for rapeseed have shrunk to primarily exporting to Mexico, the US and Japan, Canada is now sitting on a mountain of canola, not one bushel can be exported to the EU. Furthermore, Canada's honey markets throughout the world have been lost because of GM contamination.

Schmeiser is also concerned about a new wave of GM crops in Canada called "pharma-plants". There are six major types of drugs now being produced by GM plants, including prescription vaccines, industrial enzymes, blood thinners, blood clotting proteins, growth hormones and contraceptives, all known to be much more dangerous than conventional drugs. What if somebody has had major surgery and then eats food contaminated with genes from a plant manufactured to be a blood thinner? Or what about a pregnant woman who eats food contaminated by genes from a plant that is manufactured as a contraceptive? These are just some of the worrying implications of pharma-plants, along with containment and co-existence.

Superweeds Now Ubiquitous In Canada, Requiring Supertoxic Herbicides

Superweeds have evolved from conventional canola plants that have taken on the genes from three or four companies selling GM canola that has cross-pollinated and ended up in one plant. It had become established in Canada by 1996 (so quickly that horizontal gene transfer was suspected as having been involved). Percy warns that superweeds are ubiquitous throughout Canada in wheat fields, barley fields, cemeteries, university grounds, towns, and golf courses. He said that all these people that never even grew GM canola have this new expense of trying to control it, and this is responsible for the massive increase in the use of chemicals to control the superweeds.

One third of Canada's insecticides, herbicides and pesticides are used in Saskatchewan, which has the highest rate of breast cancer and prostate cancer in Canada. "We're killing ourselves with the chemicals we are using and the chemicals are more powerful and more toxic than ever before," Percy says. He warns that Roundup herbicide is now four times stronger than it was in 1996. Roundup is bad enough as new research reveals (see ^[7] Death by Multiple Poisoning, Glyphosate and Roundup); the new type "24D", contains 70 percent Agent Orange, and is being used on the prairies to combat superweeds. The adverse health effect of Agent Orange in Vietnam is common knowledge and could explain the major health problems, environment damage and loss of biodiversity in Canada.

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6.

Food Fascism

When It Is A Crime To Produce Your Own Food

Food Fascism In The Land Of The Free

Eric Blair, Activist Post, September 21, 2010

The food industry is no longer a free market. In fact, it's becoming the most glaring example of corporate-government fascism in the world.

Actual monopolies fully control the basic building blocks of the food that makes up the majority of our diet -- and no one seems to care. Simply put, those who control the corn, wheat, and soybeans control all food, since all livestock and all processed foods are dependent on those food resources.

These monopolies place their cronies in government regulatory agencies to weed out their competition through excessive regulation. There once was a time when free markets existed for food. Back when local food ruled the day, if a farmer sold milk that was bad, he would not get return customers unless he adjusted his practices to make a healthier product. This free market was self-regulating. In other words, in a truly



free market we shouldn't need the government regulatory bodies. However, as mentioned before, we are light years from a free market.

Food freedom starts at home with the individual choices that we make. However, exposing the corrupt regulatory system and educating the powers that be about healthier ways to produce food is also vital to maintaining our food freedom. It's time we tell the corporate government to back off our food.



Couple Fined For Having Garden: Florida To Impose \$500 A Day Fine For Growing Vegetables

By Jessica Rodriguez , Christian Post, January 9, 2013

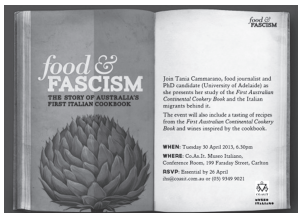
Jason and Jennifer Helvenston, from Florida, have been warned they could face a fine of up to \$500 a day if they have not removed their vegetable garden by Thursday. It has been found that they are violating a local Orlando City Code that says people are prohibited from using their front gardens to grow vegetables.

However, the Helvenstons are refusing to back down and have started a protest against the restrictions, saying it violates their right to grow their own food, according to Click Orlando.

The couple have launched the “Plant a Seed, Change the Law” initiative, which is a formal protest against the local gardening restrictions they have been found to be breaking.

The Helvenstons were told back in November by Florida officials

that they were violating the rules. However, news of the couple's plight spread quickly and the city was flooded with letters and emails protesting, demanding that they be allowed to grow vegetables in their front garden if they



wished.

That wave of protests moved city officials to postpone any move against the Helvenstons temporarily. However, it now appears they are moving on the violations again and have given the couple until Thursday to remove their vegetable garden.

Jason Helvenston has said, “The greatest freedom you can give someone is the freedom to know they will not go hungry. Our Patriot Garden pays for all of its costs in healthy food and lifestyle while having the lowest possible carbon footprint. It supplies valuable food while being attractive. I really do not understand why there is even a discussion. They will take our house before they take our Patriot Garden.”



Ari Bargil, an attorney for the Institute of Justice, has confirmed that the couple can be fined up to \$500 a day from Thursday if the garden is not dug up and destroyed. He has offered his assistance to the couple, saying: “We are



Subsidies rain down on big agribusinesses that grow what the government tells them to grow. Industry leaders like Cargill, Monsanto, and Tyson essentially turn farmers into indentured sharecroppers. The food engineers at General Mills and others weave corn, wheat, and soybeans into chemical concoctions that end up in brightly colored packages -- some even come with free Chinese-made toys. The finished product develops from a Genetically Modified base, using multiple poisons to glue it together, demonstrating that the monopolies and their regulatory lapdogs care not for our health.

But what about voting with our pocketbooks, isn't that a free market? Surely that is what we have been taught. Yet, all 16 flavors of Cheerios -- which give the appearance of free choice -- are all made by General Mills from a genetically modified corn base. This illusion of choice hides the monopolistic nature of food.

~ Eric Blair

seriously interested in taking a look at this. We're focused on helping the Helvenstons get the word out, encouraging the city to reach a sensible compromise here."

Government Threatens Jail Time For Growing Produce In Front-Yard Garden

Elizabeth Renter, Infowars.com, Sept 3, 2012

It seems like every month a few more stories hit the social media grapevines, where home owners are being punished for growing food. Some of these front-yard gardeners have created landscapes that rival those created by high-paid landscaping companies. The difference—all of this greenery is edible.



When we can't trust what we find at the grocery store, and farmer's markets are limited and not always within driving distance, growing our own food doesn't just make sense, it makes perfect sense.

And once you've begun growing your own, you will likely begin to wonder why Americans ever moved away from self-sustaining gardens.

It may sound crazy that a city government would spend (waste) resources to target gardeners, but it actually happens more often than you would think.

As reported by Dr. Mercola:

In 2011, Julie Bass of Oak Park, Michigan was charged with a misdemeanor and threatened with jail time for planting a vegetable garden in her front yard.

In British Columbia, Dirk Becker was threatened with six months in jail for converting an acre of his 2.5-acre lot into an organic farm. What's even more unsettling about the charges in



this case is that the lot was literally stripped bare down to a gravel pit before this. The owner spent over a decade healing the land and converting it into a self-contained ecosystem that is now home to thriving vegetable crops, fruit trees, bees, butterflies, birds, frogs, dragonflies and more. But because the area is zoned a “residential” lot, the local government is calling on him to “cease all agricultural activity” or pay the consequences.

Earlier this year, city inspectors bulldozed more than 100 types of plants, including garlic chives, strawberry and apple mint, being grown by Denise Morrison in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The inspectors said her plants were too tall, but city code allows for plants over 12 inches if they’re meant for human consumption, which hers were. Morrison is now suing the city for violating her civil rights.

Steve Miller was fined \$5,200 for growing vegetables in his Clarkston, Georgia backyard, which he not only consumed but also sold at farmers markets and shared with friends.

Illegal Gardens In The News

Global wars continue, food and water shortages are eminent and climate change threatens land and growing ability everywhere. Faced with these challenges, city and suburban dwellers across the country are digging into the dirt to reconnect with their food, helping their homes and cities become more food self-sufficient in the process.



The “defiant” gardens profiled in the articles listed here are sparking a national debate, challenging our perception of subversive plots and recasting the image of the modern victory garden.

- Orlando, Fla. Illegal Front Yard Vegetable Garden Dispute Heard by Orlando Planning Board, By Bob Ewing. Mother Earth News, Jan. 18, 2013.

- Orlando, Fla. Continuing Fight for the Right to Grow Food: Orlando’s War on Gardens, By Kale Roberts. Mother Earth News, Nov. 29, 2012.

- Orlando, Fla. Homeowners Cited for Illegal Gardening: Orlando Couple Fight for the Right to Grow Food, By David Yener Goodman. Mother Earth News, Nov. 15, 2012.

- New South Wales, Australia. Bondi Woman’s ‘Illegal’ Community Garden Gets Locals’ Support, By Shane McDonald. Wentworth Courier, Nov. 14, 2012.



If accepted, the bill S 510 would preclude the public’s right to grow, own, trade, transport, share, feed and eat each and every food that nature makes. It will become the most offensive authority against the cultivation, trade and consumption of food and agricultural products of one’s choice. It will be unconstitutional and contrary to natural law or, if you like, the will of God.

It is similar to what India faced with imposition of the salt tax during British rule, only S 510 extends control over all food in the US, violating the fundamental human right to food.

Monsanto says it has no interest in the bill and would not benefit from it, but Monsanto’s Michael Taylor who gave us rBGH and unregulated genetically modified (GM) organisms, appears to have designed it and is waiting as an appointed Food Czar to the FDA to administer the agency it would create — without judicial review — if it passes. S510 would give Monsanto unlimited power over all US seed, food supplements, food and farming.

S 510 may be the most dangerous bill in the history of the US.

~ Dr. Shiv Chopra

- Orlando, Fla. College Park Man Fights to Keep Vegetable Garden in Front Yard, By Kristin Giannas. WKMG Local 6 News, Nov. 7, 2012.

- Drummondville, Quebec. Illegal Front Yard Garden: Canadian Couple's Kitchen Garden Targeted by Authorities, Huffington Post, Jul. 19, 2012.



- Ferguson, Mo. City Officials in Ferguson Attempt to Bulldoze Citizens' Rights, Gardens, By Dave Roland. Freedom Center of Missouri, Jul. 3, 2012.

- Tulsa, Okla. Woman Sues City of Tulsa for Cutting Down Her Edible Garden, By Lori Fullbright. News on 6, Jun. 15, 2012.

- Newton, Mass. Newton Officials Call Tomato Display Illegal, By Deirdre Fernandes. The Boston Globe, May 22, 2012.

- Los Angeles, Calif. An Illegal Curbside Garden Flourishes in L.A., By Nate Berg. The Atlantic Cities, Apr. 10, 2012

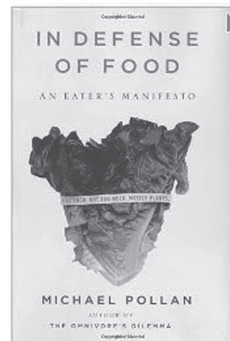
- Oak Park, Mich. Oak Park Drops Charges Against Homeowner Julie Bass, but Hits Her with Two Other Misdemeanor Crime Charges, By Mike Adams. NaturalNews.com, Jul. 15, 2011.

- See related blog at OakParkHatesVeggies.Wordpress.com

- Washington Heights, N.Y. Rogue Farm Ripped Up Because Gardener Broke Rules, Says Parks Dept., By Carla Zanoni. DNAinfo, Jun. 22, 2011

- Chatham Township, N.J. Young Organic Farmer Fighting Rebuke of Chatham Twp. Law, By Aaron Morrison. Cornucopia Institute, Jun. 3, 2011.

- Los Angeles, Calif. Is a Balcony Garden Against the Fire Code? By Mike Lieberman. Urban Organic Gardener, May 26, 2011.



- Boulder, Co. Home Garden Laws: Weeding in the Nude and Other No-Nos, By Jennifer Kongs. Mother Earth News, Aug. 18, 2010.
- Clarkston, Ga. 'Cabbagegate': Man Fined \$5k for Home Garden, By Dave Their. Huffington Post, Sep. 15, 2010

7.

You Can Be Jailed For Selling And Drinking Farm Fresh Milk

One hundred years ago milk came from the cow to your doorstep. Other than bottling, there was little processing involved and you basically knew which farm your milk came from.

Today the process isn't as simple. With dairy, it's more complicated. Each bottle has at least three different companies associated with it – the farm that raised the cow, the cooperative that bought and transports the milk, and the processor that bottles and distributes it. Bottled milk on your grocer's shelf is “commingled” – meaning it doesn't come from one farm, but a combination of different places. With vegetables and poultry one company often oversees the entire process, but with milk it's not so easy to know exactly where your food came from.

But it hardly matters where it comes from because milk from factory farms can only be described as white blood. Cows in these ‘farms’ are artificially inseminated, fed feed that they are not designed to digest and given hormones to produce 100 pounds of watery milk a day.

This is several times more than they would produce naturally. As a result, a huge percentage of dairy



cows suffer from mastitis, a bacterial infection of the udders. Since this milk is still considered drinkable, the blood and pus from their infections, along with massive quantities of antibiotics, ends up in the milk on supermarket shelves.

Injecting cows with Monsanto's rBGH growth hormone only worsens the already sad picture.

And even milk processing plants are big, big factories where visitors are not allowed. Here milk shipped from the farm is completely remade. First it is separated in centrifuges into fat, protein and various other solids and liquids. Once segregated, these are reconstituted to set levels for whole, low-fat and no-fat milks; in other words, the milk is reconstituted to be completely uniform.

The butterfat left over will go into butter, cream, cheese, toppings and ice cream. The dairy industry loves to sell low fat milk and skim milk because they can make a lot more money from the butterfat when consumers buy it as ice cream. When they remove the



fat to make reduced fat milks, they replace the fat with powdered milk concentrate, which is formed by high temperature spray drying.

All reduced-fat milks have dried skim milk added to give them body, although this ingredient is not usually on the labels. The result is a very high-protein, low fat product.

The milk is then pasteurized at 161 degrees F by rushing it past superheated stainless steel plates. If the temperature is 200 degrees the milk is called ultrapasteurized. This will have a distinct cooked milk taste but it is sterile and can be sold on the grocery shelf. In other words, they don't even have to keep it cool. The bugs won't touch it. Once processed, the milk will last for weeks and months, not just days.

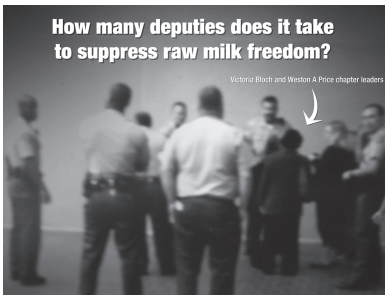
Many people, particularly our children, cannot tolerate the stuff that we are calling milk that is sold in the grocery shelves. Milk is nature's perfect life-giving food which builds strong bone, healthy

organs and a strong nervous system. Industrial processing transforms this miracle food into an allergen and carcinogen.

What If You Want To Enjoy Natural, Farm Fresh Milk?

Sorry, you can not! It's a criminal offence in countries like US, Canada and Australia. And with the spread of food fascism, it will become so in more and more countries. Even in India, the land of holy cow, pure milk is hard to find. 70% of the milk sold in the country is adulterated with synthetic ingredients.

The sale of fresh, raw milk directly to consumers is prohibited in Canada under the Food and Drug Regulations since 1991.



1991.

No person shall sell the normal lacteal secretion obtained from the mammary gland of the cow, genus *Bos*, or of any other animal, or sell a dairy product made with

any such secretion, unless the secretion or dairy product has been pasteurized by being held at a temperature and for a period that ensure the reduction of the alkaline phosphatase activity so as to meet the tolerances specified in official method MFO-3, Determination of Phosphatase Activity in Dairy Products, dated November 30, 1981.

—Section B.08.002.2

Provincial laws also forbid the sale and distribution of raw milk. For instance, Ontario's Health Protection and Promotion Act, subsection 18 reads:

“No person shall sell, offer for sale, deliver or distribute milk or cream that has not been pasteurized or sterilized in a plant that is licensed under the Milk Act or in a plant outside Ontario that meets the standards for plants licensed under the Milk Act.”



In Australia, the sale of raw milk for drinking purposes is illegal in all states and territories, as is all raw

milk cheese. This has been circumvented somewhat by selling raw milk as bath milk. There is some indication of share owning cows, allowing the “owners” to consume the raw milk, but also evidence that the government is trying to close this loophole.

In United States most states impose restrictions on raw milk suppliers due to concerns about safety. Mostly it is illegal to sell farm fresh raw milk. People try to circumvent these provisions by opening cow shares where the buyer owns a cow in the farm. But the noose is tightening on these marginal farmers. Big agribusiness is going after them as evidenced by the following incidents.

Multi-Agency Armed Raid Hits Rawesome Foods, Healthy Family Farms For Selling Raw Milk And Cheese

Mike Adams, Natural News, August 3, 2011

A multi-agency SWAT-style armed raid was conducted this morning by helmet-wearing, gun-carrying enforcement agents from the LA County Sheriff’s Office, the FDA, the Dept. of Agriculture and the CDC (Centers for Disease Control).



Rawesome Foods, a private buying club offering wholesome, natural raw milk and raw cheese products (among other wholesome foods) is founded by James Stewart, a pioneer in bringing wholesome raw foods directly to consumers through a buying club. James was followed from his private residence by law enforcement, and when he entered his store, the raid was launched.

As the twenty-first century dawns, American culture is in a mess... the system has lost its moorings, and, like ancient Rome is drifting into a dysfunctional situation.

~Morris Berman (The Twilight of American Culture)

Law enforcement demanded that all customers (members) of the store vacate the premises, then they demanded to know how much cash James had at the store. When James explained the amount of cash he had at the store — which is used to purchase product for selling there — agents demanded to know why he had such an amount of cash and where it came from. The raid was conducted like a terrorist operation.



Feds not only seized cash and raw milk supplies (much of which was also dumped out) but also mangos and other fresh, organic produce.

James was handcuffed, was never read his rights and was stuffed into an unmarked car. While agents said they would leave behind a warrant, no one has yet had any opportunity to even see if such a warrant exists or if it is a complete warrant.

This was an **ILLEGAL** raid being conducted mob-style by government thugs who respect no law and no rights. This is an all-out war by the government against people who try to promote healthy raw and living foods. Later they raided his home too.

James is now being held at the Pacific division police department at Centinela and Culver in Los Angeles. He is being held at \$123,000 bail with no possibility of using bail bonds. Law enforcement has demanded that if he comes up with the money to cover bail, he must disclose to them all the sources of that money. (This is an illegal demand!)

Sharon Palmer, a mom and owner of Healthy Family Farms was also arrested and taken to jail. A third woman, Victoria Bloch, the LA County liaison for the Weston A Price Foundation, was also reportedly arrested.

All three are reportedly being charged with conspiracy to commit a crime. What crime? The “crime” of advocating raw milk for consumers!

This raid was an act of economic terrorism against a legitimate, ethical business selling wholesome, healthful products to a very happy group of members.

Massive public protests are needed to teach these criminal law enforcement agencies that they cannot illegally arrest and persecute individuals merely for buying and selling raw milk and cheese. We are organizing a public protest day in cooperation with James.

See this video of James Stewart talking about his farm:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foKg-oShJP0>

Video of the raid:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=II1gvPmA_c8

Here's background on Healthy Family Farms which was also targeted in the raid:

Healthy Family Farms in Santa Paula, California:

“Healthy Family Farms is a sustainable, pasture-based farming operation. We raise all our livestock on pasture. We raise all of our animals from birth. We do not feed any of our animals soy, choosing instead to feed animals as they are designed to be fed. This results in healthy, sturdy animals needing no hormones, antibiotics, or other artificial “enhancements.” We harvest our animals humanely by hand before they are delivered to the farmers markets. We never freeze our products. In addition to farmer’s markets sales, we have an active Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), which offers discounts to our valued members.”

There is need to send a message to the law enforcement tyrants that we will not tolerate our health food stores being terrorized by criminal cops and rogue federal agencies.

Spread the word, folks. Enough is enough! We must take a stand against this



government-run campaign of terror against health food retailers. It is time to stop government-run terrorism against health food stores.

It's time we fought back and let these criminals know we will not be treated like food slaves by a corrupt, criminally-run government that wishes to force everyone to drink DEAD MILK and DEAD CHEESE (which they know cause disease).

This is it, friends! Big Government has declared war on the innocent. The administration, which has already gone out of its way to promote yet more GMOs in the food supply, is now overseeing government-sponsored terrorism against the health food movement. If you don't take a stand against this,



Have some small cottage, and grow your own food grains, vegetables, and have your cow's milk. Get nice foodstuff, save time. Why should you go in the city, hundred miles in car and again hundred miles come back and take unnecessary trouble? Stick to this spot and grow your own food, your own cloth, and live peacefully, save time, chant Hare Krsna. Very nice program. This is actual life. What is this nonsense life, big, big cities and always people busy? If he wants to see one friend, he has to go thirty miles. If he has to see a physician, he has to go fifty miles. If he has to go to work, another hundred miles. So what is this life? This is not life. Be satisfied. The devotee's life should be yavad artha-prayojanam. We require material necessities as much as it is required, no artificial life. That is spiritual life. Simply increasing artificial life, even for shaving, a big machine is required. What is this? Simply wasting time. Devil's workshop. Make life very simple. And simple living, high thinking, and always conscious to go back to home, back to Krsna. That is life. Not this life, that simply machine, machine, machine, machine.

-Sрила Prabhupada (Srimad-Bhagavatam 6.1.49 -- New Orleans Farm, August 1, 1975)

you might as well lay down, surrender to Big Brother, and eat your soylent green.

We are fighting for our basic rights and freedoms against a police state cabal of criminals who now run our federal government and will stop at nothing to turn innocent citizens into gulag prisoners.

'Raw Milk' Farmer Fined \$9,150 And Put On Year Probation

By Linda Nguyen, Postmedia News, Nov 25, 2011

An Ontario dairy farmer was fined \$9,150 and placed on a year's probation for making and providing raw milk and cheese through a cow-share business.



Michael Schmidt was found guilty on appeal last September

on 13 charges related to the production, sale and distribution of unpasteurized milk under the province's Health Protection and Promotion Act.

An earlier court decision in January 2010 had acquitted Schmidt of all the charges.

In Canada, it is illegal to market, sell, distribute or deliver unpasteurized milk or cream. Schmidt admitted he supplied raw milk to 150 families through a cow-share business in which he sold \$300 memberships for partial shares in 26 cows he keeps at Glencolton Farms, about 2 1/2 hours northwest of Toronto.

He argued raw milk has greater health benefits than pasteurized milk and that consumers should have a right to decide what to put in their bodies.

Ontario Justice Peter Tetley acknowledged the more than 60 people in the courtroom Friday were a testament to Schmidt's character.

"(Mr. Schmidt) is a man of principle," Tetley told the court. "He's willing to fight for his principles. There's a lot to admire about Mr. Schmidt."

Despite this, Tetley said he had no choice but to hand down the sentence. He also acknowledged there are many people in the province, the country and even in his own family who consume

“The gigantic industrial enterprises are products of a godless civilization.” Godless civilization, they no more can depend on the natural gifts. They think by industrial enterprises, they will get more money and they’ll be happy. And to remain satisfied with the food grains, vegetables and natural gifts, that is primitive idea. They say, “It is primitive.” When men were not civilized, they would depend on nature, but when they are advanced in civilization, they must discover industrial enterprises.

They do not know what is spiritual life, what is ultimate goal. Simply like cats and dogs. The dog jumps over with four legs, and if a man can jump over with four wheels, then that is advance. Just see. They think, “Now we are advanced. We have got four-wheel car to jump over. And the dog is jumping with legs. Therefore this is advanced.” They do not know this is also the same dog’s business. They do not know it.

...again they have made this car, coming from miles away, but the business is fishing. Just see. Bambharambhe laghu-kriya. “Advancement of civilization, we have got car, we are nicely dressed, we are human being, ev...” But what is your business? Fishing. Bambharambhe... Arambha, gorgeous arrangement — the business is the same. The skylark, what is called? Skylark? These birds?

Devotee (1): Oh, the seagulls. Seagull.

Prabhupada: Oh, seagull. They are doing the same business, and after his much advancement of civilization, he is doing the same business. The tiger is also eating flesh and blood, and human being — a scientific slaughterhouse. The same business, but they have got scientific instrument how to cut the throat quickly. This is the advance, advancement of civilization. The dog and cat they are having sex on the open street, and now they are talking of homosex in the school, colleges for education. This is their position. They do not know even what is the standard of human civilization. If you are doing the same business like ordinary animals, then where is the advancement of civilization?

—Sri Prabhupada (Lecture, Srimad-Bhagavatam, Mayapura, October 20, 1974)

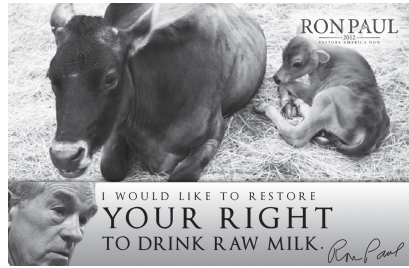
unpasteurized milk to no ill health effect, but said there was still a “public health component” to the case.

“The present legislation is inconsistent, at best,” said Tetley, explaining that it is not up to the courts but the government to change current laws.

Schmidt also took the stand. When asked if he wanted a glass of water, he replied “No, milk please” to laughter in the courtroom.

Schmidt was charged in 2006 following an undercover police operation and armed raid of his farm. In 1994, he was fined \$3,500 on similar charges.

Earlier this month, the outspoken farmer ended a month-long hunger strike following an impromptu meeting with Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty.



A Peaceful Farmer On Trial For Feeding His Community

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), encouraged by the FDA, is spending tens of thousands of dollars to prevent Wisconsin citizens from having access to the foods of their choice.

They have used two methods; the “Fielder ruling”, and to prosecute peaceful farmers like Vernon Hershberger, who have contracted directly with individuals who actively seek fresh farm foods, including raw milk and other raw dairy products from his farm known as “Grazin’ Acres”.

He has rejected a plea bargain that could have kept him out of jail. He was told he could plead guilty to two of four misdemeanors. In exchange, he would have had to pay a fine, been placed on probation, and would have had to agree to never sell or distribute raw milk products in future.

It is specifically because Vernon Hershberger provides raw milk for his members that he is facing a week long jury trial with over 70 witnesses. 70 witnesses... for allegedly violating dairy licensing regulations, and defying a DATCP hold order allowing the 200 some people in his private food club access to their own food. A week long jury trial for misdemeanor charges is an incredible waste of tax payer dollars, and an abuse of power.

At the center of this case is the billion dollar conventional dairy industry. Dairy is a global commodity, Wisconsin ranks 2nd in the nation behind California for milk production. Also a player in this is Monsanto, maker of rBGH growth hormones and producer of GM feed corn.



In a separate case in 2011, Judge Patrick J.Fiedler ruled ...”no, plaintiffs do not have a fundamental right to produce and consume the foods of your choice... no right to contract with a farmer...no right to own a cow...”Three weeks later he resigned from the bench and joined a law firm that represents Monsanto. Google Fiedler Ruling, then <http://axley.com/patrick-j-fiedler>. Coincidence? Or erosion of our basic human rights and freedoms?

The point is we all need to get involved. We need to support ethical forward thinking and really hard working organic farmers. Our health, our kids health, the health of the planet depends on it.

We need to establish our own – Local Food Rules. And we need to not be bullied by our own government when we opt out of the commercial food supply system. To feed ourselves is a basic human right. To choose what we eat and who raised and grew it is a constitutional freedom. These rights and freedoms are being meticulously eroded by rulings like Fiedler’s.

Many think the outcome of this trial has international significance. DATCP has been working with the FDA since at least 2009 to outlaw raw milk distribution, and kill any legislation introduced across the country that would make it legal. Vernon

Hershberger's trial is the first judicial test of Fielder's ruling. *I don't drink raw milk and I'm not a Hershberger Farm member. Does this effect me?*

Yes! The reason this case is so important politically is that it isn't just about whether Vernon has the right to distribute food privately, it is about whether all of us have this right on either end of the equation- to distribute food privately or to contract with producers to obtain food privately.

If Vernon is acquitted by the jury of his peers, the shock effects will reverberate throughout the country, and regulators will be forced to re-examine their crackdown on private food distribution. If Vernon loses, not only could he go to jail for more than a year, but regulators everywhere will be emboldened to go after private food more aggressively than ever. We owe it to our children to preserve their inherent right to make private food choices.



Who is Vernon Hershberger?

He is a 41 year old father of 10 children who is committed to his family and to serving the 200 or so members of his food club. He was raised as an Amish farm boy and even though his family left the Amish community a number of years ago, the family remains very conservative Christians who love to work together as a family.

Why is Vernon on trial?

Vernon refuses to stop feeding his food club community as the Government has ordered him to do. He feels he has the right, used by people for hundreds of years in this country and other countries, to distribute food under private contract to members of his community. He also feels it is his calling from the Lord to feed his brethren as the Bible teaches (John 3:16 & 17).

What is Vernon being accused of?

He is being accused of being a criminal for producing and distributing raw milk and other foods. The State, however, refuses to give him a license covering raw milk because it has no such license.

Is Vernon above the law?

Absolutely not. He is following the law to the best of his knowledge and has tried his best to work with the State for the last 10 years. But he has been unable to keep up with all the varying interpretation and definition changes that have been applied to him and other Wisconsin farmers during that time. As a result, he decided several years ago that he should not be part of the state's permit system, but should instead distribute milk and other foods his farm produces on a private basis to members of his farm.

Is raw dairy safe?

Like any food, raw dairy can make people sick if it isn't properly produced and handled. If it is handled properly, it is as safe as any other food. Please see; <http://www.westonaprice.org/press/flawed-government-report-thwarts-state-raw-milk-initiatives>

This seems crazy! Has any other farmer gone through this?

Unfortunately, many owners of small farms have gone through this in the last 20 years, all over the country. The crackdown on small farms seems to be a result of government policies designed to aid large factory farms. The crackdown seems to have intensified as growing numbers of people have come to question the safety and nutritional quality of factory farm food and highly processed food produced by big food companies, and have organized food clubs and herd shares to acquire food directly from traditional small farms.

This attack on Vernon Hershberger is about milk as a global commodity. Sales of fluid milk are down nationwide which puts a strain on the profits of agricultural, chemical and pharmaceutical giants. Demand for raw milk and other whole nutrient dense foods is growing which cuts into the market share of these powerful industries. Now for the vicious circle... Elected officials appoint agency secretaries who establish and direct food regulations. Industry giants contribute to campaigns of elected officials who

also appoint judges. And suddenly an organic small family farmer feeding his community is a crime.

Further Reading

Manifestos on the Future of Food & Seed, Vandana Shiva, South End Press, 2007

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Gregory E. Pence, The Ethics of Food: A Reader for the Twenty-first Century, Rowman & Littlefield, 2002

Vandana Shiva, Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability and Peace, Zed Books, 2005

8.

Judge: Americans Don't Have Right to Drink The Cow Milk

No "Fundamental Right to Produce and Consume Foods"

By Raven Clabough, New American, 29 September 2011

In a court case sure to go down in history for one of the most bizarre rulings, a Wisconsin judge has held that American citizens do not have a "fundamental right to produce or consume foods of their choice." The decision was so shocking that the Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund asked the judge to issue a clarification of the ruling.

Judge Fiedler went on to clarify his ruling further:

"no, Plaintiffs do not have a fundamental right to own and use a dairy cow or a dairy herd;

"no, Plaintiffs do not have a fundamental right to consume the milk from their own cow;

"no, Plaintiffs do not have a fundamental right to board their cow at the farm of a farmer;

"no, the ... Plaintiffs' private contract does not fall outside the scope of the State's police power;

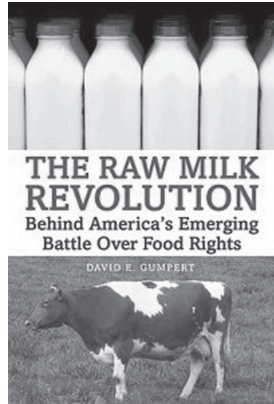
"no, Plaintiffs do not have a fundamental right to produce and consume the foods of their choice."



The case involved people who owned cows and sought to board them at a farm. As noted by Foolocracy.com, “Although the commercial relationship between the owner of the cow and owner of the land gives cause for the state to intervene, Fiedler took his ruling into a more personal and troubling direction.”

The plaintiffs in the case argued that their right to privacy should also translate into the right to “consume food of his/her own choice.”

Judge Patrick Fiedler remained unconvinced, claiming that the constitutionality of food rights is “wholly without merit.” He added that the plaintiffs’ use of the Roe v Wade case as a precedent does “not explain why a woman’s right to have an abortion translates to a right to consume unpasteurized milk.... This court is unwilling to declare that there is a fundamental right to consume the food of one’s choice without first being presented with significantly more developed arguments on both sides of the issue.”



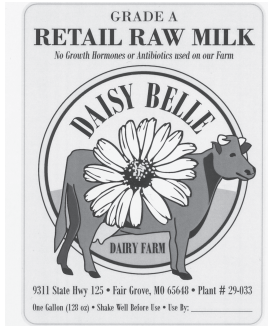
While some of the points put forward by the judge are reasonable to an extent, points two and five are particularly disturbing to constitutionalists, as they propose severe limitations on personal rights.

A person growing a tomato plant in his or her home and choosing to eat that tomato would seem to have that right. Frighteningly, Fiedler thinks otherwise.

It seems Judge Fiedler believes that food consumption is one of those rights that are not God-given but rather granted by the state.

Some analysts believe that such increased food regulations are being proposed because big agriculture fears competition from little producers, and therefore uses lobbyists to virtually eliminate small family farms that have been successful outside of the mainstream. Interestingly, those involved in large-scale agriculture are already the beneficiaries of massive government subsidies.

Evidence of federal government pressure that will affect small family farms more than large-scale agriculture can be found in recent regulations from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, an arm of the Department of Transportation. The regulations reclassify farm vehicles and implements, and require all farm workers



Driving at breakneck speed. And then what is the business? Searching out some means of food, exactly like the hog, he is loitering here and there, "Where is stool? Where is stool? Where is stool?" And this is going on in the polished way as civilization. There is so much risk, as running these cars so many people are dying. There is record, it is very dangerous. At least I feel as soon as I go to the street, it is dangerous. The motorcar are running so speedy, and what is the business? The business is where to find out food. So therefore it is condemned that this kind of civilization is hoggish civilization. This hog is running after, "Where is stool? And you are running in a car. Purpose is the same. Therefore this is not advancement of civilization. Advancement of civilization is, as Krsna advises, that you require food, so produce food grain. Remain wherever you are. You can produce food grain anywhere, a little labor. And keep cows, go-raksya, krsi-go-raksya vanijyam vaisya-karma svabhava-jam [Bg. 18.44]. Solve your problem like... Produce your food wherever you are there. Till little, little labor, and you will get your whole year's food. And distribute the food to the animal, cow, and eat yourself. The cow will eat the refuse. You take the rice, and the skin you give to the cow. From dahl you take the grain, and the skin you give to the... And fruit, you take the fruit, and the skin you give to the cow, and he will give you milk. So why should you kill her? Milk is the miraculous food; therefore Krsna says cow protection. Give protection to the cow, take milk from it, and eat food grains -- your food problem is solved. Where is food problem? Why should you invent such civilization always full of anxieties, running the car here and there, and fight with other nation, and economic development? What is this civilization?

— Srila Prabhupada (Philosophical discussion)

to meet the same set of requirements that over-the-road truck drivers do. Such a regulatory burden would be felt much more significantly by small family farms than by large ones.

Regulations are beginning to have an impact on nearly every aspect of food consumption in the United States. In Oregon, for example, Multnomah County inspectors recently targeted a lemonade stand for operating without a license and threatened to fine the “seven-year-old” operator \$500.

Likewise, the Food and Drug Administration has turned its attention to Amish milk, setting up a sting operation to stop Rainbow Acres Farm from selling unpasteurized milk in the Washington area.

The Obama administration signed the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, which, as noted by the Heritage Foundation, would “authorize the FDA to dictate how farmers grow fruits and vegetables, including rules governing soil, water, hygiene, packing, temperatures, and even what animals may roam which fields and when.” The act also “increases inspections of food facilities and taxes them to do so ... and grants the FDA unilateral authority to order recalls.”



Now, Fiedler’s ruling opens the door for the need for “plant police” to help enforce restrictions on the personal use and growing of vegetables.

Groups of citizens around the country are beginning to recognize how federal government regulations are infringing on their personal rights, and as a result, have launched a counter-attack.

In Sedgwick, Maine, for example, approximately 100 residents unanimously approved a food sovereignty initiative at a March 5 town meeting, which permits food producers in the town to sell food without federal and state regulatory interference. Entitled “The Ordinance to Protect the Health and Integrity of the Local Food System,” the four-page document invoked the town’s right to self-governance and states that local producers and processors may sell food to consumers without licensing.

A number of other towns in Hancock County have elected to follow Sedgwick's example.

Still, there is more to be done for Americans to shake the shackles of federal regulations. Prison Planet asserts that citizens should be more vigilant and publicize the issues in blogs, on the web, and via letters to their representatives and local newspapers, even calling for an end to subsidies to all industries. It adds that Americans should be supporting their local farmers.

However, given that humans have farmed, and drunk the milk from their dairy animals, for more than 5,000 years, the breadth of the court's ruling has astonished many.

As the Ninth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution concedes, not all the rights of people are written out, providing that the "enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

In spite of this, Judge Fiedler has made several blanket denials of civil rights, based on his argument that the Plaintiffs' "reasoning behind why the court should declare that there is a fundamental right to consume the food of one's choice" is "underdeveloped."

Indeed, it is an emphatic decision, with its point-by-point denial of all of the rights asserted by the farmers and their shareholders.

Judge On His Way Out

Even before his ruling, Judge Fiedler was scheduled to step down from his post. "I wanted to go back to being an advocate and being a lawyer," he said. He is slated to work as a trial lawyer with the Axley Brynerson law firm.

Incidentally this firm also represents Monsanto.

9.

A Fruit Company

And The Devastation of A Continent

The United Fruit Company was an American corporation that traded in tropical fruit (primarily bananas) grown on Central and South American plantations and sold in the United States and Europe. The company was formed in 1899.

It flourished in the early and mid-20th century and came to control vast territories and transportation networks in Central America, the Caribbean coast of Colombia, Ecuador, and the West Indies. Though it competed with the Standard Fruit Company for dominance in the international banana trade, it maintained a virtual monopoly in certain regions, some of which came to be called banana republics.

It had a deep and long-lasting impact on the economic and political development of several Latin American countries. Critics often accused it of exploitative neocolonialism and described it as the archetypal example of the influence of a multinational corporation on the internal politics of the banana republics.

At its founding in 1899, United Fruit was capitalized at US\$11,230,000. The company proceeded to buy a share in 14 competitors, assuring them of 80% of the banana import business in the United States, then their main source of income.

In 1901, the government of Guatemala hired the United Fruit Company to manage the country's postal service and in 1913 the United Fruit Company created the Tropical Radio and Telegraph Company. By 1930 it had absorbed more than 20 rival firms, acquiring a capital of US\$215,000,000 and becoming the largest employer in Central America.

Throughout most of its history, United Fruit's main competitor was the Standard Fruit Company, now the Dole Food Company.

Reputation

The United Fruit Company was frequently accused of bribing government officials in exchange for preferential treatment, exploiting its workers, paying little by way of taxes to the governments of the countries in which it operated, and working ruthlessly to consolidate monopolies. Latin American journalists sometimes referred to the company as *el pulpo* ("the octopus"), and leftist parties in Central and South America encouraged the company's workers to strike.

Criticism of the United Fruit Company became a staple of the discourse of the communist parties in several Latin American countries, where its activities were often interpreted as illustrating Vladimir Lenin's theory of capitalist imperialism. Major left-wing writers in Latin America, such as Carlos Luis Fallas of Costa Rica, Ramón Amaya Amador of Honduras, Miguel Ángel Asturias and Augusto Monterroso of Guatemala, Gabriel García Márquez of Colombia, and Pablo Neruda of Chile, denounced the company in their literature.

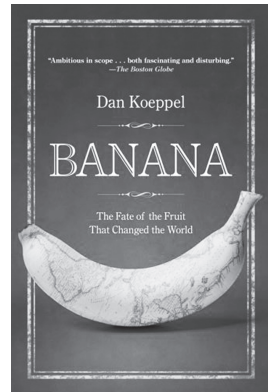
The business practices of United Fruit were also frequently criticized by journalists, politicians, and artists in the United States. Little Steven released a song called "Bitter Fruit" in 1987 in which lyrics referred to a hard life for a company "far away" and whose accompanying video, depicted orange groves worked by peasants overseen by wealthy managers. Although the lyrics and scenery are generic, United Fruit (or its successor Chiquita) was reputed to be the target. In 1950, Gore Vidal published a novel "Dark Green,

Bright Red”, in which a thinly fictionalized version of United Fruit supports a military coup in a thinly fictionalized Guatemala.

History in Central America

The United Fruit Company (UFCO) owned vast tracts of land in the Caribbean lowlands. UFCO’s policies of acquiring tax breaks and other benefits from host governments led to it building enclave economies in the regions, in which a company’s investment is largely self-contained for its employees and overseas investors and the benefits of the export earnings are not shared with the host country.

One of the company’s primary tactics for maintaining market dominance was to control the distribution of banana lands. UFCO claimed that hurricanes, blight and other natural threats required them to hold extra land or reserve land. In practice, what this meant was that UFCO was able to prevent the government from distributing banana lands to peasants who wanted a share of the banana trade.



The fact that the UFCO relied so heavily on manipulation of land use rights in order to maintain their market dominance had a number of long-term consequences for the region. For the company to maintain its unequal land holdings it often required government concessions. And this in turn meant that the company had to be politically involved in the region even though it was an American company. In fact, the heavy-handed involvement of the company in governments which often were or became corrupt created the term “Banana republic” representing a “servile dictatorship”.

It allowed vast tracts of land under its ownership to remain uncultivated and, in Guatemala and elsewhere, it discouraged the government from building highways, which would lessen the profitable transportation monopoly of the railroads under its

control. UFCO had also destroyed at least one of those railroads upon leaving its area of operation.

In 1954, the democratically elected Guatemalan government of Colonel Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán was toppled by U.S.-backed forces led by Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas who invaded from Honduras. Assigned by the Eisenhower administration, this military opposition was armed, trained and organized by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The directors of United Fruit Company (UFCO) had lobbied to convince the Truman and Eisenhower administrations that Colonel Arbenz intended to align Guatemala with the Soviet Bloc. Besides the disputed issue of Arbenz's allegiance to Communism, UFCO was being threatened by the Arbenz government's agrarian reform legislation and new Labor Code.

Vested Interests In High Places

United States Secretary of State was John Foster Dulles whose law firm Sullivan and Cromwell had represented United Fruit. His brother Allen Dulles was the director of the CIA, and a board member of United Fruit.

Ed Whitman, who was United Fruit's principal lobbyist, was married to President Eisenhower's personal secretary, Ann C. Whitman. Many individuals who directly influenced U.S. policy towards Guatemala in the 1950s also had direct ties to UFCO.

Company holdings in Cuba, which included sugar mills in the Oriente region of the island, were expropriated by the 1959 revolutionary government led by Fidel Castro. By April 1960 Castro was accusing the company of aiding Cuban exiles and supporters of former leader Fulgencio Batista in initiating a seaborne invasion of Cuba directed from the United States. Castro warned the U.S. that "Cuba is not another Guatemala" in one of many combative diplomatic exchanges before the failed Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961.



PR Pioneers

Finally, United Fruit are notable for pioneering PR. They were clients of Edward Bernays, Freud's nephew and not coincidentally the godfather of public relations. Applying the principles of Freudian psychology to advertising, Bernays developed the ideas of product placement, celebrity endorsement, and selling things with sex.

For United Fruit, he publicized their (occasional) philanthropic endeavours in Central America, made educational films and radio programmes, and set up a Middle America Information Bureau to inform journalists about the realities of life in the growing regions. He encouraged United Fruit to donate to the exploration of the archaeological ruins that had been uncovered in the course of their jungle-clearing.

Bananagate

In 1975, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission exposed a scheme by United Brands (dubbed Bananagate) to bribe Honduran President Oswaldo López Arellano with US\$1.25 million, plus the promise of another US\$1.25 million upon the reduction of certain export taxes. Trading in United Brands stock was halted and López was ousted in a military coup.

Banana Massacre

One of the most notorious strikes by United Fruit workers broke out on 12 November 1928 on the Caribbean coast of Colombia, near Santa Marta.

On December 6, Colombian Army troops allegedly under the command of General Cortés Vargas, opened fire on a crowd of strikers gathered in the central square of the town of Ciénaga. Estimates of the number of casualties vary from 400 to 2000.

The military justified this action by claiming that the strike was subversive and its organizers were Communist revolutionaries. Congressman Jorge Eliécer Gaitán claimed that the army had acted under instructions from the United Fruit Company. The ensuing scandal contributed to President Miguel Abadía Méndez's

Conservative Party being voted out of office in 1930, putting an end to 44 years of Conservative rule in Colombia.

The Columbian government claimed that they had to resort to the military action on the innocent strikers as they feared a US invasion.

There may be a grain of truth in this claim as US military was used in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America close to 30 times prior to the 1929 massacre for the purposes of putting down strikes and generally making large areas of land in other countries “safe for bananas”. Howard Zinn wrote quite a bit about US military interventions on behalf of United Fruit in his People’s History of the United States.

The telegram from Bogotá Embassy to the U.S. Secretary of State, dated December 5, 1928, stated:

“I have been following Santa Marta fruit strike through United Fruit Company representative here; also through Minister of Foreign Affairs who on Saturday told me government would send additional troops and would arrest all strike leaders and transport them to prison at Cartagena; that government would give adequate protection to American interests involved.”



The telegram from Bogotá Embassy to Secretary of State, date December 7, 1928, stated:

“Situation outside Santa Marta City unquestionably very serious: outside zone is in revolt; military who have orders “not to spare ammunition” have already killed and wounded about fifty strikers. Government now talks of general offensive against strikers as soon as all troopships now on the way arrive early next week.”

The Dispatch from US Bogotá Embassy to the US Secretary of State, dated December 29, 1928, stated:

“I have the honor to report that the legal advisor of the United Fruit Company here in Bogotá stated yesterday that the total number of strikers killed by the Colombian military authorities during the recent disturbance reached between five and six hundred; while the number of soldiers killed was one.”

The Dispatch from US Bogotá Embassy to the US Secretary of State, dated January 16, 1929, stated:

“I have the honor to report that the Bogotá representative of the United Fruit Company told me yesterday that the total number of strikers killed by the Colombian military exceeded one thousand.”

The surviving strikers of the massacre were immediately put in jail and executed. There were many other small strikes that were inspired by the one that caused the banana massacre.

The Banana massacre is said to be one of the main events that preceded the Bogotazo, the subsequent era of violence known as La Violencia, and the guerrillas who developed during the bipartisan National Front period, creating the ongoing armed conflict in Colombia.

That day marked a turning point, the end of a hopeful age of reform and the beginning of a bloody age of revolution and reaction. Over the next four decades, hundreds of thousands of people — 200,000 in Guatemala alone — were killed in guerrilla attacks, government crackdowns and civil wars across Latin America.

The more self-reliant people become in third world countries, the less they need the products of the global economy. If they replace the export crops that have been foisted on them and grow locally adapted food crops, they won't need to import American grain. In the history of the world, every place where humans have prospered has provided them with the food and fiber and building materials that they needed, for if food wouldn't grow (like in Antarctica and the Sahara), people didn't stick around long.

People are naturally self-reliant and it takes quite a social derangement to keep them from building adequate shelters and growing adequate food. Corporate imperialists are exporters of social derangement. They build a pipeline to the resources of an area and hook it up to a vacuum, pulling out things of value and leaving only pollution behind. The sooner that indigenous peoples take up arms against the visiting corporatist who is casing the joint, the better off they will be.

~ Daniel Rodriguez

A resident of Bogota provides an epitaph: “Look at the mess we’ve got ourselves into just because we invited a gringo to eat some bananas.”

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When civilization is disconnected from the loving relation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, symptoms like changes of seasonal regulations, foul means of livelihood, greed, anger and fraudulence become rampant. The change of seasonal regulations refers to one season's atmosphere becoming manifest in another season -- for example the rainy season's being transferred to autumn, or the fructification of fruits and flowers from one season in another season. A godless man is invariably greedy, angry and fraudulent.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Srimad Bhagavatam 1.14.3)

10.

Patenting Life

Under the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement, the most insidious corporate victories to date have been the granting of patent protections to all genetic material. In 1980, the US Supreme Court ruled that a particular genetically engineered micro-organism could be patented. This patent right was extended by the US patent Office in 1985 to cover all genetically-engineered plants, seeds and plant tissue, and was further extended to cover all animals in 1987. In 1998 EU countries extended patent laws to cover patents on plants, humans and life forms.

Biotech companies are being snapped up by giant 'Life Science' corporations in



Discussions regarding economic systems should not be based on ideologies of socialism or capitalism, but on the practicalities and realities of our modern world. Today, the reality is that thousands will die from a lack of food, water and medicine, because of the failure of the global economy to allow them to have access to these basics. At the same time, a few business people will have earned millions of dollars in wages, thanks to the same economic system. These extremes must be reconciled urgently.

a race to consolidate the food and seeds industry which tripled in size between 1992 and 2002. It was worth around \$2,000 billion a year in 2001. By May 2002, there were 1,457 biotechnology companies in the US with a total value of \$224 billion. Market consolidation is acute, 70% of patents on staple food crops are held by six multinational corporations who can set the market price for them and block competition for 20 years, thereby monopolizing the market.

Patenting costs can be up to \$1 million, ensuring that those in the developing countries cannot possibly compete with the wealthy corporations. The developing world, where 75% of people's livelihoods depend upon agriculture, is the source of 90 per cent of all biological resources. Yet transnational companies based in developed counties hold 97 percent of global patents. Since 1985 there have been 10,778 patents on plants registered in the US. Overall, patent applications at the World Intellectual Property Organization have soared from 3,000 in 1979 to 67,000 in 1997.

Commercially owned genetic varieties of such staples as cotton and soya beans have devastated farming communities in developing countries, who can no longer store seeds without paying corporations for the privilege. There has been widespread opposition to what has been deemed 'bio piracy'. This is when biotechnology corporations, in their haste to secure financial advantages, patent varieties of plants, seeds and applications that already exist and remain in use by indigenous communities. The patenting of life goes against the sharing of traditional knowledge and the preservation of biodiversity

The Global Economy

Corporations should exist as an integral component of a global economy that prioritizes the provision of basic needs for the global public - economic, social, political and spiritual. The primary objective of the global economy should not be commerce, trade liberalization or economic growth, but the production and distribution of all resources that are essential to life. International consensus must eventually lead to a clear demarcation with regards to what can be commoditized and what cannot be.

and culture. This precedent is a major victory for corporations. The potential for future profit is almost limitless.

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11.

Rush To Control India's Food Supply

A disturbing trend in the food sector is accelerating worldwide with the emergence of the new “food barons”. There is no better way to control a country than to control its food supply.

Indian government is brazenly siding with these demoniac forces and putting the country's food supply up for grabs. Following reports may testify to this fact.

Clinton Gives GM Crops A Push

Though Hillary Avoided The Emotive Word GM, She Waxed Eloquent On Agri Tech
Rumu Banerjee | Times of India, Jul 20, 2009

New Delhi: Days after the government said it was planning to introduce genetically modified food crops in the country in three years, US secretary of state Hillary Clinton gave a clear indication of the US administration's approval of deploying 'cutting-edge technology' to raise crop yields.

During her first visit to India as secretary of state, which included a strategic stop at the country's premier agriculture institute, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Clinton was vocal about the need to address the "root" of the problem of world hunger: Crop productivity. And helping increase crop yield would be cutting-edge technology, she claimed.

"India's leadership in agriculture is absolutely crucial," Clinton said as she spoke at length on the US administration's focus on global hunger and malnutrition. Pledging to "work and support" Indian initiatives, Clinton added, "We have to work together. It is imperative that we invest in science that increases crop yield."

The remarks comes in the face of continued opposition to genetically modified food crops in India.

Clinton's statement at the Pusa institute, however, was clear about where the US administration stood on the issue. Talking about the Green Revolution that took place in India in the 1960s, she emphasized the need for close cooperation between the two countries again: This time, in agriculture and the use of technology in this field.

"India has 3% of the world's crop land but feeds 17% of the world's population. Its leadership in agriculture is crucial... we are looking at ways to accelerate in a short period of time the growth of productivity," Clinton said.

Asked about the US's commitment to GM crops, as opposed to the cautious stand taken by the EU, Clinton admitted, "We're looking at it in a holistic way, by being very vigilant about how we do it." Interestingly, while the emphasis on technology in agriculture was more than apparent, Clinton avoided using the emotive word 'GM' throughout.

However, Clinton's visit -- which was to learn more about research done by IARI, helped by US funding, to develop seeds that give better productivity and crops that use less water as well as farm equipment that reduce production costs -- was indicative of the thrust on technology that US plans to give in the collaboration agreement that will be signed on Monday.

Speaking about the "five pillars of collaboration that India and US would be redefining", Clinton said agriculture was one of the "strongest pillars". Giving support to Clinton's statement was agriculture minister Sharad Pawar. "For India, a key priority is to trigger the next generation of reforms in the agrarian economy ... Our joint

collaboration in frontier areas of research including biotechnology could make a significant contribution to the world," he said.

Accompanying Clinton was new US ambassador to India Timothy Roemer and special envoy on climate change Todd Stern as well as other senior officials. Also present were Dr Mangala Rai, DG, ICAR; Indian ambassador to US Meera Shankar, A K Upadhyay, special secretary, department of agriculture and education and H S Gupta, director, IARI.

Agriculture To Be Pillar Of US-India Cooperation: Clinton

Zeeneews, July 19, 2009

New Delhi: Stating that India was well positioned to help it lead the fight against hunger, the US on Sunday said agriculture will be the strongest of the five pillars of cooperation the Obama administration was seeking with New Delhi.

"We will be announcing the five pillars of our cooperation (after talks tomorrow). And one of the strongest and most important will be agriculture," US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told reporters after a visit to the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), where she toured the agriculture research site.

Recalling 50 years of US-Indo partnership in agriculture, Clinton said, "We have to work together because it is imperative that we invest in science that will increase crop yields."

"We have collaborated over more than 50 years and today we called to collaborate once again," she said.

Areas of collaboration she highlighted included linking farms and markets so that farmers can sell their products, expanding the export of technology and training to bring more assistance to farmers, and strengthening the response to climate change, which threatens the waterways that sustain agriculture in many parts of the world including South Asia.

Stating that hunger persists and affects the entire human conditions as well as peace, she said, "It would be a signature issue of the Obama administration to do what we can to fight hunger

and extend food security. And India is well positioned to help us lead this fight.”

“The work has already begun clearly here, when I just saw scientists are developing seeds that produce higher yields, crops that require less water, farm equipment that conserve energy. All this is part of meeting the challenge we face with global hunger,” she said.

On possible areas of partnerships, Clinton said the two nations are working together to produce better seeds, hybrids that can grow with less water and new farming techniques.

“We have no limits on what we are going to be exploring together. But our goal is the same -- we want to improve agriculture productivity. We want to get more of agriculture dollar into the hands of the farmer. We want India to do more food processing and value added agriculture.

“We are going to be working with India very closely. And I am excited about the potential that holds,” she said.

The so-called political leaders are busy making plans to advance the material prosperity of their nation, but factually these political leaders only want an exalted position for themselves. Due to their greed for material position, they falsely present themselves as leaders before the people and collect their votes, although they are completely under the grip of the laws of material nature. These are some of the faults of modern civilization. Without taking to God consciousness and accepting the authority of the Lord, the living entities become ultimately confused and frustrated in their planmaking attempts. Due to their unauthorized plans for economic development, the price of commodities is rising daily all over the world, so much so that it has become difficult for the poorer classes, and they are suffering the consequences. And due to lack of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, people are being fooled by so-called leaders and planmakers. Consequently, the sufferings of the people are increasing. According to the laws of nature, which are backed by the Lord, nothing can be permanent within this material world; therefore everyone should be allowed to take shelter of the Absolute in order to be saved.

~ Srila Prabhupada (Srimad Bhagavatam 4.24.66)

“So as we look at strengthening agriculture and fighting hunger particularly in South Asia, but also in Africa and elsewhere, India’s leadership is absolutely crucial. And the United States is today just as proud to work with and support India’s efforts as we were 50 years ago,” Clinton said.

Stating that the world has the resources to feed everyone, Clinton said, “Nonetheless, hunger persists; that is why the G-8 and other countries committed USD 20 billion to end global hunger.” The US has committed USD 3.5 billion to this effort. Clinton noted that research is a critical component in improving agriculture.

12.

The GM Genocide In India

Thousands Of Indian Farmers Are Committing Suicide After Using Genetically Modified Crops

History is repeating itself. Only the players have changed. Instead of South America, it is South Asia and instead of UFCO, it is Monsanto and others.

When Prince Charles claimed thousands of Indian farmers were killing themselves after using GM crops, he was branded a scaremonger. In fact, situation is even worse than he feared. Beguiled by the promise of future riches, thousands of farmers are borrowing money in order to buy the GM seeds. But when the harvests fail, they are left with spiralling debts - and no income.

Thousands of farmers have taken their own life as a result of the ruthless drive to use India as a testing ground for genetically modified crops. The crisis, branded the 'GM Genocide' by campaigners, was highlighted when Prince Charles claimed that the issue of GM had become a 'global moral question' - and the time had come to end its unstoppable march.

The price difference is staggering: £10 for 100 grams of GM seed, compared with less than £10 for 1,000 times more traditional seeds.

But GM salesmen and government officials had promised farmers that these were 'magic seeds' - with better crops that would be free from parasites and insects. Indeed, in a bid to promote the

uptake of GM seeds, traditional varieties were banned from many government seed banks.

India's economic boom means cities such as Mumbai and Delhi have flourished, while the farmers' lives have slid back into the dark ages. When crops failed in the past, farmers could still save seeds and replant them the following year.

But with GM seeds they cannot do this. GM seeds contain 'terminator technology', so that the resulting crops do not produce viable seeds of their own.

As a result, farmers have to buy new seeds each year at the same punitive prices. For some, that means the difference between life and death. Thus the cost of the genetically modified future is murderously high.

Official figures from the Indian Ministry of Agriculture do indeed confirm that it is a huge humanitarian crisis, more than 1,000 farmers are killing themselves each month. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), between 1995 and 2009, more than a quarter-million farmers committed suicide.

In 2009 alone, more than 17,000 farmers committed suicide just in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Some experts believe the actual number of farmer suicides is much higher than official data indicates.

"The official statistics in India rely on the National Crime Records Bureau -- basically what are police reports of suicide," says Professor Prabhat Jha of the Center for Global Health Research in Toronto, according to BBC.

"Suicide is a taboo subject," he adds, suggesting that some deaths have likely been attributed by their families to other causes, like serious illness.

Indian agriculture is in such dire straits that everyday 2000 farmers are quitting agriculture to join the swelling ranks of coolies in urban slums. This fact was reported by International Business Times in a report dated May 02, 2013.

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13.

Countries On Sale

Gold Rush For The Lands In The Third World

The 'Neo-Colonial' Food Grab

In the 1800s, European colonial powers divided up the Third World in their quest for primary agricultural and mineral commodities. In post-colonial times, oil corporations have gained oil concessions in these nations through questionable dealings with local elites, enriching the elites and leaving the vast majority in these countries desperately poor. Recently, a new scramble has begun: the attempt by food-deficit countries, primarily in the Middle East, to buy or rent hundreds of thousands of hectares of prime agricultural land in the poor countries. In the meantime, millions in these countries are starving and are in desperate need of food aid.

What is spurring this attempt to secure agricultural land in other countries is the global food crisis and price volatility. Saudi Arabia and other oil exporting Middle Eastern countries have decided to use their oil wealth to buy land in poorer nations, including Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan. China is also trying to buy lands abroad, but is concentrating on Kazakhstan.

In August, Andrew England reported in *The Financial Times* that "Saudi Arabia plans to set up large-scale projects overseas that will later involve the private sector in growing crops such as corn,

wheat and rice. Once a country has been selected, each project could be in excess of 100,000 hectares – about ten times the size of Manhattan Island – and the majority of the crop would be exported directly to Saudi Arabia. This is not trade, but direct shipment of food crops to the land-owners.

“While Saudi Arabia’s plans are among the grandest, they reflect growing interest in such projects among capital-rich countries that import most of their food. The United Arab Emirates is looking into Kazakhstan and Sudan. Libya is hoping to lease farms in Ukraine, and South Korea has hinted at plans in Mongolia.”

Joachim von Braun, director of the International Food Policy Research Institute, says, “This is a new trend within the global food crisis. The dominant force today is security of food supplies.”

England wrote, “Alarmed by exporting countries’ trade restrictions – such as India’s curbs on exports of rice, Ukraine’s halt to wheat shipments, and Argentina’s imposition of heavy taxes on overseas sales of soya – importing countries have realized that their dependence on the international food market makes them vulnerable not only to an abrupt surge in prices but, more crucially, to an interruption in supplies. As a result, food security is at the top of the political agenda for the first time since the 1970s.”

For poor countries rich in cultivable land and water but short of capital, such plans could also make a lot of sense. Lennart Bage, of the UN’s International Fund for Agriculture Development in Rome, says that “land was long thought less important than oil or mineral deposits. But now fertile land with access to water has become a strategic asset.”

Sudan is seeking to attract at least one billion dollars of capital for its agricultural sector from Arab and Asian investment groups.

Jacques Diouf, director general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, has warned that the headlong drive by rich food-importing countries to buy up vast tracts of farmland in the world’s poorer states risks “creating a neo-colonial” agricultural system.

The investment ministry is marketing 17 large-scale projects that would cover an area of 880,000 hectares.

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi is also enthusiastic. He welcomed the Saudi agriculture delegation with the following words: "We would be very eager to provide hundreds of thousands of hectares of agricultural land for investment."

The food-producing countries need to be wary of these deals, warns England. "Through secretive bilateral agreements, the investors hope to be able to bypass any potential trade restriction that the host country might impose during a crisis."

Maryknoll Father Ken Thesing, who is working with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Juba, Southern Sudan, offers further insight and caution, "In Southern Sudan we have vast tracts of land that can be very productive, without irrigation. But we need infrastructure, inputs, and expertise to positively 'harvest' the potential of the land. It is going to be a challenge to do that without Southern Sudan ending up either missing the opportunity to move ahead and use its natural advantage at this time of food shortage/crisis or ending up exploited by other 'rich' countries and entrepreneurs using the resources for their private benefit."



Lennart Bage, president of the U.N. International Fund for Agriculture Development in Rome, says that land was long considered less important than oil or mineral resources.

But now, with food prices having doubled on average from a year ago, "fertile land with access to water has become a strategic asset."

But many of the countries whose farmland is being snapped up are already unable to feed their own people, and it may be just a matter of time before that triggers anti-government unrest and the resource wars that many fear will erupt in the coming decades.

For some policymakers this evokes the nightmare scenario of crops being transported out of fortified farms as hungry locals look on. Jacques Diouf, director general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), says he dreads “the emergence of a neocolonial pact for the supply of raw materials with no value added for the producer countries. We are deliberating on land policy tools that we can use to counsel the governments involved. The idea is not to renounce such a potential godsend, but to avoid expropriations of small producers and speculation.”

Alain Karsenty, a researcher in agronomics, claims that there will be another devastating impact of the headlong rush into these agricultural schemes – deforestation. “As the price of agricultural land increases, land with forest values will lose profitability. Maintaining forests, whether for environmental purposes or for economic purposes, will be abandoned as a national objective.”

In his new book, *Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet: The New Geopolitics of Energy*, Michael T. Klare writes that we are now seeing the resurrection of a mercantilist form of global economy, similar to the colonial era of the 19th century, when national states took control of resources in colonial territories. As essential to the global economy as are corporations, the effort to lock in foreign sources of energy and strategic resources is now “statist,” rather than corporate. Examples in the energy sector are President Bush’s two trips to Saudi Arabia to plead for increased oil production in order to stabilize prices, and China’s dealings with Sudan (also Congo and Zimbabwe).

These state efforts to insure that energy, strategic metals and food will go to rich countries is further marginalizing the poor countries, where many of these resources are found. To sum up his analysis: the first quarter of the 21st century is characterized by a statist effort to lock in foreign sources of strategic resources, in a planet now running out of these resources, increasing the possibility of military confrontations between nuclear powers.

George Monbiot of the Guardian concludes with this harsh outlook. “None of this is to suggest that the poor nations should not sell food to the rich. To escape from famine, countries must enhance their purchasing power. This often means selling farm products and increasing their value by processing them locally. But there is nothing fair about the deals described above. Where once they used gunboats and sepoy, the rich nations now use checkbooks and lawyers to seize food from the hungry. The scramble for resources has begun, but in the short term, at any rate, we will hardly notice. The rich world’s governments will protect themselves from the political cost of shortages, even if it means that other people must starve.”

In 2008, the South Korean multinational Daewoo Logistics secured 1.3 million hectares of farmland in Madagascar, half the size of Belgium, to grow maize and crops for biofuels. Roughly half of the country’s arable land, as well as rainforests of rich and unique biodiversity, were to be converted into palm and corn monocultures, producing food for export from a country where a third of the population and 50 percent of children under 5 are malnourished, using workers imported from South Africa instead of locals. Those living on the land were never consulted or informed, despite being dependent on the land for food and income. The controversial deal played a major part in prolonged anti-government protests on the island that resulted in over a hundred deaths. Shortly after the Madagascar deal, Tanzania announced that South Korea was in talks to develop 100,000 hectares for food production and processing for 700 to 800 billion won. Scheduled to be completed in 2010, it will be the largest single piece of agricultural infrastructure South Korea has ever built overseas.

In 2009, Hyundai Heavy Industries acquired a majority stake in a company cultivating 10,000 hectares of farmland in the Russian Far East and a wealthy South Korean provincial government secured 95,000 hectares of farmland in Oriental Mindoro, central Philippines, to grow corn. The South Jeolla province became the first provincial government to benefit from a newly created central

government fund to develop farmland overseas, receiving a cheap loan of \$1.9 million for the Mindoro project. The feedstock is expected to produce 10,000 tonnes of feed in the first year for South Korea. South Korean multinationals and provincial governments have also purchased land in Sulawesi, Indonesia, Cambodia and Bulgan, Mongolia. The South Korean government itself announced its intention to invest 30 billion won in land in Paraguay and Uruguay. Discussions with Laos, Myanmar and Senegal are also currently underway.

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14.

How Goldman Sachs Created The Food Crisis

By Frederick Kaufman April 27, 2011

Don't blame American appetites, rising oil prices, or genetically modified crops for rising food prices. Wall Street's at fault for the spiraling cost of food.

Demand and supply certainly matter. But there's another reason why food across the world has become so expensive: Wall Street greed.

It took the brilliant minds of Goldman Sachs to realize the simple truth that nothing is more valuable than our daily bread. And where there's value, there's money to be made. In 1991, Goldman bankers, led by their prescient president Gary Cohn, came up with a new kind of investment product, a derivative that tracked 24 raw materials, from precious metals and energy to coffee, cocoa, cattle, corn, hogs, soy, and wheat. They weighted the investment value of each element, blended and commingled the parts into sums, then reduced what had been a complicated collection of real things into a mathematical formula that could be expressed as a single manifestation, to be known henceforth as the Goldman Sachs Commodity Index (GSCI).

For just under a decade, the GSCI remained a relatively static investment vehicle, as bankers remained more interested in risk and collateralized debt than in anything that could be literally sowed or reaped. Then, in 1999, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission deregulated futures markets. All of a sudden, bankers could take as large a position in grains as they liked, an opportunity that had, since the Great Depression, only been available to those who actually had something to do with the production of our food.

Change was coming to the great grain exchanges of Chicago, Minneapolis, and Kansas City — which for 150 years had helped to moderate the peaks and valleys of global food prices. Farming may seem bucolic, but it is an inherently volatile industry, subject to the vicissitudes of weather, disease, and disaster. The grain futures trading system pioneered after the American Civil War by the founders of Archer Daniels Midland, General Mills, and Pillsbury helped to establish America as a financial juggernaut to rival and eventually surpass Europe. The grain markets also insulated American farmers and millers from the inherent risks of their profession. The basic idea was the "forward contract," an agreement between sellers and buyers of wheat for a reasonable bushel price — even before that bushel had been grown. Not only did a grain "future" help to keep the price of a loaf of bread at the bakery — or later, the supermarket — stable, but the market allowed farmers to hedge against lean times, and to invest in their farms and businesses. The result: Over the course of the 20th century, the real price of wheat decreased (despite a hiccup or two, particularly during the 1970s inflationary spiral), spurring the development of American agribusiness. After World War II, the United States was routinely producing a grain surplus, which became an essential element of its Cold War political, economic, and humanitarian strategies — not to mention the fact that American grain fed millions of hungry people across the world.

Futures markets traditionally included two kinds of players. On one side were the farmers, the millers, and the warehousemen, market players who have a real, physical stake in wheat. This

group not only includes corn growers in Iowa or wheat farmers in Nebraska, but major multinational corporations like Pizza Hut, Kraft, Nestlé, Sara Lee, Tyson Foods, and McDonald's — whose New York Stock Exchange shares rise and fall on their ability to bring food to peoples' car windows, doorsteps, and supermarket shelves at competitive prices. These market participants are called "bona fide" hedgers, because they actually need to buy and sell cereals.

On the other side is the speculator. The speculator neither produces nor consumes corn or soy or wheat, and wouldn't have a place to put the 20 tons of cereal he might buy at any given moment if ever it were delivered. Speculators make money through traditional market behavior, the arbitrage of buying low and selling high. And the physical stakeholders in grain futures have as a general rule welcomed traditional speculators to their market, for their endless stream of buy and sell orders gives the market its liquidity and provides bona fide hedgers a way to manage risk by allowing them to sell and buy just as they pleased.

But Goldman's index perverted the symmetry of this system. The structure of the GSCI paid no heed to the centuries-old buy-sell/sell-buy patterns. This newfangled derivative product was "long only," which meant the product was constructed to buy commodities, and only buy. At the bottom of this "long-only" strategy lay an intent to transform an investment in commodities (previously the purview of specialists) into something that looked a great deal like an investment in a stock — the kind of asset class wherein anyone could park their money and let it accrue for decades (along the lines of General Electric or Apple). Once the commodity market had been made to look more like the stock market, bankers could expect new influxes of ready cash. But the long-only strategy possessed a flaw, at least for those of us who eat. The GSCI did not include a mechanism to sell or "short" a commodity.

This imbalance undermined the innate structure of the commodities markets, requiring bankers to buy and keep buying —

no matter what the price. Every time the due date of a long-only commodity index futures contract neared, bankers were required to "roll" their multi-billion dollar backlog of buy orders over into the next futures contract, two or three months down the line. And since the deflationary impact of shorting a position simply wasn't part of the GSCI, professional grain traders could make a killing by anticipating the market fluctuations these "rolls" would inevitably cause. "I make a living off the dumb money," commodity trader Emil van Essen told Businessweek last year. Commodity traders employed by the banks that had created the commodity index funds in the first place rode the tides of profit.

Bankers recognized a good system when they saw it, and dozens of speculative non-physical hedgers followed Goldman's lead and joined the commodities index game, including Barclays, Deutsche Bank, Pimco, JP Morgan Chase, AIG, Bear Stearns, and Lehman Brothers, to name but a few purveyors of commodity index funds. The scene had been set for food inflation that would eventually catch unawares some of the largest milling, processing, and retailing corporations in the United States, and send shockwaves throughout the world.

The money tells the story. Since the bursting of the tech bubble in 2000, there has been a 50-fold increase in dollars invested in commodity index funds. To put the phenomenon in real terms: In 2003, the commodities futures market still totaled a sleepy \$13 billion. But when the global financial crisis sent investors running scared in early 2008, and as dollars, pounds, and euros evaded investor confidence, commodities — including food — seemed like the last, best place for hedge, pension, and sovereign wealth funds to park their cash. "You had people who had no clue what commodities were all about suddenly buying commodities," an analyst from the United States Department of Agriculture told me. In the first 55 days of 2008, speculators poured \$55 billion into commodity markets, and by July, \$318 billion was roiling the markets. Food inflation has remained steady since.

The money flowed, and the bankers were ready with a sparkling new casino of food derivatives. Spearheaded by oil and gas prices (the dominant commodities of the index funds) the new investment products ignited the markets of all the other indexed commodities, which led to a problem familiar to those versed in the history of tulips, dot-coms, and cheap real estate: a food bubble. Hard red spring wheat, which usually trades in the \$4 to \$6 dollar range per 60-pound bushel, broke all previous records as the futures contract climbed into the teens and kept on going until it topped \$25. And so, from 2005 to 2008, the worldwide price of food rose 80 percent — and has kept rising. "It's unprecedented how much investment capital we've seen in commodity markets," Kendell Keith, president of the National Grain and Feed Association, told me. "There's no question there's been speculation." In a recently published briefing note, Olivier De Schutter, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, concluded that in 2008 "a significant portion of the price spike was due to the emergence of a speculative bubble."

What was happening to the grain markets was not the result of "speculation" in the traditional sense of buying low and selling high. Today, along with the cumulative index, the Standard & Poors GSCI provides 219 distinct index "tickers," so investors can boot up their Bloomberg system and bet on everything from palladium to soybean oil, biofuels to feeder cattle. But the boom in new speculative opportunities in global grain, edible oil, and livestock markets has created a vicious cycle. The more the price of food commodities increases, the more money pours into the sector, and the higher prices rise. Indeed, from 2003 to 2008, the volume of index fund speculation increased by 1,900 percent. "What we are experiencing is a demand shock coming from a new category of participant in the commodities futures markets," hedge fund Michael Masters testified before Congress in the midst of the 2008 food crisis.

The result of Wall Street's venture into grain and feed and livestock has been a shock to the global food production and delivery system. Not only does the world's food supply have to contend

with constricted supply and increased demand for real grain, but investment bankers have engineered an artificial upward pull on the price of grain futures. The result: Imaginary wheat dominates the price of real wheat, as speculators (traditionally one-fifth of the market) now outnumber bona-fide hedgers four-to-one.

Today, bankers and traders sit at the top of the food chain — the carnivores of the system, devouring everyone and everything below. Near the bottom toils the farmer. For him, the rising price of grain should have been a windfall, but speculation has also created spikes in everything the farmer must buy to grow his grain — from seed to fertilizer to diesel fuel. At the very bottom lies the consumer. The average American, who spends roughly 8 to 12 percent of her weekly paycheck on food, did not immediately feel the crunch of rising costs. But for the roughly 2-billion people across the world who spend more than 50 percent of their income on food, the effects have been staggering: 250 million people joined the ranks of the hungry in 2008, bringing the total of the world's "food insecure" to a peak of 1 billion — a number never seen before.

What's the solution? The last time I visited the Minneapolis Grain Exchange, I asked a handful of wheat brokers what would happen if the U.S. government simply outlawed long-only trading in food commodities for investment banks. Their reaction: laughter. One phone call to a bona-fide hedger like Cargill or Archer Daniels Midland and one secret swap of assets, and a bank's stake in the futures market is indistinguishable from that of an international wheat buyer. What if the government outlawed all long-only derivative products, I asked? Once again, laughter. Problem solved with another phone call, this time to a trading office in London or Hong Kong; the new food derivative markets have reached supranational proportions, beyond the reach of sovereign law.

Volatility in the food markets has also trashed what might have been a great opportunity for global cooperation. The higher the cost of corn, soy, rice, and wheat, the more the grain producing-nations of the world should cooperate in order to ensure that panicked

(and generally poorer) grain-importing nations do not spark ever more dramatic contagions of food inflation and political upheaval. Instead, nervous countries have responded instead with me-first policies, from export bans to grain hoarding to neo-mercantilist land grabs in Africa. And efforts by concerned activists or international agencies to curb grain speculation have gone nowhere. All the while, the index funds continue to prosper, the bankers pocket the profits, and the world's poor teeter on the brink of starvation.

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15.

The World Bank and The IMF

The Two Terrorist Organizations That Are Devastating The Developing World

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are the two most powerful institutions in global trade and finance.¹ Since 1980, the United States government which dominates both bodies has used them to economically subjugate the developing world. The World Bank and the IMF have forced Third World countries to open their economies to Western penetration and increase exports of primary goods to wealthy nations. These steps amongst others have multiplied profits for Western multinational corporations while subjecting Third World countries to horrendous levels of poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, illiteracy and economic decline. The region worst affected has been Africa.

For two decades the World Bank and the IMF have forced developing countries to create conditions that benefit Western corporations and governments. These conditions are known as Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs).

Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs)

SAPs require governments to: cut public spending, (including eliminating subsidies for food, medical care and education);

raise interest rates, thus reducing access to credit; privatize state enterprises; increase exports; and reduce barriers to trade and foreign investment such as tariffs and import duties. These measures are supposed to generate export-led growth that will attract foreign direct investment and can be used to reduce debt and poverty.²

According to a three-year, multi-country (including three African countries) study released in April 2002 by the Structural Adjustment Participatory Review International Network (SAPRIN), which was prepared in collaboration with the World Bank, national governments and civil society, SAPs have been “expanding poverty, inequality and insecurity around the world. They have torn at the heart of economies and the social fabric... increasing tensions among different social strata, fueling extremist movements and delegitimizing democratic political systems. Their effects, particularly on the poor are so profound and pervasive that no amount of targeted social investments can begin to address the social crises that they have engendered.”³

SAPRIN explains this damning indictment by identifying four ways in which reforms under SAPs have impoverished people and increased economic inequality. Firstly, trade and financial sector reforms have destroyed domestic manufacturing leading to massive unemployment of workers and small producers. Secondly, agricultural, trade and mining reforms have reduced the incomes of small farms and poor rural communities as well as their food security. Thirdly, labour market flexibilization measures and privatizations have caused mass layoffs of workers and resulted in lower wages, less secure employment, fewer benefits and “an erosion of workers rights and bargaining power.” Privatization of major national assets and essential services has also allowed multinational corporations to remove resources and profits from countries as well as increase rates for water and electricity which has hit the poor the hardest. Fourthly, the cutting of health and education spending under SAPs and the introduction of user fees for these services, when combined

with higher utility rates, has resulted in “a severe increase in the number of poor as well as a deepening of poverty.”⁴

The U.S. Connection

Washington’s predominance ensured that whatever their theoretical mandates might be, the World Bank and the IMF would become instruments of U.S. foreign policy. The role of both has been to fully integrate the Third World into the U.S.-dominated global capitalist system in the subordinate position of raw material supplier and open market. As such these institutions complement the U.S.’ use of the Pentagon and the CIA to crush Third World governments aspiring to independent development.

A good example of this kind of coordination was the ending of World Bank loans in 1972 to the elected government of Salvador Allende in Chile—the first step in a U.S.-planned destabilization. President Richard Nixon and his National Security Adviser, Henry Kissinger, used the Bank to (as the President stated) “make the Chilean economy scream.” The subsequent economic crisis “paved the way for the bloody coup of 1973.” The U.S. then poured aid on the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet who killed Allende and up to 130,000 Chileans in a 17-year reign of terror. From 1973 to 1976, the World Bank gave Chile \$350.5 million, almost 13 times the \$27.7 million it gave during the three-year Allende presidency.⁹

Robert McNamara, who became the World Bank’s president in 1968, best epitomized the close U.S. connection. McNamara had been Secretary of Defense before being transferred to the World Bank by President Johnson. The Secretary had grown disillusioned with his idea of bombing North Vietnam since this had failed to stop North-ern support for insurgency in South Vietnam. Under McNamara’s presidency (1968-1981), the World Bank experienced its most dramatic growth with annual lending growing from U.S.\$2.7 billion a year to U.S.\$12 billion.¹⁰ McNamara sought to speed up the Third World’s integration into the global capitalist order by promoting “export-oriented growth.” He declared that

development which depended on small, protected internal markets was “a losing strategy.” Instead, Third World economies should attach themselves to the expanding markets of the U.S. and other wealthy countries. McNamara wanted the World Bank to support “special efforts...in many countries to turn their manufacturing enterprises away from the relatively small markets associated with import substitution towards the much larger opportunities flowing from export promotion.”¹¹

Structural Adjustment

The debt crisis in the 1980s gave Washington the opportunity to “blast open” and fully subordinate Third World economies through World Bank-IMF structural adjustment programs (SAPs).¹² Starting in 1980, developing countries were unable to pay back loans taken from Western commercial banks which had gone on a huge lending binge to Third World governments during the mid to late 1970s when rising oil prices had filled up their coffers with petro-dollars.¹³

The World Bank and the IMF imposed SAPs on developing countries who needed to borrow money to service their debts. The World Bank's SAPs, first instituted in 1980, enforced privatization of industries (including necessities such as healthcare and water), cuts in government spending and imposition of user fees, liberalizing of capital markets (which leads to unstable trading in currencies) market based pricing (which tends to raise the cost of basic goods) higher interest rates and trade liberalization.

SAPs evolved to cover more and more areas of domestic policy, not only fiscal, monetary and trade policy but also labour laws, health care, environmental regulations, civil service requirements, energy policy and government procurement.¹⁴

With the imposition of its own SAPs in 1986, the IMF became “one of the most influential institutions in the world.” Its 2,500 staff dictate the economic conditions of life to over 1.4 billion people in 75 developing countries. As one observer put it, “Never in history has an international agency exercised such authority.”

Until the 1980s, IMF involvement with Third World countries had been short-term and its impact minimal but after the debt crisis it took on an greatly expanded role in imposing austerity conditions on countries in financial difficulties.¹⁵ The Fund became the gendarme for Western commercial banks ensuring that they would get repaid and helping them “consolidate their power over poor nations.”

Borrowing countries knew that they would not get further loans from other sources without the IMF seal of approval. One observer called the Fund, “a sort of Godfather figure—it makes countries offers they can’t refuse.”¹⁶

Classic IMF stabilization programs involve: a standard set of policies aimed at reducing current account deficits. These invariably include a contraction of the money supply and fiscal austerity measures aimed at reducing “excessive demand” in the domestic economy; demands for strict anti-inflationary monetary policy, privatization of public enterprises, trade liberalization and dismantling of foreign exchange controls; more flexible labour markets (in other words, a lowering of labour standards) and reducing the size of the public sector. This has meant cutbacks to education, health care and the social sector, and the elimination of subsidies and marketing boards for agricultural products as well as the privatization of such basic services as potable water, health care and education.¹⁷

During 1980-93, 70 developing countries were subjected to 566 stabilization and structural adjustment programs with disastrous consequences; the 1980s became known as the “lost decade.” Between 1984 and 1990, Third World countries under SAPs transferred \$178 billion to Western commercial banks.

So enormous was the capital drain from these countries that Morris Miller, a Canadian former World Bank director remarked: “Not since the conquistadors plundered Latin America has the world experienced such a flow in the direction we see today.”¹⁸ By severely restricting government spending in favor of debt repayment,

the loan terms of the Bank and the IMF eviscerated the Third World state leaving in its wake spiraling poverty and hunger fueled by slashed food subsidies and decimated health and education sectors. Growth stagnated and debt doubled to over \$1.5 trillion by the end of the 1980s, doubling again to \$3 trillion by the end of the 1990s.¹⁹

As U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar noted in 1991: “The various plans of structural adjustment— which undermine the middle classes; impoverish wage earners; close doors that had begun to open to the basic rights of education, food, housing, medical care; and also disastrously affect employment—often plunge societies, especially young people, into despair.”²⁰

After 15 years of following World Bank and IMF-imposed policies, Latin America, by the late 1990s, was going through “its worst period of social and economic deprivation in half a century.” By 1997, nearly half of the region’s 460 million people had become poor—an increase of 60 million in ten years. Populations, overall, were worse off than they were in 1980. The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) stated in 1996: “the levels of [poverty] are still considerably higher than those observed in 1980 while income distribution seems to have worsened in virtually all cases.”²¹

SAPs imposed on Peru by the World Bank and the IMF pushed four million people into extreme poverty, almost halved real wages, and cut those with “adequate employment” to 15 percent of the workforce. Consequently, there was a forced migration of impoverished peasants and urban unemployed into coca growing (for drug traffickers) as an alternative to starvation. In 1991, in exchange for \$100 million from the United States, Peru put in place the IMF structural adjustment clause opening its markets to US corn. As a result, by 1995, corn cultivation had fallen tenfold and coca production had grown by 50 percent. Under these conditions, corruption flourished; indeed almost an entire economy was criminalized. Increased coca production meant more cocaine

trafficking which led to deepening official corruption in Peru as the amount of money in the hands of drug lords increased.²²

An IMF-sponsored stabilization package implemented in Peru in 1990 had the following consequences: “From one day to the next, fuel prices increased 31 times—by 2,968%. The price of bread increased 12 times—by 1,150%. The prices of most basic food staples increased by six or seven times—446% in a single month—yet wages had already been compressed by 80% in the period prior to the adoption of these measures in August 1990.”²³

IMF SAPs were first imposed on Mexico in 1982; in the following decade infant deaths due to malnutrition tripled, the minimum wage fell by 60% and the percentage of the population living in poverty rose from less than half to more than two-thirds. More recently, World Bank-IMF SAPs played a major role in causing the collapse of the Argentine economy in December 2001; these SAPs also fuelled the Asian financial crisis of 1997.²⁴

LIC-FLIC (low-intensity conflicts, Financial low-intensity conflicts)

The World Bank-IMF SAPs were “the second prong of the massive assault that Washington mounted against the South” during the 1980s. The other prong was “low-intensity conflicts” (LIC), the U.S. launched against governments in Afghanistan, Angola, Nicaragua, Panama, and Grenada, and against liberation movements in El Salvador, Guatemala, and the Philippines.

One observer has called the World Bank-IMF debt management strategy, “financial low-intensity conflict” (FLIC). U.S. officials are clear about the link between economic and military strategies in controlling the Third World.

The Presidential Commission on Integrated Long-Term Strategy stated in 1988: “We... need to think of low-intensity conflict as a form of warfare that is not a problem just for the Department of Defense. In many situations, the United States will need not just DoD personnel and material but diplomats and information specialists, agricultural chemists, bankers and economists...and scores of other professionals.”²⁵

The Reagan Administration came into office in 1980 determined to discipline an increasingly independent Third World and make it serve U.S. economic interests. The 1950-1980 era was marked by high economic growth rates in parts of the developing world as well as successful national liberation struggles. The Administration's sense of "a rising threat from the South" was fed by the humiliating U.S. defeat in Vietnam, the Nicaraguan revolution, the OPEC oil embargoes of 1973 and 1979, the threat of new cartels for other raw materials, the Iran hostage crisis, restrictions on multi-national corporations in Mexico and Brazil, and the Third World's demand for a New International Economic Order (NIEO).²⁶

Since the Third World state was the main culprit in all these threats, this is what had to be broken down through both LIC and FLIC. In the case of Nicaragua, Reagan used the Contras to militarily attack the revolutionary Sandinista government and the World Bank to pressure it economically as Nixon had done with Chile. Thomas Clausen, Reagan's appointed World Bank President, stopped all loans to Nicaragua in 1982.²⁷

By 1993 when the Reagan-Bush period ended, "the South had been transformed" by the LIC- FLIC combination. Radical governments and liberation movements had been defeated, overthrown or compromised, the state's role in the economy had been drastically reduced, government enterprises had been privatized on a massive scale, limits on foreign investment and protectionist barriers to Northern imports had been removed (ensuring an open market) and the emphasis on export growth had integrated Third World economies into the global capitalist system as raw material suppliers.²⁸

Even Vietnam was under World Bank-IMF tutelage. The World Bank and the IMF thus proved to be extremely effective instruments of U.S. policy: their neocolonization of the Third World through SAPs ensured that 80% of humanity would remain servants of the West.

Adjusting Africa

According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) “the major thrust of economic policy making on the continent has been informed for the last decade or so by the core policy content of adjustment programs (of the type supported by the IMF and the World Bank).”²⁹ The New York Times called the World Bank and the IMF, “the overlords of Africa.” Beginning in 1980, SAPs have been imposed on 36 of Sub-Saharan Africa’s 47 countries.³⁰

As a result of SAPs, Africa is more integrated into the global economy than ever. SAPs’ emphasis on export-led growth has significantly expanded African trade levels. From 1989 to 1999, Sub Saharan Africa’s trade as a percentage of GDP (a key indicator of globalization) increased from 78.1% to 95.6%; in dollar terms, trade grew from \$175 billion in 1990 to \$187 billion in 1999; for the same period, foreign direct investment jumped from \$923 million to \$7.9 billion in 1999 and portfolio investment (for equity) shot up from

Just between you and me, shouldn't the World Bank be encouraging more migration of the dirty industries to the LDCs [less-developed countries]?... I think the economic logic behind dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest wage country is impeccable and we should face up to that...I've always thought that underpopulated countries in Africa are vastly under-polluted, their air quality is probably vastly inefficiently low compared to Los Angeles or Mexico City...The concern over an agent that causes a one in a million change in the odds of prostrate cancer is obviously going to be much higher in a country where people survive to get prostrate cancer than in a country where under 5 mortality is 200 per thousand...The problem with the arguments against all of these proposals for more pollution in LDCs (intrinsic rights to certain goods, moral reasons, social concerns, lack of adequate markets, etc.) could be turned around and used more or less effectively against every Bank proposal for liberalization.

– Lawrence H. Summers, chief economist of the World Bank, in an internal memo dated December 12, 1991. Summers went on to become the U.S. Treasury Secretary in the Clinton Administration as well as president of Harvard University.

\$2 million to \$3.9 billion; debt service increased from 12.9% to 13.9% of exports. Only official aid to Sub Saharan Africa fell from \$19.4 billion in 1994 to \$12.5 billion in 1999.³¹

But contrary to World Bank dogma, export expansion and rising foreign investment in Africa have not increased growth or reduced debt and poverty—in fact, as seen below, they have had exactly the opposite effect. Most African exports are raw materials and non-oil commodity prices have dropped by 35% on average since 1997.³² Foreign investment contributes little to African economies due to incentives given to the companies such as tax holidays and profit repatriation allowances. After considerable social and economic progress during 1960-1980, the following 20 years of structural adjustment have devastated the continent.

Impacts of Adjustment

Slower Growth

During 1960-1980, Sub Saharan Africa's GDP per capita grew by 36%; in the 1980-2000 period it actually fell by 15%. As the Center for Economic and Policy Research puts it, "These are enormous differences by any standard of comparison and represent the loss to an entire generation—of hundreds of millions of people—of any chance of improving its living standards."³³

Increased Poverty

According to the World Bank, in 2003, over 350 million people (more than half of Africa's population of 682 million) lived below the poverty line of U.S.\$ 1 a day, a 75% increase over the 200 million figure for 1994.

Lower Incomes

Africa's estimated per capita income in 1990 was at the same level it had been in 1960. Per capita incomes for most Sub Saharan countries fell by 25% during the 1980s and for 18 countries these incomes were lower in 1999 than in 1975. In 1960, Sub-Saharan Africa's per capita income was about 1/9 of that in high-income

OECD countries; by 1998, it had deteriorated dramatically to about 1/18.

Low Human Development Indicators

According to the UN Development Programme (UNDP), 80% of low human development countries—those with low income, low literacy, low life expectancy and high population growth rates—are in Africa.³⁴ Average life expectancy for Sub Saharan Africa is only 47 years (the lowest in the world), a drop of 15 years since 1980. Forty percent of the population suffers from malnutrition that causes low birth weight among infants and stunts growth in children. In 2000, 30% of children under five were underweight in Sub-Saharan Africa; thirty-seven percent of such children were under height.³⁵

Increased Debt Burdens

Under SAPs, Africa's external debt has increased by more than 500% since 1980 to \$333 billion today. SAPs have transferred \$229 billion in debt payments from Sub-Saharan Africa to the West since 1980. This is four times the region's 1980 debt. In the past decade alone, African countries have paid their debt three times over yet they are three times as indebted as ten years ago.

Of Sub-Saharan Africa's 44 countries, 33 are designated heavily indebted poor countries by the World Bank. Africa, the world's poorest region, pays the richest countries \$15 billion every year in debt servicing. This is more than the continent gets in aid, new loans or investment. Jubilee 2000 U.K. warns that "Foreign indebtedness now poses a fatal impediment to Africa's development." In 1997, the UNDP stated that in the absence of debt payments, severely indebted African countries could have saved the lives of 21 million people and given 90 million girls and women access to basic education by the year 2000.

The All-African Conference of Churches has called the debt "a new form of slavery, as vicious as the slave trade." According to Africa Action, a Washington D.C.-based advocacy group, "The U.S. appears unwilling to support debt cancellation for Africa because the

U.S. actually gains a great deal from Africa's economic enslavement. The U.S. and other rich countries, as well as the World Bank and IMF, use Africa's debt as leverage to manipulate the continent's economic fate to serve their interests."³⁶

Decrease in Health Care and Increase in Disease

Africa spends four times more on debt interest payments than on health care. This combined with cutbacks in social expenditure caused health care spending in the 42 poorest African countries to fall by 50% during the 1980s. As a result, health care systems have collapsed across the continent creating near catastrophic conditions.

More than 200 million Africans have no access to health services as hundreds of clinics, hospitals and medical facilities have been closed; those remaining open were generally left understaffed and without essential medical supplies.³⁷ This has left diseases to rage unchecked, leading most alarmingly to an AIDS pandemic. With about 12% of the world's population, Africa accounts for 80% of the world's deaths due to AIDS and almost 90% of the world's deaths due to malaria. More than 17 million Africans have died of HIV/AIDS and an estimated 28 million of the 40 million people living with the disease worldwide are in Sub-Saharan Africa. More than 12 million African orphans have lost their mothers or both parents to AIDS. Presently, Malaria is killing 900,000 people annually across

The Dakar Declaration called Third World debt to the North "fraudulent, odious, illegal, immoral, illegitimate, obscene and genocidal" and added "Countries of the North owe Third World countries, particularly Africa, a manifold debt: blood debt with slavery; economic debt with colonization, and the looting of human and mineral resources and unequal exchange; ecological debt with the destruction and the looting of its natural resources; social debt (unemployment; mass poverty) and cultural debt (debasing of African civilizations to justify colonization).

~ "The Dakar Declaration for the Total and Unconditional Cancellation of African and Third World Debt; Dakar

the continent and according to the World Health Organization (WHO) 3.3 million Africans will have tuberculosis by 2005.³⁸

Lack of Clean Drinking Water

More than half of Africa's population is without safe drinking water and two-thirds do not have access to adequate sanitation.³⁹ Water privatization schemes in Ghana and South Africa are further depriving poor people of access to potable water.

Decrease In Education Levels

Ten African governments spent more on debt repayments than on primary education and health care combined in 2002. Forty percent of African children are out of school and Africa is the only region where this number is rising.⁴⁰ Between 1986 and 1996, per capita education spending fell by 0.7% a year on average. The adult literacy rate in Sub-Saharan Africa is 60%, well below the developing country average of 73%.⁴¹ More than 140 million young Africans are illiterate.⁴²

The Debt problem needs to be analysed starting from its origins. Those who lent money to us are the same people who colonised us, are the same who so long managed our states and our economies; they indebted Afrika with 'donations' of money. We were not involved in the creation of this Debt, so we should not pay it.

The Debt, moreover, is linked to the machinery of neo-colonialism: the colonisers became technical assistants; I would call them technical assassins; and they suggested, recommended to us the financiers; they told us about the financial advantages. That is why we indebted ourselves for decades and renounced the satisfaction of our people's needs. In today's shape, controlled and dominated by imperialism, the foreign Debt is a well-organised tool of colonial reconquest: in order to make the Afrikan economy a slave of those who were so clever as to give us capital with the obligation of reimbursing them.

~ Thomas Sankara (Late President of Burkina Faso, in a speech at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit in 1986)

Given the horrifying social impact of SAPs all over Africa, it is not surprising that Emily Sikazwe, director of the Zambian anti-poverty group “Women for Change,” asked: “What would they [the World Bank and the IMF] say if we took them to the World Court in The Hague and accused them of genocide?”⁴³

Twenty Years of World Bank and IMF SAPs have de-developed Africa and left it in a state of economic and social collapse. The destructive effect of these two institutions cannot be over-emphasized. The elimination of the Bank and the Fund along with the end of SAPs is a prerequisite for any kind of progress. This needs to be followed by the total cancellation of Africa’s debt. However, the World Bank and the IMF are not the main problem; they are merely instruments for the imposition of a U.S. imperial design upon Africa and the rest of the Third World.

Thus in the guise of economic measures, Africa is faced with a political strategy to recolonize it.

Source

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Henry Kissinger, the former US national security adviser and secretary of state says, "Control oil and you control nations; control food and you control the people."

Food fascism is all about controlling the food supply and thereby controlling the people. The vested interests get to decide who eats and who starves.

US strategy in last few decades has deliberately destroyed family farming in the US and abroad and led to 95% of all grain reserves in the world coming under the control of six multinational agribusiness corporations.

As the family farms drop off the radar, these agribusiness corporations have come to control our food supply. The family farms are associated with the values of conservation, independence, self-reliance, family, and community and these agribusinesses are here to destroy these values. They exist for sheer profiteering and nothing else matters to them.

Before the first supermarket appeared on the American landscape in 1946, our food was in our homes, gardens, local fields, and forests. Now this is all a history. Growing your own food or preserving your own seeds is becoming a criminal offense. Most US cities are making it illegal to hand out food to the homeless. In Florida, a 90 year old veteran was arrested for feeding the homeless.

This isn't normal. For a healthier and a better world, we need to get back to the land, back to our freedom. Our freedom begins with food freedom. As Fukuoka says, "The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings."

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