



Justice Rising

Grassroots Solutions to Corporate Domination

Deglobalization/Relocalization

by Ruth Caplan and Jim Tarbell

The Alliance for Democracy was founded to “end corporate rule.” No small challenge, and yet we soon found ourselves taking on the even more formidable colossus of money power. Our first national campaign brought us successfully into the international arena as part of the effort that stopped the Multilateral Agreement on Investment in 1998.

But money power does not give up easily and, as we survey the global political landscape, we see how the financial industry is using the World Trade Organization (see p. 5) and the many bilateral trade agreements to assert their authority over countries and communities around the globe.

Now, the present economic meltdown has exposed the failure of the corporate globalization/financial deregulation/trickle-down economic model as a fraud perpetrated on the peoples of the world so a few can get rich by exploiting workers, communities and the earth. We now have a unique opportunity to say Enough! *iBasta!* Another World Is Possible.

Time is running out. The convergence of climate change, a global economy built on “endless more” consumerism and money power, and unprecedented population growth create an explosive mix. We no longer need the atomic bomb to make the earth unlivable for people and the majority of other species. Money power has created our own economic and environmental time bomb.

President Obama campaigned on hope and people rallied to his call. But it is courage that we need now. Courage to speak truth to money power and to corporate power. Courage to say Enough! *iBasta!* Courage to tell our President to stop propping up the fraudulent financial giants that trampled our communities and destroyed our homes. Courage to pull our money out of these institutions and invest in community or cooperative banks. Courage not just to look at what others are doing and say, “Great job. I’m with you,” but to start realizing our vision of a new economy right where we live. That’s what is happening with

the Davistown Commons in Maine (see p. 8), and at Hundredfold Farm in Gettysburg PA (see p. 6).

These locally-based initiatives cannot stand alone. We need a vision of how they can be woven together into the whole fabric of a bottom-up economy. That’s the idea behind community federalism (see p 3). We also need supportive infrastructure. That’s why the Mondragón worker cooperatives, begun 53 years ago, have been so successful. They include a university and the People’s Worker Bank, which provides financing for new cooperatives with contributions from workers and existing cooperatives.

This fabric must be woven into the understanding that nature itself has rights and that we must protect these rights in our communities. Corporations cannot be given dominion over the earth. We need the courage to take on court-conferred “settled law.” We must deny corporations the ability to appropriate Constitutional rights to deny us our rights and we must drive the rights of nature into the Constitution. This does not mean writing our Congressional delegation and asking them to pass a law to end corporate personhood. It means defying corporations and money power right in our community as has been done in Pennsylvania communities and now in New Hampshire and Maine where our Defending Water for Life campaign has been organizing.

Courage and defiance to create a new economy based on community and responsibility for the planet and the future, that’s the foundation for hope.

It’s time to establish a new set of virtues that will guide our lives and our decisions towards enduring happiness.

Mark Anielski, Page 2

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.

Aldo Leopold, Page 4

Without enormous pressure by the American financial services sector... there would have been perhaps no WTO.

David Hartridge, Page 5

Working together, we can decrease our dependence on non-renewable outside resources, which would increase our local food security and stimulate our local economy.

Maia Campoamor, Page 8

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