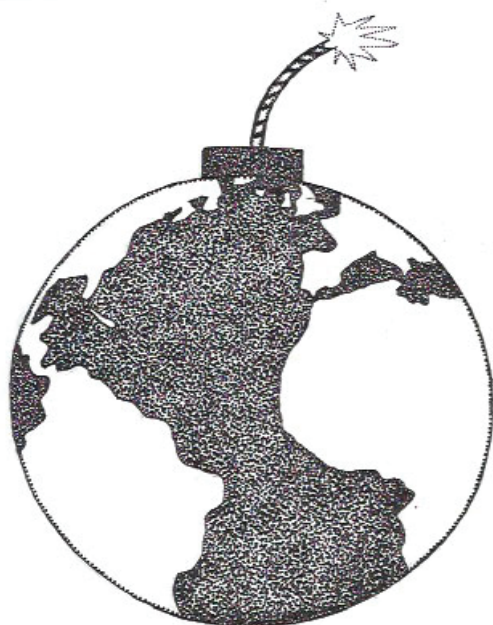


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March Against Monsanto

speech by Paul Cienfuegos

Paul Cienfuegos gave this speech at the March Against Monsanto rally on Saturday, May 25, 2013 in Portland, Oregon, to a crowd of about 6000 people (police estimate).

Hello there! Raise your hand high if you believe that we live in a democratic society. I didn't see too many hands!

James Madison, one of our so-called Founding Fathers, was the guy who drafted the US Constitution. Here's something he said about the purpose of government: "The primary purpose of government is to protect the opulent minority from the majority."

I'll read that James Madison quote again. "The primary purpose of government is to protect the opulent minority from the majority."

Madison and his buddies worked very hard to ensure that this country's government would serve a small elite. Their plan for the rest of us was to keep us far away from being allowed to exercise any kind of meaningful decision-making authority over our own lives.

Madison and his buddies worked very hard to ensure that this country's government would serve a small elite.

"We The People" was a phrase that sounded really good. The only problem was, it didn't include very many people. It didn't include women. It didn't include African people brought over as slaves. It didn't include Native people already living here. It didn't include men without sufficient property. In other words, it didn't include about 95% of the human beings who were here.

We talk today about the 99% vs the 1%. But most people don't realize that this is how the system was **designed** to function. It's not something that happened recently.

The elite didn't have to work very hard to get what they wanted out of government because they **ran** the government. The elite didn't have to plead with business leaders to get big business to listen to their needs because they **were** the business leaders.

Activists today talk a lot about how large corporations have **captured** the regulatory agencies, have **captured** government. The only problem with this analysis is—it's wrong! The people who run large corporations like Monsanto and Exxon and Halliburton and Burlington Northern—these folks run the regulatory agencies, and they always have. Corporate leaders were there at the table from the very, very beginning.

So if you're an anti-GMO activist, or an anti-RBGH activist or an anti-factory farms activist, or a pro-raw milk activist, I'm here to tell you: the regulatory agencies that make decisions day in and day out about what kinds of agriculture we're going to have in this country—regulatory agencies like the US Dept of Agriculture, the USDA, or the Food and Drug Administration, the FDA— (cont. p. 11)

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