

The Corporation
11th and final in a series
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The mere form of government cannot, of itself, safe guard a nation from becoming despotic and totalitarian. More often than not government is in cahoots with the corporations for the profit and gain of leadership.

One of the Marine Corps most highly decorated generals of the time (1920's and 1930's), was General Smedley Darlington Butler. By Butler's own account, he help pacify Mexico for American Oil Companies, Haiti & Cuba for National CitiBank, Nicaragua for Brown Brothers Brokerage, the Dominican Republic for *Sugar Interests*, Honduras for United States food companies and China for Standard Oil.

General Butler's services were also in demand in the United States during the 1930's depression. This was a time when President Franklin Roosevelt was attempting to relieve the financial hardships created by "Great Depression" through public-works-projects and tougher regulation on Corporations, which put much of the corporate elite in opposition to Roosevelt.

In 1934, corporate conspirators, who had solicited General Butler's help in many countries now sought to involve General Butler in a treasonous plan. The plan was to form an organization of former veterans to use as a threat to the government. But the corporate elite picked the wrong man. Butler, in his own words, was "*fed up with being a gangster for capitalism.*"

"I appeared before the congressional committee, the highest representation of the American people, under subpoena, to tell of what I knew about activities **which I believe might lead to an attempt to set up a fascist dictatorship.** The upshot of the whole thing was that I was to lead an organization of 500,000 men, which would be able to take over the functions of government."
– Testimony of General Butler before a Congressional Committee.

The investigating congressional committee found evidence of a plot to overthrow President Roosevelt, a treason. Did the Department of Justice knock itself out to pursue and prosecute the corporate culprits? According to Butler, the conspiracy included representatives of some of American's top corporations, including J. P. Morgan, DuPont & Goodyear Tire. NO, the DOJ did not pursue prosecution for treason. It's good to be a powerful and influential corporation.

As the Chief Executive Officers of today's multinational corporations know, it is no longer necessary for corporations to plan and implement a coup in order to dominate government, because today's corporations have become global or multinational. Government(s) no longer has control of the giant corporations. This is currently the case here in the United States, created and fostered by our leadership who receive megabuck campaign contributions from the corporations, and this does not cover the under the table contributions.

Although I'm not a big Michael Moore fan, he makes a good point. The point Michael makes, is that we Americans contribute to the destruction of our society. For example, if I were an assembler of automobiles for Ford, how much damage to this world's ecology will take place by virtue of the automobiles I have helped assemble? Are we willing or able to see our individual participation in our world's destruction?

Another example might be the manufacture and use of genetically modified seeds which grow vegetables with sterile seeds that will not produce another crop. In this we are participating in the destruction of our own food supply.

If we do not like what a corporation is doing, we can stop buying products from that corporation, from its subsidiaries, and/or from its parent. But the problem is that most of us are not willing to take a look at the suffering and damage corporations cause, supported by our purchases. If we have the inclination and time to look, how many of us actually care about anyone other than our self? And if we do not, then are we any different than the corporations that prey upon us and our children?

We started this series with a historical view in which we saw corporations obtain "person" status in the courts. Licking and Porter townships in Pennsylvania made history by adopting ordinances that eliminate a corporation's ability to claim constitutional rights as a "person." Here in our county, where is our local leadership on this matter? Whose interest is represented by our local county and city officials?

The "Third World" is not the pirate, the corporations are the pirate. In India there are laws, as there now are in many countries, that prohibit the saving of the seeds of common vegetables, what we know as organic or legacy seeds. However, in India, any such law preventing the saving of seed for next-years crop is not heeded nor followed by its population. It is the belief that saving organic seed (not genetically modified) is a duty to the earth and I believe the same. In India, saving seeds has become a *survival option* if not necessity. Farmers who save their own seed for growing their crops and do not buy pesticides, have 3 fold more incomes than farmers who are locked into the *Genetically Modified Seed / Chemical Treadmill*. If only genetically modified seeds are available here in the United States, does our family's chance of survival increase or decrease?

Monsanto has even brought civil suits against farmers whose crops have become cross pollinated with Monsanto's genetically modified seed. The court found in favor of Monsanto and the farmer had to destroy all of his organic seeds. Yet, in truth, it was the farmer whose natural and organic seed was injured by cross-pollination with Monsanto's un-natural genetically modified seed. Makes me wonder why the attorney for the farmers could not see that and make the case.

The bottom line to corporate production is that there is hardly one who produces a product that is sustainable. Thus, the first *industrial revolution* is not sustainable. The idea here is **to do no harm** to either the environment, or to people.

The corporation, both private and government, believes that it has nothing to fear. They believe

our minds have been numbed by entertainment and media brainwashing (psychological profiling). It is believed that we have been “dumbed down” so effectively that we have no capacity to understand. I believe the opposite. I believe that we have the capacity and ability to both see, and fix the problem, and develop business that does not leave a foot print (sustainability).

Corporations are not always bad or uncaring. It all depends upon the character and moral substance of the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Directors. Locally, Orland Sand & Gravel comes to mind.