

Fighting Oppression in the Food System

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“We all believe in good food ...”

Healthy food

Support for food workers

Support for consumers

Slow food

Food access

Organic food

Local food

Food justice

Support for farmers

**If we do not believe oppression is the problem,
fighting oppression will not be our solution.**

**If we do not understand what oppression is,
we will not know how fight it.**

	<i>Corporate Food Regime</i>		<i>Food Movements</i>	
Politics	Neoliberal	Reformist	Progressive	Radical
Discourse	Food enterprise	Food security	Food justice	Food sovereignty
Main Institutions	International Finance Corporation (World Bank); IMF, WTO: USDA (Vilsak); Global Food Security Bill; Green Revolution; Millennium Challenge; Heritage Foundation; Chicago Global Council; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Feed the Future (USAID)	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank); FAO; UN Commission on Sustainable Development; USDA (Merrigan); mainstream fair trade; some Slow Food Chapters; some Food Policy Councils; most food banks & food aid Programs	Alternative fair trade and many Slow Food chapters; many organizations in the Community Food Security Movement; CSAs; many Food Policy Councils and youth food and justice movements; many farmworker and labor organizations	Via Campesina, International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty; Global March for Women; many food justice and rights-based movements
Orientation	Corporate	Development	Empowerment	Entitlement
Model	Overproduction; corporate concentration; unregulated markets and monopolies; Monocultures (including organic); GMOs; agrofuels; mass global consumption of industrial food; phasing out of peasant and family agriculture and local Retail	Mainstreaming/certification of niche markets (e.g. organic, fair, local, sustainable); maintaining northern agricultural subsidies; “sustainable” roundtables for agrofuels, soy, forest products, etc.; market-led land reform	Agroecologically produced local food; investment in underserved communities; new business models and community benefit packages for production, processing, and retail; better wages for agriculture workers; solidarity economies; land & food access	Dismantle corporate agrifoods monopoly power; parity; redistributive land reform; community rights to water and seed; regionally based food systems; democratization of food systems; sustainable livelihoods; protection from dumping/ overproduction; revival of agroecologically managed peasant agriculture to distribute wealth and cool the planet; regulated markets and supply

Food Sovereignty

from Via Campesina:

<http://www.viacampesina.org>

- Food as a human right
- Indigenous ownership/control of land
- Protecting natural resources
- Fair trade focused on local needs first
- Ending globalization of hunger through multinational policy
- Social peace; freedom from violence, displacement, poverty
- Democratic control

from IPC for Food Sovereignty:

<http://www.foodsovereignty.org>

Food sovereignty ...

- Focuses on food for people
- Values food providers
- Localizes food systems
- Puts control locally
- Builds local skills/knowledge
- Works with nature

The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

Oppression in the Food System

- Failure to acknowledge the human right to food and water
- Restricted access – not only to the products of the food system, but also to the means of production (land, water, labor, capital) and to control and decision-making about those means
- Imposition/denial of cultural systems and norms
- Assumption of diminished capacity/lesser right to exercise power and make decisions

Oppression in the Food System

“The true focus of revolutionary change is never merely the oppressive situations which we seek to escape, but that piece of the oppressor which is planted deep within each of us.”

Audre Lord

Fighting Oppression

Transformed analysis



Transformed structure



Transformed relationships



SOLIDARITY:

Shared power, shared risk, shared reward, shared future

Resources

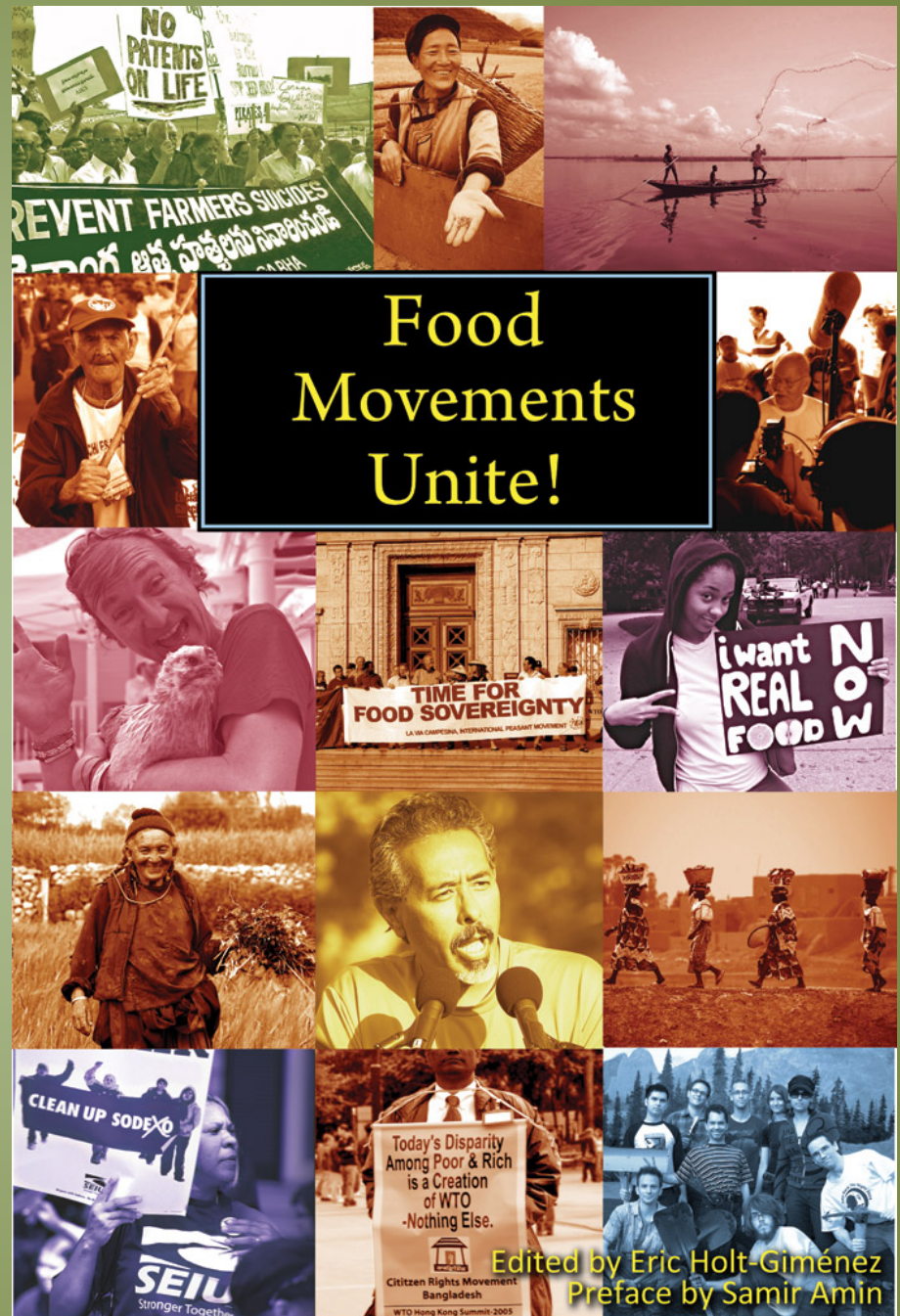
- **Food First:**
www.foodfirst.org
- **Grassroots International:**
www.grassrootsonline.org
- **International Planning Committee
for Food Sovereignty:**
www.foodsovereignty.org
- **La Via Campesina:**
www.viacampesina.org

Cultivating Food Justice

RACE, CLASS,
AND SUSTAINABILITY



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