

American ally of the late Lord Bertrand Russell. Russell, whom Lyndon LaRouche has called “the 20th Century’s most evil man,” was the international socialist who advocated the elimination of science and the systematic elimination of the darker-skinned races—when he wasn’t urging preventive nuclear war against Russia. Aspen is one of the leading Malthusian snake-pits in the world, peddling the idea of “food as a weapon.”

Brown is also a longtime Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) member; and board member of the top U.S. anti-China think-tank, the Institute for International Economics, founded by Lehman Brothers globalist Peter Peterson and run by C. Fred Bergsten.

By the mid-1990s, Brown was consistently, publicly lying that Chinese food consumption threatened the world’s food supplies—as in this 1996 speech reported by Reuters:

“‘China is becoming a huge sponge, buying almost everything—cotton, sugar, rice, corn and wheat,’ Brown said. . . .

“In 1990, China grew 329 million tons of grain and consumed 335 million tons, with the gap covered by net imports of 6 million tons, Brown said in a report.

“China is expected to add 490 million people to its population between 1990 and 2030, swelling it to 1.6 billion, he wrote. Brown projects that China’s grain demand will in-

crease to 479 million tons in 2030.”

These were falsehoods, for which the Chinese scientific establishment angrily took Brown on. China continued to be a net *exporter* of food to the rest of the world until 2007.

The young Brown’s infatuation with the ideas of Parson Thomas Malthus, the English anti-population propagandist (1766-1834), on the payroll of the British East India Company, was one of Brown’s qualifications for getting funded in 1974 to run the Worldwatch Institute, by the financial backers of the zero-growth, anti-population movement, most notably the Rockefellers.

In the foreword to his 1972 book, *Man and His Environment: Food*, co-authored with Gail Finsterbusch (New York: Harper and Row), Brown writes: “Thomas Malthus was probably the first to detect worldwide population pressure and to identify world population growth as a problem. When he published his essay on *The Principle of Population* in 1798, he defined the population problem primarily in terms of food supplies and the threat of famine. For almost 200 years men have perceived the population-food problem in these terms, asking, ‘Can we produce enough food to feed anticipated human numbers?’ . . . The relevant question is no longer, ‘Can we produce enough food?’ but ‘What are the environmental consequences of attempting to do so?’”

The idea of “Asian overeating” because, as Chancellor Merkel put it, many people in India now eat two meals a day and China’s population drinks milk, is imperial, genocidal lying, and Brown has been its spokesman for 30 years. The British/WTO policy of “feeding markets, not people” and starving agricultural scientific research, has brought on today’s famine threat.

—Paul Gallagher and Marcia Merry Baker

## Seedstocks: Cartels Gain Control of Means of Life

The current drive by global “free market” cartels to control the means of life through control of patented seedstocks goes back some 40 years. So today’s promising biotechnology and genetic engineering breakthroughs are being nipped in the bud by the imperial cartels, as pliant regulators and lawmakers codify that control. The World Trade Organization was spawned out of the 1994 Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to act as enforcer. The WTO’s website boasts that it is “the only global international body dealing with the rules of trade between nations.”

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The U.S. tradition, under natural law, has been to *not* patent plants or livestock. As part of that tradition, in the 1920s and 1930s, Henry A. Wallace, founder of Pioneer Hy Bred and FDR's first Secretary of Agriculture, for example, explicitly stated opposition to any form of patenting of seeds.

But in the post-war years, with the "free marketeers" chiseling away at the general welfare protections of the Roosevelt era, five conglomerates came to dominate world seedstocks: Cargill, Monsanto, Dow, Bayer, and Syngenta.

The first time any plants were given protection as intellectual property was under the 1930 Plant Patent Act (PPA). This act was designed to protect nurseries and breeders who produced mainly ornamental plants, such as asexually reproduced flowers, and some fruits. The Plant Patent Act did not offer the more strict protection of an industrial patent, but it did protect specific varieties that were created and claimed by the inventor, by restricting others from marketing his variety. The 1930 act specifically prohibited the patenting of any food crop plants, recognizing that these patents could threaten the food supply.

In 1970, the first version of the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) was introduced, which greatly expanded protection to all plants that were distinct and new. This was not a patent, but merely a certificate, which gave protection to specific varieties of crop seeds for the first time, for periods of up to 25 years. Under the PVPA of 1970, farmers and breeders could save and replant protected seed, resell it, and carry out research using it.

In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court made a landmark decision in *Diamond v. Chakrabarty*, ruling that living organisms could be patented. The decision allowed the patenting of genetically engineered microbes, which opened the door to the patenting of any life form.

In 1985, the U.S. Patent Office ruled that plants could now be protected under the powerful industrial patent. The industrial patent does not have any exemptions for farmers or for research, so any use of a patented plant or seed without specific license from the patent holder would be considered violation of the patent. This patent decision is the basis for the new weapon to control agricultural production and research that the cartels have pushed to the limit.

In 1994, the PVPA was amended in accordance with the regulations under the GATT. The changes to the act made it illegal for farmers to resell or exchange any seed of protected crops. The GATT agreement also forces the developing nations to recognize the patents and protections on plants and living organisms held by other GATT member countries. This allows the cartels to deny developing countries' farmers access to advanced biotechnology, and instead forces them to pay huge licensing fees to use any patented seeds.

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## Bangladesh

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# Millions Are in Fight for Food

by Ramtanu Maitra

On April 12, about 20,000 garment workers in Bangladesh's capital city of Dhaka, fought pitched battles with the police, protesting against the jacked-up price of rice that has led to starvation diets for millions. Three days later, at least 15,000 Bangladesh garment factory workers went on strike to call for higher wages, as food prices in the impoverished nation soared.

What is happening in this 145-million person nation in South Asia is perhaps the first phase of a world food crisis brought about by the irresponsible, if not downright genocidal, policies formulated through the World Trade Organization and that "mother of all economic miracles"—globalization.

The present Bangladesh food crisis was exacerbated by Cyclone Sidr, which swept across the country last December, destroying 418,000 hectares of the rice crop. Official estimates claim the cyclone destroyed as much as 800,000 metric tonnes of rice. This is on top of another 600,000 metric tonnes destroyed by the floods of last Summer's monsoon. The overall shortfall in food products caused by these two calamities was close to 3.0 million metric tonnes for the year.

Bangladesh was forced to cover the shortfall on the world market, buying most of it from the cartels at high prices. Because of the WTO regulations—which should be summarily set aside by the Bangladeshi authorities—these higher prices were passed on to the consumers. And because a very large section of Bangladeshi consumers is extremely poor, and cannot afford any amount of food price rise, a famine-like situation has developed in large parts of rural Bangladesh. The government is selling locally produced rice at a discount but cannot, under WTO rules, do the same with imported rice,

## Make Bangladesh Food Secure

There cannot be any question that meeting the food requirements of the population must remain the key objective of the government. This is particularly important for Bangladesh, where natural disasters, like floods and cyclones, visit the country with unflinching regularity, destroying significant amounts of the crops every year.

Over the years, Bangladesh, once described as perpetually short of food, had succeeded in producing almost all the food it needs. This highly vulnerable South Asian country—a net