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## Dutch Farmers and Fishermen: Local Heroes in the Global War on Our Food and Property Rights

**A** WAR AGAINST farmers and fishermen is playing out all over the world and notably in Europe. An unambiguous attack on local food systems and food sovereignty, it is also a war on property rights and independent income—with the endgame being to control all resources, including all human activity. This insightful report by Dutch journalist Elze van Hamelen—featuring interviews with Dutch farmers and fishermen as well as a photo-essay by photographer Hans de Vries and an introduction by Catherine Austin Fitts—analyzes events in the Netherlands as both a case study and cautionary tale.

Globalists have been working toward land consolidation and control of food and agriculture for quite some time, van Hamelen shows, including via the post-WWII propagation of a Rockefeller-financed industrial agriculture model that shifted farms from autonomy to dependency and debt. In the Netherlands, technocratic hostility toward independent farmers and fishermen has taken the form of a tsunami of burdensome regulations and surveillance that is driving smaller-scale producers out of business and generating numerous other negative consequences—including discouraging younger generations from becoming farmers and fishermen, promoting corporate (rather than local) food, diminishing food quality, and undermining food security and self-sufficiency. The policies, marketed as having environmental and sustainability benefits, reveal considerable regulatory hypocrisy; the devastating impacts on North Sea marine ecosystems from massive offshore wind projects and the intentional downsizing of reliable sources of energy are just two examples.

The report makes plain that what is happening in the Netherlands is a microcosm of the global “sustainable development” agenda. Decades of UN conferences and agreements have assiduously engineered a “stealth shift” toward global governance designed not only to weaken national sovereignty but also property rights—with broadly formulated “conservation,” “restoration,” and “rewilding” goals serving as window dressing. Already, 17% of the world’s land and 10% of marine areas are under UN “protection.” The threats

to freedom and individual rights are significant; as van Hamelen observes, property is the basis for independence and wealth-building. Policies promoting “sustainable,” “smart,” and “15-minute” cities illustrate that the push to control land and other natural resources is also about control over where and how people live. The accelerating urbanization and “smart city” trends of recent decades have come about through local implementation of global policies intended to redistribute populations and assets.

Van Hamelen explains that centralization of land ownership goes hand in hand with centralization of food production. While corporate agriculture floods the market with cheap products, small farmers end up in bankruptcy, allowing corporations and equity investors to pick up their land for pennies on the dollar; this creates a self-reinforcing feedback loop and barriers to entry for those wishing to farm. Organic, regenerative agriculture could solve many of the environmental problems that Dutch (and other) policymakers profess to care about, but the government seems set on driving farmers out of business and changing productive farmland into “protected” natural areas.

Fitts notes in her Introduction that Dutch farmers and fishermen initially had difficulty seeing that “the war on them was part of a bigger war—one intimately connected to the building of the control grid and control of our money and the economy.” They have since connected the dots and understand that this tyranny cannot be allowed to stand. Some of the greatest famines of the 20th century arose when centralized systems replaced privately owned land and food production. If we all take action, however, centralization is not a foregone conclusion. This report reminds us that there are many actions each of us can take that can make a difference.

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