

Oneness Vs. the 1%: Shattering Illusions, Seeding Freedom: A Special Interview With Dr. Vandana Shiva

By Dr. Joseph Mercola

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Welcome everyone, this is Dr. Mercola, helping you take control of your health. We have a treat for you today because we are joined by Dr. Vandana Shiva, who we actually tried to interview about five or six years ago, she reminded me. She's coming to us from India. So we had some technical challenges and now we've overcome them and we're going to be discussing some really intriguing information. One of them is about a book that she wrote which is called, I believe, "One and the-," what is it?

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

"Oneness Vs. the 1%."

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

"Oneness vs. the 1%." Yes. The book is actually a bit dated because it was written about two years ago, but she's updated it at the end, we're talking about COVID-19. I'm so, so excited because she isn't – if you don't know who she is, you should. She's an incredible combination of a brave pioneer for social justice, but she's got a Ph.D. in philosophy of physics and focusing in quantum theory and combines that with just this passion to really reconcile and correct some of the injustices that are being done, specifically with things like Monsanto, she's been really profoundly effective in the GMO (genetically modified organism) movement.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Especially in India where her efforts have helped curtail the mass amount of suicides that were present as a result of the GMO intrusion into India with the GMO cotton. That's a part of history now. Anyway, thank you so much for joining us and really excited-

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

-to join you Dr. Mercola.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

All right. First, before we start, is "Oneness Vs. the 1%." If we can start here because the 1% is commonly mistaken. But I think it's okay if it's used as a euphemism because clearly, if you look at the 1% of the wealth of the world, it's only about \$40,000. I'm sure you're not claiming that the average person in the U.S. is making more than \$40,000 for sure, as part of this problem. It's really probably the 0.0001%.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

The wealthy elite who is responsible for most of the messes that we're in. I'm just wondering if you could set that record straight for us.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

You're so right. It is about 0.0001%. The handful of billionaires who become super rich in the last 30 years of deregulation, it's really a short period. Most of them didn't exist before globalization, Jeff Bezos and Amazon did not exist. He's the richest man. Any thinking person should be thinking of what's the process that puts him in that place. Bill Gates, about whom the book is.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

I was at Paris for the climate summit and I've been doing this UN Summit since the Earth Summit in '92, I've been doing the Biodiversity Convention, drafting of clauses, including Article 19.1, which basically required biosafety and assessment of GMOs. So I was very surprised that for the first time, the billionaires were on the stage with the heads of state. Here, they were offering "solutions" to climate change, geoengineering mess up the total planet. If climate change is bad enough, now you engineer its temperature. You send the sunlight back, you put iron filings on the ocean, you create artificial volcanoes, you put chemicals in the sky to create weather modification and genetic engineering.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

That's how the book started. I made a decision to write this book in Paris. My young son, who is a wizard in researching this world of the 0.001% helped me a lot. That's why he's my co-author. So it just that 0.001% for the publisher, so let me come [inaudible 00:04:31] on the cover. She was asking me, "Give it to me in a tight sentence. Give it to me." Because I was explaining it in all the long language and at a certain point, I said, "But it's that 1% super-elite, greedy trillionaires now and the rest of humanity, the rest of creation in oneness." The "Oneness Vs. the 1%" is really a metaphor of that 0.0001%.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

I was assuming it was a metaphor and thank you for confirming that. It's interesting that a large portion of the book talks about the – we've had so many financial crises, but one of them was the 2008-2009 financial crisis that really catalyzed the beginning of much of this mess. It's interesting because it also catalyzed an innovation, which you don't talk about in the book, but I'm a big fan of recently. That was a technical innovation in the area of finances, which is developed by Satoshi Nakamoto who developed Bitcoin, which I think could really serve as a hedge for many people in the world against what appears to be inevitable.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

You did write a lot in the book about COVID-19, at the end. I think if we can focus on it now that we're, at least, full six months into this crazy, engineered pandemic that has really catalyzed the devastation and actually the transfer of wealth to the 1% is the metaphor.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

They've got the 643 richest people in the world saw a transfer of 30% increase in their wealth. Looking at it increasing from about \$2.9 trillion to \$3.8 trillion, nearly a trillion dollar increase because the U.S. [Mint] has printed trillions, \$5 trillion, probably going to \$7 trillion real soon. The majority of that did not go to help the average person. It literally went to these large

corporations and individuals who are sucking that wealth out and just increasing the wealth gap even more.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

The 2008 crisis was very, very clearly about deregulation of the financial economy. You remember it was about collateral, it was about taking securities, bundling up risk and then the system totally collapsed because it was really trading in fictions. But I've been working on the economy, because I started to work on the seed in 1987. The old companies whom I studied in my book "The Violence of the Green Revolution" now wanted to own and patent life. That's how my journey on GMO started.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

But they also wanted to change the trade laws. They wanted to own seed as their creation as if GMO meant, "Go on, move over." They wanted intellectual property treaty in the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). I heard this first from them in a 1987 meeting in [Bushay 00:07:55] and Geneva, the United Nations.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

That's when I decided, A, I would save seeds. B, I would keep track of what's the GATT and the WTO (World Trade Organization) and the Antiglobalization Movement grew out of that, and the International Forum on Globalization. We shut down WTO in Seattle, which shows the power of the people. We will not allow this lie of seed being Monsanto's invention.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

I worked with our parliament, I worked with our government to write laws, Article 3(d) of our Patents Act that says plants and animals and seeds are not inventions. This is what has prevented Monsanto from ripping off Indian farmers even more than they did. They've been taken to court now for the illegal collection of "technology fee," they call it.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Our plan for I. G. Act which says – I told my minister, I said, "They're lying to you that we have to get monopoly to the industrial seed system," because Indian farmers are breeders and they asked me to write this law, which says, "Farmers' right to save, exchange, breed, sell seed can never be taken away." This one clause stopped Pepsi last year when they get farmers to grow potato, and then they sell expensive chips, which ruins people's health. But off the 20 Rupee package, only four paisa was going to the farmer.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Then they sue the farmers for saving seed, 10 million Rupees for each farmer. When I saw this in the newspaper, I sent my book on intellectual property to the lawyers and the court. When they read there's an Article 39, when Pepsi woke up to this, they had to withdraw that case and stopped chasing farmers.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Basically what we have today is this transfer of wealth you're talking about, that I watched with Monsanto's behavior, is actually also Big Tech behavior. Do they produce anything? No. They only collect rents on digital platforms. They're rent collectors. I'm familiar with this because the British Empire transferred 45 trillion from peasants of India to the wealthy of England leaving the Indian peasants in famine, 60 million people died during the British rule. Man-made famine. It was a rent collection. It was called "lagan" in our language.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

I saw the seed issue with Monsanto. I said, "Here they are collecting rents from seed, which they didn't make. Then we won't let them own it." In effect, whether it's the Amazons or it's the Gates, they're basically rent collectors. What they've done with this pandemic is literally create a coercive economy, which depends on them and their rent collection.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

I fought Walmart and kept them out of retail. We said, "We're going to have retail democracy." India is just full of people in every corner, sending something, it's such a beautiful country in terms of the tiny farmer, the tiny retailer, our bazaars, our haats. That's where India's color comes from. That's where India's livelihoods come from. We managed to mobilize to say, "No, Walmart cannot destroy our retail," but the COVID, the engineered crisis of lockdown made Amazon explode its power.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Because protests are illegal in this police state, with the COVID, we couldn't mobilize the way we had on Walmart. Even grocery, because they send emails. They want to be our grocery suppliers. I spent my last 35 years working with farmers to have control over their production, over their distribution. Our farmers earns 10 times more than the commodity farmers. We're [inaudible 00:11:57] to be on new agriculture laws, very much of the U.S. kind, which would absolutely devastate 60% of India, but pushing them back into the famine days.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

These are rent collectors, and I think this exorbitant rent collection – I was just reading a paper that the super wealthy in the U.S. have transferred 50 trillion to themselves. Forty-five trillion was the British Raj for India from the 99% of the United States. One is in the relief, then people are not getting money. But worse, they're extracting while they rob you of your job, they're still extracting you for that forced software program on digital payments, for software program on pushing kids out of school into digital education.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Poor Indian children, whose parents are so poor, that they could afford a universal education, now cannot afford education because their parents have no smartphones. So we are seeing an engineered imposition of an economy. As you know, Dr. Mercola, health comes strong, the evolution of a self-healing, self-organized system. A healthy economy grows as an evolution with choices, with justice, with equity.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

This imposition, it has to be such a dishonest and such a scared bunch of trillionaires that they have to hide behind the tiny virus to get their gain. True economies would say, "Here is what I bring and is my digital better than your cash? Choose it. Is my forced vaccination better than your immunity? Make your choice." The minute choice is removed from people's life, democracies stop. When the choice is removed from our conditions of being, our conditions of living, then life is threatened.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Yes, indeed. So much to unpack there. Thank you for sharing that. Just particularly curious that you mentioned the transfer of 60 trillion to these wealthy elite. Over what timeframe was that in the U.S.?

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

30 years. It's the globalization period. It's because what is globalization but deregulation of commerce? It is knocking down every law that was put in place by democratic societies for the protection of the environment, the protection of health, the right to education, the rights of workers. Now that's what's being targeted.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

In India, they just knocked down all labor laws, they're trying to knock down all Farmers' Rights act and they're trying to knock down all of the environmental laws. So again, this deregulation is what makes this wealth transfer happen. The narrative, and this is where I really hope the justice movements that are marching on the streets in the United States on Black Lives Matter, justice matters, they need to wake up to the fact that the narrative of what is called the "Steve Bannon alt-right" is pulled down all the securities that were put in place to democracy. All the laws that were put in place to protect society, justice and the Earth, and treat them as robbing people of freedom.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

People thrown as, really, a feed for the trillionaires, that is people's freedom. People's freedom to destroyed, to die of hunger, to have no job, to give so much to the insurance companies and Big Pharma. This illusion of freedom, that is the construct of the deregulation of our times, we need to start celebrating regulation that is, self-organizing our body. Every cell is self-organized and it needs a membrane.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

If our body didn't have its skin, can you imagine what we'd be? If a community doesn't have its democracy with accountable mayors and accountable local government, the city cannot govern itself. Then a country, sadly [inaudible 00:16:18] that nations are recent, but whatever it is, after the wars for 30 years, we put in place democratic systems because the skin of sovereignty and democracy. That skin is being ripped apart. That's where the trillionaires are.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

You've been studying this for a long time and it's-

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Long time.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

-the implications are quite profound. I'm sure you have an impression or a suspicion of what their ultimate end game is, because this is not getting any better. I don't see any rays of hope on the horizon. I'm wondering what you think is going to happen in the near and perhaps midterm future as this continual transfer of wealth to these tiny few persists. What do you perceive as the ultimate endgame?

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

One of the other things that I've written about in the book, "Oneness Vs. the 1%," is all of them, Facebook collects rents. He turns your minds into raw material. We are the new raw material for the tech barons. But Bill Gates is particularly vicious because through the Gates Foundation, he pretends to be doing philanthropy. But with every philanthropy of his, he's carving out a new colony from which he'll collect new rents and have new investments. That's why no matter how much he gives, he gets richer and richer and richer. A genuine giver would be poorer, poorer, and poorer.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

In the book, I've analyzed how, without him, there would be no commercial gene editing, which is the new GMO. He created a company called Editas Medicine to facilitate the patenting of these new GMOs, geoengineering, climate-resilient crops. Everywhere where he thinks he can make money, he gives a little bit of money for vaccines, he gives a little money for biofortification, he's even writing a contract with our government to be the advisor to India, with its rich Ayurveda, and its rich [inaudible 00:18:35] traditions of eating. He will do biofortification to solve the nutrition problem. He is particularly vicious.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Where do they want to take this? The first thing is, of course, they want to use their money-making tools to make more money. So it is a dictatorship of the technology balance. That's why people should be paying a lot more attention to the violent imposition of digitalization. A lot of my friends, who never studied the roots of these violent systems, who never understood that agrichemicals came from Hitler's concentration camps, and the agrichemical industry is the poison cartel responsible for the genocide. They're continuing that genocide.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

When you don't realize the technologies as tools of domination and exploitation are not neutral, a lot of progressives think, "More digitalization, more democracy." How can a surveillance economy be an enlargement of your freedom? You have to have the systems in place, the regulations in place, the choices in place to be able to make these technologies a servant and not your master.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

One is just make money out of forced digitalization. Amazon makes so much money by false digitalization of this distribution using the crisis and shutdown of local shops and local groceries. Like he did with the books and the publishers, but he's doing that to our daily bread today. The way he destroyed bookstores and the way he destroyed books, is the way he's trying to destroy now the food system. He's grabbing it so fast, which is why he bought Whole Foods.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

But the second is a new merger. When I started to work on Monsanto in '87, I realized the chemical industry was merging with the new emerging biotech industry. They were calling themselves the life sciences industry. So the second intention is a new merger of the old agricultural industries, the buyers, the Monsanto's merge into Bayer, the tech barons with their digital tools, and the financial world.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Again, one more thing that's so important, Dr. Mercola, is in these three decades of deregulation and globalization, the billionaires became so wealthy that they created new asset funds. People put their money in banks. These guys created asset funds. These asset funds are controlling the world's economy. That's the second part of my book, "Oneness Vs. the 1%."

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

When I realized the corporations don't own themselves anymore, even the corporations are owned by the billionaires, the same BlackRocks, the same Vanguards control every big companies, Coca-Cola to McDonald's, to Bayer and Monsanto. Look at anything in the world, it's the billionaire money and their asset management funds.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Last year, BlackRock increased its wealth from \$1 trillion to \$7 trillion, which means the billionaires increased their wealth. During the lockdown, they invaded even more deeply into the Amazon and became richer. So these investment asset management funds are the billionaire wealth and it is increasing. So that is merging with information technology and the tech barons, and it's merging with biotechnology and the chemical industry.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

That's why they're talking about digitalization of agriculture, farming without farmers and worse, food without food. One of the big pushes of Gates and Silicon Valley is into fake food. This has to be one of our big movements in the future, GMO soya into Impossible Burger. This thing, this is saving the planet and your health, GMOs is going to save your health and Roundup-ready GMO which is wiping our plants and it's wiping out the Monarch butterfly, is going to protect the planet.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

The final issue is to me the justice issue. Because when India was locked down on March the 24th, [inaudible 00:23:00] 8:00 PM, the prime minister [inaudible 00:23:02], everything shut down. Farmers who had been pushed out of their farms over the decade of deregulation, now started to trek back with their little bit of belonging on their heads, walking miles, miles, and

miles. A young girl died one hour before she reached home. Five workers lying on a railway track were run over, because the trains weren't running. Then a mail train ran over them.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

This was the story all the time, every day. My mind kept saying, "We used to rise as countries and democracies to remove the pain of the last person." Gandhi left us with a talisman, that "If you're in doubt, bring the face of the most vulnerable person to your mind's eye and do what is good for them. If you think it will harm them more, don't do it. If you think it will benefit them, take the right step."

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Now, this last person's talisman is, today, showing me that they want to get rid of the last person they've created and very brilliantly created a class of throwaway people, as I've written in my epilogue. Otherwise, how can they allow millions to lose their work? I think it's 40 million in the United States. It's 20 million salaried people for the middle-class who've lost their jobs in India. How can they allow the fact that, as the World Food Program says, that off the billion who are already hungry, every year, the system will add 250 million more? If this continues, the UN has predicted that 300,000 will die daily on starvation.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

These are not us giving these figures, these are UN agencies. But how come there's only one agency, the WHO, which was attacked by Monsanto for being wrong on cancer? ILO is speaking, the UN World Food Programme is speaking, the refugee agency is speaking, none of them are being listened to. That pain that is not being addressed by governments or the international system, tells me that they deliberately want to get rid of large parts of humanity. First through hunger, then through sickness.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

I think like I thought when I made my Einstein, with a whole picture in mind, they want a digital economy, they want a sick economy. Otherwise, you wouldn't be spending all your time on Big Pharma, you'd spend your time making sure that the small farmer doesn't get destroyed.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

The third is, I used to come to the United States, Dr. Mercola, when there was not a single person on the streets. I have watched the street people grow as the people's economy was dismantled. Now, this throwaway class of people is increasing in the millions and Zuckerberg wrote and said, "We won't need 99% of humanity. Between artificial intelligence and robotics, we won't need 99%. But then they could create trouble. So we should give them smartphones to play games on, which we also make money out of them and we make the governments keep their minimum incomes."

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

These are the three aspects, more control, more concentration. One of my commitments has been to look at power from the lens of the Earth, the lens of women and patriarchal domination, and eco-feminism. I realized every wave of the new patriarchal capitalism and capitalist patriarchy

destroys that which supports it. But because the arrogance of power is so deep, they don't realize they support it. They think it supports them. They support it.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

The Bill Gates, the Zuckerbergs, the Amazon's Jeff Bezos, and all are strutting around the world thinking they support the world, but they're destroying everything that made their wealth possible. Just like I've seen ecosystems collapse, I've seen local economies collapse, on a planetary scale, we are seeing these irresponsible, greedy, indifferent callous men bring the world, and especially humanity, to a brink. That's why we have to act and find creative ways.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Yes, indeed. I couldn't agree more. I think the homeless population is going to radically increase even from what it is today, because largely, as a result of the pandemic, they have put moratoriums on evictions and collecting rent. But there is a backlog there. We are going to have this tsunami of homeless people in probably in a few months, because they're already [up] in our ears. It's not being enforced and it's already bad now, but it's just going to explode. It's just beyond sad. They've just abandoned these individuals and essentially created a two-class system. The middle-class is nearly abolished.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Yeah, earlier, it used to be the rich and the poor, and in the middle, a middle class. What these three decades proceeding and just like the COVID doesn't kill you, it's the comorbidities. The comorbidities of the society and economy are the inequality that was clearly created by deregulation and money-making and globalization, but its basic consequence, really, is destroying the very fabric of society. There will be no societies.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Industrialism and colonialism destroyed the fabric of us being part of the Earth. That's why we have an ecological crisis that's built up now, 500 years of colonialism, 400 years of industrialism, but the pandemic and the 30 years of deregulation is bringing back colonialism and also making it the way of governance in the First World, homes of the colonizers, in the U.S., in the Europe.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Europe is a little better because its welfare system has been kept a little protected and this dismantling of protection has been worse in the United States. Because India follows so closely everything wrong that the U.S. does, India has had very brutal growth of the economy. But we are not just seeing the growth of inequality, we are seeing an end of society.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

For me, society is about oneness. Above realizing that you're part of [inaudible 00:30:21], you're a part of a culture, you're part of a country, you're part of the humanity, and [inaudible 00:30:26]. Every day, the level of brutal violence against women that's increased in India in the last 14 days, that is unbelievable.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

People worry a lot about all the end of nature. I think long before nature will be destroyed, humanity could destroy itself, not because they chose to, but because this 0.001%, they are criminals. Dr. Mercola, I used to say, "Monsanto is a criminal." We held a Monsanto tribunal that they have engaged in crimes against nature and crimes against humanity. They were tried as IG Farben. Only the German side was, but the American partners were very much responsible. The American partners then continued that model. What this 0.001% is doing right now is ecocide and genocide.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Yes, indeed. So thank you for sharing that. I wanted to go back a little bit and review your comments on Gates. Interestingly, how he implemented a very clever strategy, which he patent after Rockefeller. He essentially seeks to appear as a philanthropist, but when indeed he cleverly took advantage of U.S. tax law and had created a few corporations and foundations. One of his foundations donates to a trust and the trust actually makes the donations and those donations directly benefit him personally. So that's how it's possible with tax benefits.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

He gets this enormous tax deduction and then he benefits from the investment. That's why he can donate tens of billions and increase his wealth by 50% or 100%. But it's interesting that in your book, as mentioned, you've patterned himself after Rockefeller, who really is a big catalyst in this whole mess. I'm a big fan of molecular biology. I did not realize until reading your book, that in 1938, it was the Rockefeller Foundation who really coined the term molecular biology and was responsible for catalyzing, [inaudible 00:32:47]. That blew my mind. I had no idea that was the case.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Then you go on to point out how this very foundation was largely responsible for funding a large percentage of the sciences that actually won Nobel Prizes. So they've captured the intellectual scientific elite so they can, I guess, utilize them for implementation of their agendas.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

The Rockefeller Association actually goes back to the time, as Standard Oil, before the company was broken up. Standard oil and IG Farben had a partnership, I've written about it in the book, "Oneness Vs. the 1%." Then to clean up the image, they create the Rockefeller Foundation. The Rockefeller Foundation imposed chemical agriculture in the name of the Green Revolution on India in '66. They had thought it through.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

They were financing the research of Norman Borlaug. They got him a Nobel Prize. On the molecular biology, they defined the field and then marginalized the rest of biology. Same thing is happening today on the health dimension. After all, we have so many specializations in health, we have so many approaches to help. I'm so proud to come from India with Ayurveda, and agroecology and yoga. Ayurveda has a lot to say. But even our top Ayurvedic place, when they came out, they were hounded out. They could not sell their immunity products.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Gates is not just making money out of this very manipulative philanthropy. I do feel some good civil rights lawyers who care about human rights should challenge the slow to create accountability. But Gates is the one I have a chapter in the book, I've called it Digital Dictatorship. 2015 was when I saw him try and control the climate debate. Then in 2016, he flew into India three days after our cash was banned and digital transactions became compulsory.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

We are more digitalized than the United States. You can still write checks here. 90% of the poor people lost their savings, their incomes; the small economy just evaporated. I did a little homework, who gains? That same software program. Same way on midnight, a national tax system destroying our regional decentralized collections. Who gave the software programs done before the announcement of GSP? Microsoft.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

This digital agriculture they're talking about, Gates has taken over the entire world's research system in agriculture. At that time, it used to be Rockefeller and Gates worked with Rockefeller for the Alliance for the Green Revolution in Africa. That's where he learned the rhetoric on the agriculture thing. He's taken over the entire agricultural research, he's trying to take over the seeds, but that's something we will not to let him take over.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

His style is more devious than anyone else's. He doesn't have a vocabulary of more than 10 words. I feel sad for him because he obviously, doesn't have any imagination. He does know how to make money, but they're very linear way, but he doesn't know what's humanity. He doesn't even know what being human is. He definitely doesn't know what being alive is. He doesn't know what being part of the Earth is because he and now Google-

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

-This is another thing we need to be all looking out for. All of these tech barons, who've taken over the economy, hiding behind the virus, are all jumping into life sciences like Rockefeller jumped into life sciences with molecular biology. When Google has a new life sciences division and they call it Verily, or something like that. When they were asked why, and this is about the truth, and this will be the final defeat of Mother Nature at the time of the world is waking up to the rules of nature and healthy bodies, healthy ecosystem, an healthy eco planet, at that point, they're still carrying on the colonial [inaudible 00:37:45] of defeating Mother Nature.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

I'm curious, I didn't realize that maybe it just passed me. But you stated that this year they implemented digitalization of the financial economy so that you can't write checks anymore in India?

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Yeah. So 2016, the bigger cash was made illegal. They were no more legal tender. If I'm earning 10 Rupees-

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Legalized-

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

-I save it in a file. So that was 2016. Now, I can't go to my bank and get my own bank records. I can only do it digitally. I'm still waiting for the bank to send me my cards and all, because I don't believe in that world. I believe in people and I don't believe too much in money depends. Basically, they keep talking faceless, faceless, faceless, which, in effect, means no accountability. It means no community.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Dr. Mercola, if you've read the book by Shoshana Zuboff on Surveillance-

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Sure, I did. Yeah, "Surveillance Capitalism." Excellent book-

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

-and that integrated system which has simultaneously an economy, an extractive economy, where we are, the mind, which is simultaneously a surveillance system, and which is simultaneously a surveillance state system because they get everything through the state. Look at the amount of government support into the vaccine development, look at the mound of money the government supports. Our government weren't willing to build schools, but our governments are willing to spend money on laying cables to the last village.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

I think these new subsidies that are coming is something we also need to be looking at. This is a reverse tax, tax on the people where the billionaires were extracting from us are also extracting our share of public money and diverging it from necessary use to their subsidies to create the infrastructure that will make their digital empire.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

The United States is leading this dash to collapse by endless printing, which they can easily do in the digital age. So it seems like it's mathematically inevitable there will be some collapse, which makes the recent meetings at the World Economic Forum had about the Great Economic Reset coming, that they're going to basically reset the whole system and with more digital currency and I'm not sure what.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

I'm wondering what your thoughts are, because I'm sure you've seen it. They are planning this. This is not coming out of left field. As you mentioned earlier, this has been an engineered pandemic that essentially allows them to implement their long-planned strategies. You can see

by event to a one which preceded the pandemic by 10 weeks. This does not come out of left field. This was planned. What do you think their plan is with this Great Economic Reset that the World Economic Forum talks about?

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Well, just looking very closely, the Great Economic Reset is basically a further reset of our mental framework. If the Industrial Revolution reset our thinking to say, "Nature is dead, she's not living." Masculine birth of time, they can burn the witches who are learned women and healers, that reset created the foundation for the ecological destruction and the fragmentation of society.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

This reset is, "Talk the language of nature, nature-based solutions and continue to rip off nature. But now, shut down people's economies, shut down the fishermen, shut down the farmer, shut down the tribal and the indigenous person and create a mega-empire pretending you're protecting nature." Gates is very central to this because as I said, in 2015, I've watched him in the Paris Summit, pretending he was going to protect nature, but actually laying out recipes of new destruction.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

So the Great Reset is really about recolonizing nature in more sophisticated ways by appropriating the language. I wrote a book before Copenhagen, before the Climate Summit called, "Soil Not Oil." Till then the soil was neglected, agriculture was neglected. After that, the movements of regeneration, the movements of the Earth has capacity to recycle, we have the capacity to recycle, and that we can heal the broken carbon and nitrogen cycle and actually repair these systems. We know that now, but they're refusing.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

For us, it is regenerate the health, regenerate the economy, regenerate soil, regenerate biodiversity, regenerate farmers and regenerate rural systems. What is this reset for them? Take agriculture out of the hand of the small farmers. Now, measure the carbon and reduce the regeneration language to turning carbon in the soil in the new commodity and trade in this.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

I've had debates on this with many fellow travelers, and I'll give you just two examples. There's the attack, like in the U.S., they attacked organic and then regeneration group. In India, they attacked and are still attacking organic and created something called the Zero-Budget Natural Farming. The man, who they say is the founder, basically uses three ancient techniques of cow manure, which we use, everyone uses in India.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

But he goes further and says, "Organic is more dangerous than an atom bomb." Then he goes on to say, "GMOs are part of natural." Of course, Gates says the same that, gene editing is natural and can't be detected. So it must not be treated as a GMO. What they're basically now doing is BlackRock, BNP Paribas, giving big loans to the state, which then gives fat loans to the farmer.

Meantime, Gates is mining farm data. He's getting people placed in the homes of farmers to mine data. Then they'll create the algorithms to sell that data back.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

But all of this is now being reduced to carbon in the soil, "You'll get 0% for what you grow, you can get no needs of yours met through food and fodder, but we will allow you to trade in the global market on the carbon in your soil," and that's what will keep you alive. This whole financialization of nature is one aspect.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

The second aspect is the Great Reset is redo the economy to make it look like those who are now disposable, throwaway people deserved it. They created the language of competition. Again, it comes to my mind, when they brought globalization to South Asia, I remember Benazir Bhutto was the prime minister and structural adjustment was being imposed on India, Pakistan.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

She said something at a conference of judges. She said, "We are not able to make choices of our economy because on that, we are tied to the global system. The thing our court should now do is make people who suffer under these new structural adjustments feel that they deserve that pain. They brought it on themselves because you weren't competitive in that one, you weren't meritorious enough, you weren't greedy enough." So they changed the economic system.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Here is where I believe Shoshana Zuboff's behavioral science issue, manipulate our thinking about ourselves. This manipulating the thinking about ourselves is creating a whole redefinition of humanity. This is where in my epilogue I had just received at that time, the patent, which was Microsoft. It had been granted to Microsoft in America. This was a world application. It's an application now in the world patent office, WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) office. It's fascinating.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Because it basically reduces human beings to users, our bodily activity, our brain activity tapped in various ways. Everyone wants to have smartware these days. I should call it spyware. That data goes through algorithms, [inaudible 00:47:28] write, according to themselves. Those algorithms will decide what we are worth. Then Bitcoins will be allocated to us.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

But every child born is born worthy. Every member of society has equal human rights. So they're undoing everything we've put in place on humanity, on human rights, on democracy. This is where we need to be alert. I think the whole issue of the pandemic and the lockdown was useful for them for two reasons. One, they could get everyone afraid. Second, they could get everyone distracted while they took over the economy, they took over our minds, they basically transferred all the remaining wealth to themselves.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

In India, I'm watching. I'm going through it. Every one of us has lost our normal activity. Travel, not allowed. Everything shut down. What are people going to do? Their properties will be taken. In the villages they're saying, "We'll give you loans against your land." I'm telling our farmers, "Don't take loans. The Earth is so generous. Just work with her. Do organic farming, have your seeds. You don't need a loan in agriculture because if you take the loan, your land will go."

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Then Bt cotton, the farmers lost their lives with suicide. We have absolutely no idea what the cost of this engineered lockdown will be. We need to be awake. That's why we need to be looking at the 0.001% and the virus. Viruses sort themselves out, we are viruses. We are more viral than bio, than human cells. You know this better than anyone else.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

I don't think we should make that virus image that comes on TV, every program, every CNN, every BBC which is controlled now. Now, we know, like Bill Gates. Let's start looking at democracy, economy, humanity and start thinking about it and start thinking who's taking it away from us, and defended fiercely as every previous freedom movement, whether it was against slavery or it was against colonization. You have to protect that which you treasure. Freedom and life are what's being taken right now. I started on 2nd of October, [inaudible 00:50:02].

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Excellent. So I'm wondering if you give us an update on where India is right now with respect to the GMOs and the farming and kicking out Monsanto, especially now that Monsanto has been purchased and no longer Monsanto anymore. Where are they at? Are they embracing more organic farming or are you leading a movement to help them implement regenerative agriculture techniques and circumvent some of this craziness?

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Well, the work I started 36 years ago for ecological agriculture, non-violent farming. Then the work I started with seed in '87, that continues and grows and becomes more relevant by the day. So during the lockdown, I was getting messages from our farmers, because I've asked them all to grow gardens, to save their seeds, create local markets. They said, "The lockdown didn't impact us at all because we had our own food and our community had our food."

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

On the other hand, while in the courts Monsanto got defeated, in science, it's got defeated all the new data, well, four scientists got together and put together the data, showing us being an absolute failure, Bt cotton, it doesn't control pests. I read that in America too they're realizing Bt cotton does not work. Bt technology does not work as a pest control system. We know it's failed technology, but they are entering illegally with Roundup-ready Bt cotton, not through regulation, not through approval.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

I think that's the other thing. When you talked about the Great Reset, I think the system is assuming there will be no systems of regulation. We'll do as we want, no one will stop us. There'll be individuals and there'll be communities who, in front of us, will be very, very powerless. We're going to trample on them. So the illegality is what is allowing them to spread. I'm working on a new citizen's report, which should come out anytime on the different aspects of Gates, he's taking every failed GMO.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

We threw Bt brinjal/Bt eggplant out from India. He's taken it to Bangladesh. Then again, it's doing well, but it's failing there too. Doubles the payment to the Cornell Alliance of Science, to do more propaganda through [inaudible 00:52:44].

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

2000, I wrote an essay when they were trying to bring the Golden Rice to India. I said, "This is a blind approach to blindness prevention. We have so much food that is much richer in vitamin A and growing this is the solution, not importing Golden Rice or growing it with 80 patterns." We threw Golden Rice out. Gates takes it to the Philippines. Now, there's a movement there to shut down Golden Rice and to shut down IRRI, which is now controlled, the International Rice Research Institute, which the Rockefeller's push for destroying the rice farming of Asia. It is now controlled by Gates.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

This report has a whole list of all the institutions they're taking over. This hadn't happened when I wrote the book, but it's in the epilogue and it'll be in our new report. We know that the agriculture of coastal India is different from the agriculture in my terraces, up in the mountains, that the agriculture of the desert is different from the wetlands. We have thousands of ways of doing farming.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Gates announced in January this year, Gates Ag One and where is its headquarters? Where Monsanto has its headquarters, in St. Louis, Missouri. So he wants one agriculture for the whole world, totally controlled. Every seed control, every farmer's brain controlled, or no farmers at all, all our diets controlled through fake food systems, whereas Bayer has said in the feedback on the Impossible Burger, and the Bayer said, "This is a very big opportunity for us because we are the only ones who build large volumes of raw crops and monocultures." With fake foods from the lab, there'll be a big demand of producing proteins and carbohydrates, not food, not whole food, proteins and carbohydrates, which will be reformulated in the labs with more GMOs.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

We are really watching and, I personally feel that this assault is coming at a time where, in India, and the world, there's a new rising of consciousness of the planet and its living systems, of our health and our living systems, and the connection between our health and the health of the planet. At this point to say, "Are we going to defeat Mother Nature? And your bodies are new colonies and your brains are our new minds." It needs a lot of brutal violence to impose. To the extent they can keep the virus as their shield to hide behind, they will.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

While the one end image is growing, India of 10,000 years of farming, 60% still on the land, and then awakening that our farming is good farming. Our food is the best. It is a civilizational context. Sam Huntington was wrong that the whole war of civilization was about creating enemies. This civilization conflict is between civilizations around life and justice and humanity and the civilization of death and destruction and greed on, as Gandhi said, "It's not worthy of being called a civilization. It's a culture," or not a culture either, it's a disease.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

What do you think is the best strategy that we can implement culturally and socially and individually to prevent this onward progression that seems to be going forward to this end that you just mentioned?

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

The first is we just have to absolutely not become victims of fear-mongering and absolute resistance.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Good point, yeah.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

We have to resist fear and we have resist hate. We are thinking beings, let us use the minds we've been given, let us rebuild community. Again, I don't think the 6 feet distances is an accident, it's a combination of distancing, social. Why do they use the words for "social distancing" rather than physical distancing? Six feet is a physical measure. But because they do want to complete the work of the Hobbes' and the Descartes' of fragmentation and reduction and separation, they now want us to forget that being human being means being in community. They want us to be users of the gadgets.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

We must be a community. We must remember that we are interrelated to the rest of life on Earth and to society. That's why we have to be totally innovative in how we rebuild regenerative economies. Build better? I don't like that word, better. No build life, rebuild life. Better always means someone has a measure. I think we lost a lot of time thinking the only issue was energy, how energy is produced. We lost two decades of how food is produced.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

I really believe that if people start becoming aware that eating well and eating good food is the single most important ingredient to health and growing food in the right way is the single most important part to regeneration of the planet. We make those two concerns become one concern or one [inaudible 00:58:35]. This will rebuild community. Those who have money will put money. Those who have work will put work. Those who have knowledge will put knowledge.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

When I was doing this book, I was also, as an appendix, preparing a glossary, a dictionary of distortions of economic terms. Of course, the publisher thought it'd make the book too fat. But I went through every term that is abused all the time by the billionaires. One of them is investment. We are the investor, we bring money. The word invest, till 1610, meant "making beautiful," "making healthy," "taking care."

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

1600 is when the East India Company was created. When the merchants of that time, the billionaires of – they weren't billionaires, but the same robber barons of that time got together and said, "Let's go rip off India. Make the East India Company." 10 years after that, they changed the meaning of invest, got rid of care, got rid of "make beautiful," and became "how to make money out of money."

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Now, that level of redefinition is taking place now, but it is taking place when we are already at the edge of the future of humanity. We are at the edge of whether there will be extinction or not. We decided we will push the majority to extinction, we don't care, we will create dismantling of systems so the governments cannot care. We will make it impossible for governments to respond with care. So that the governments take the tax money they collect and give it to us.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

That's why we need a democratic debate on taxation because we are being taxed to create our slavery. I think just like – who was the person who did the whole civil disobedience? Thoreau.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Thoreau, yeah.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Thoreau refused to pay taxes for slavery. I think we need to start doing homework to say, "How should the tax flow look? How is our money going to make the billionaires richer? How can they keep extracting more money out of us? How is our public money the new subsidy to create the infrastructure for greed, rather than be the public resources to create the infrastructure of life, of care, and of solidarity?"

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

These are foundational issues. They are no more sectoral issues, they are no more "This is a justice issue, this is a sustainability issue, this is a health issue, it's a humanity issue." Who are we as human beings? How will we live in the future? What is the future we will create long after the robber barons are gone, because they were there in the 1930s and we learned how to get rid of them. We'll have to learn – I think if there's one project we should have, Dr. Mercola, is strategies to get rid of the robber barons, whatever it takes.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Yeah, that's a certainly a point for discussion. Do you believe that we have hope to resolve this dilemma, this challenge of implementation of their strategies, specifically the continuation of the progress towards fake food and depriving us of the wholeness of our food, that really is one of the intrinsic components of staying healthy?

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Do you think that this society or culture will actually have to collapse and get in the gutter before we can recover very similar to the way many alcoholics have to go through that experience before they finally have the epiphany and wake up and then get out of their addiction?

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Do you think that there's hope for us and we won't have to go to that level and that we can resist the fear that they're seeking to implement to their tyrannical strategies to deprive us of our personal freedoms and liberty. Are you hopeful that we'll be able to do that without this destruction of our society even more, or do you think we need to get more aggressive in implementing some of these strategies to resolve this?

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

First of all, I don't think we have the luxury to be hopeless.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Okay. I like that.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

To be alive today means hope is something you must cultivate on a daily basis. Cultivating hope is cultivating resistance. Cultivating hope is cultivating the strategy. So when I started saving seeds, I call them seeds of hope. I said, "I don't know how I'm going to be able to fight Monsanto, but I do know this. If I don't save the seed today, there will be nothing to save." They won, anyway. There was no guarantee that we would be able to create seed movements.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Today, 30 years later, people are saving seeds everywhere. I'm doing a course. We teach an annual course on regeneration, but this year, because of the lockdown, it's not physical on the Navdanya Farm where – I hope your listeners will go to the Navdanya website, Navdanya.org, but we are doing it by zoom. And I call it, Return to the Earth, that A to Z of Biodiversity, Agroecology and Democracy.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

It's quite amazing. There are very middle-class women attending the course because they said the lockdown taught them how important growing their food is. I took all the flowers out of the farm pot, and now I've got a kitchen garden. This was at least five people in this community.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

There is a growing awareness that we have to grow our own food or we have to know the farmer who grew our food and we have to create food communities, which we can call, Communities of Hope and Communities of Resistance. I dealt with mining interests, I've dealt with forest interests. I think I've seen five generations of robbers make money. If you have creative strategies and you have solidarity and you have imagination, I have seen the bell curve collapse on them.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

I am absolutely confident that the greed of this generation of dictators and billionaires is so much they're eating into the very foundations. The people on the edge cannot be expected to rise up and say, "I'll have a different food system," but those of us who are privileged have to work with those who don't to create a new health system, a new food system and a new democracy, which I call "earth democracy."

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Well, that's very hopeful. What do you believe are the pragmatics steps that one can adopt to maximize this hope for society? We don't have to go into this what appears to be impending collapse.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

I think the first is because Gates controls so much of the media and he took any honest narrative about what's happening and put it into the dustbin of conspiracy theory. It's extremely important that different sectors, who care about freedom and justice, sit together and say, "Okay, where are our taxes going? Where's the wealth going? What is it in our current legal framework where we can stop this hemorrhaging of public money to move upwards to the billionaires." That's a very important practical work.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

The second is, we all need to be looking at where the subsidies of the food system are being directed to creating their farming without farmers, and food without food, because on our tax money, we have a right. So the subsidy question is the second big question.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Third is the democracy question. Democracy is lived. Of course, it's also walls, but the lived democracy is the one that sustains us even when the electoral democracy fails us. We must integrate that and we begin with food. It's not by accident I worked so much on agriculture and food, because it is the place to begin. It is literally the place where the Earth and we are connected, where our bodies and our minds are one, where freedom and life become one.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

It would seem that a good first step would be to attend your upcoming Zoom conference on this annual event that is normally live, but now it's going to be virtual. So how can people attend it? What is the name of how they could sign up?

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Well, if they go to the Navdanya website-

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

What is it, Nathaniel?

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

N-A-V-D-A-N-Y-A, which means nine seeds and the new gifts. That's what it means. The movement has started. If you go to the Navdanya website, you'll find Earth University, and you'll see a list of Earth University courses. We welcome you, I so welcome you. Sometime in the future next year, Dr. Mercola, let's offer a course together.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

That'd be great. Yeah, we should do that now. Definitely, because next year, we'll be here before we know it. Gosh, it's hard to believe. It is really exciting. It's so easy to get depressed and disheartened about what's happening, but I think it's really inspiring to hear you reinforce the fact that it's so important to remain hopeful and diligent to these opportunities so that next year can be far better than this year.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Yeah, absolutely. We've got to do our bit, to sow the seeds of hope.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Yeah. So the title of your book again, is "Oneness Vs. the 1%," which is really – I read the book, but hearing your perspective on it, it makes even so much more sense because that's exactly what it is. It is really this wholeness, of our culture, of the society that is really pivoted against this small percentage of the population who seeks to control and dictate to us for their own personal greed.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Good job. Really enjoyed the book and even more really greatly admire and respect of the pioneering work you've done and continue to do, to fight the suppression, to help resolve some of the injustices that are being implemented in the world. You really serve so many people with your work. So thanks for everything you're doing.

Dr. Vandana Shiva:

Thank you, Dr. Mercola. Pleasure talking to you.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Okay.