Food rebellions! Crisis and the Hunger for Justice

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review by GRAIN

In this book, two leading critics of the world food system analyse the food crisis, seeing it rooted in an industrial economy that generates huge profits for a few while disregarding the needs of the many. It is important, they say, that control over our food systems be wrested away from unregulated global markets, speculators and monopolies and handed back to family farmers, rural women and communities around the world who have resisted the destruction of their native seeds and worked hard to diversify their crops, protect their soils, conserve their water and soil, and run community-based food systems.

The authors then provide information for those who want to help in the struggle to regain control over our food systems. Drawing on examples from Latin America, Africa, and Europe, they draw a picture of numerous inspiring grassroots movements that are gradually beginning to coalesce at a regional and international level. It is becoming a race against time: "Unless we transform our food systems to make them more equitable, democratic and sustainable, they will not be able to withstand the waves of environmental and financial shocks rocking the planet. Our food systems will break down and food will routinely be both expensive and in short supply, puttting it increasingly out of the reach of the world's poor, leading to more food riots, political and environmental instability, and suffering."