

toxic organic pollutants found in fresh water (statistics above from Rifkin). Add to this the amount of metabolic heat and greenhouse gases produced by livestock, and the global potential for environmental disaster becomes apparent.

If we love our planet, care at all about the availability of grain for human consumption, and have any sensitivity at all for living things, how can we let this wasteful orgy of gluttony go on? Have we Westerners been mesmerized by the romantic myth of the cowboy for so long that we cannot see the writing on the wall? Is it too late? Has modern global agribusiness become an unstoppable pusher of flesh, alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful addictive substances, pandering to the unrestrained desires and tastes of the world's wealthiest consumers? The economic pusher-suppliers and their addicted customer-slaves are committing crimes of consumption against humanity and the biosphere. In their godless, predatory global economic system, mundane wealth is power, and power controls the distribution of the earth's resources. Consequently, the powerless go without while nonrenewable resources are plundered sinfully to satisfy the self-destructive cravings of a conscienceless consumer elite. The have-nots die without, while the gluttonous die of the diseases of excessive and perverse consumption.

On a much smaller scale, this has been going on ever since Eden, when the natural order was first disrupted by humanity's illicit craving. Since then, the lust and gluttony of the few have often disrupted and deprived the many. On the large scale, agrarian civilizations have been repeatedly destroyed by predacious barbarians. Range wars between herd hunters (cattlemen) and settled farmers (including dairy farmers) have occurred often in history. The underlying cause is a clash of two opposing lifestyles, one that is earth-nurturing and one that is exploitative and predacious. Nurturing farmers belong in the Garden of Eden. They want lives of gentle peace, of daily and yearly cycles unbroken by crisis or the aggression of creatures large or small. They want to stay in one place and care for the land, which must remain fertile or they will die. They guard the source of water for their families to keep it pure and abundant. Gardeners are students of nature and careful stewards of resources; they aim at a sustainable life in a fixed place. Friends of the earth, they want generations of their families to enjoy even more abundance and variety from the land which has become Eden-like in their laborious care. Their efforts are in a way restorative penance for the pollution of Eden. Gardeners love the land they tend with their sweat, blood, and tears. It is a sacred trust, a second chance given by their Creator.

The perennial enemy of the nurturing gardener is the predatory, plundering herdchaser. Such conscienceless barbarians pulverize everything in their path as they drive their prey before