



TERRA VIVA

My Life in a Biodiversity of Movements

Vandana Shiva

Trained as a physicist, Vandana Shiva says, “It was Chipko that made me realise, in intimate detail, how biodiversity is at the heart of sustainable economies.” Working with peasant women in her home state of Uttarakhand, she learnt her first lessons in ecology: transferring fertility from the forest to the field. Chipko was her ‘university’ and, turning away from quantum physics, she made the preservation of biodiversity, and of sustainable societies, her life’s work.

For over four decades Vandana Shiva has worked with farmers’ and people’s movements across the world, against what she calls ‘seed imperialism’, economic polarisation, and the digital colonisation of our ecological and social diversity. Her Gandhian philosophy of resistance is rooted in people power, true science, and real facts, through which she challenges the Billionaires’ Club of Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, Mark Zuckerberg, and Jeff Bezos, as well as the transnational corporations that manipulate and control what we cultivate and consume and how we communicate, via Big Ag, Big Pharma and Big Data.

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Memoir

This powerful and eloquent memoir looks back at the most memorable campaigns and movements that she has been part of, while looking ahead to the challenges posed by the COVID crisis, the privatisation of biotechnology, and the commodification of our biological and natural resources.

Vandana Shiva has led an extraordinary life as a scientist/activist and leader of a global movement for food sovereignty, and she tells her remarkable story in this powerful new memoir. Filled with important information and history on the corporate theft of biodiversity, Terra Viva also tells the rich stories of the grassroots fight to take back sacred community knowledge and rights, in India and around the world. Just as our world would be a lesser place without Vandana Shiva, our literary heritage would also be diminished without this crucial book.

—Maude Barlow, author of *Blue Covenant*, activist and Right Livelihood Award Laureate



Vandana Shiva is a world-renowned environmental thinker and activist, a leader in the International Forum on Globalisation, and of the Slow Food Movement, Director of Navdanya and of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, and a tireless crusader for farmers’, peasants’ and women’s rights, she is the author and editor of a score of influential books, among them *Making Peace with the Earth*, *Soil Not Oil*, *Seed Sovereignty*, *Food Security: Women in the Vanguard* and *Oneness vs the 1%*. She is the recipient of over 20 international awards, among them the Right Livelihood Award (1993) and Sydney Peace Prize (2010).

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