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**JUSTICE RISING** is a publication of the **Alliance for Democracy**, whose mission is to end the domination of our politics, our economics, the environment, and our culture by large corporations. The Alliance seeks to establish true economic and political democracy and to create a just society with a sustainable, equitable economy.

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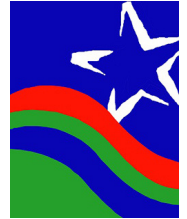
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# Justice Rising

By Jim Tarbell



When I was a young child in the 1950s, my mother often told me that we were just at the dawn of civilization. Now, as Russia pulls out of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Israel and Palestine engage in a full blown war, and the Doomsday Clock lurches toward zero, I am worried we are ever going to arrive at the sunrise of civilization

At times like this, we need to recall Emery Reves' analysis after World War II that nationalism, religion, capitalism and socialism are all contributing to a terrible end to civilization as we know it.

To avoid that reality, humans have to make a giant cultural shift. We have to reject the nationalist, nation-state trope that our country is better than yours, or that we are an exceptional people.

We have to deny the religious dogma that we are the chosen people with the right to dominate nature, that our god is the only god and that our god has given us the right to dominate other people and certain parts of the earth. These are all destructive concepts and threaten all life on earth as we know it.

Capitalist mythology that our resources will go on forever, that the market is the perfect arbiter, that money trickles down and that competition provides economic equality is insanity. The truth is capitalism is depleting all of our resources, and market failures are destroying all the natural systems that life depends upon. Along the way, the rich get richer, and the poor work harder and fall further into debt. Simultaneously, the 100 largest companies in all industries have concentrated power, and control way over 90% of all business.

We, the people, are supposed to have the power to solve all these problems through our democratic political system. But that system is dominated by rich investors and their powerful corporations. Even the Supreme Court is in thrall to money. Its 2010 Citizens United decision made it so that we do not even know where most of the political money is coming from.

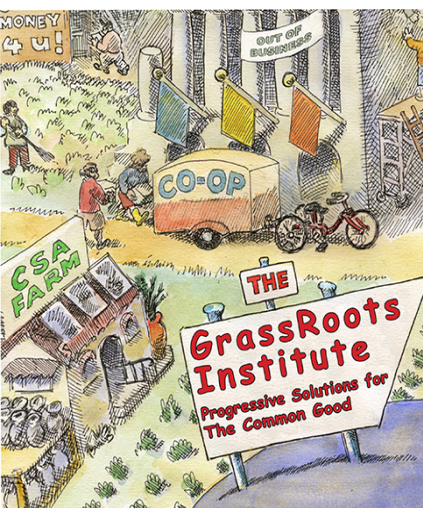
All of this has to stop before the powerful and powerless blow our dawning civilization to smithereens. We have to move toward an identity that we are all citizens of the earth, while creating a spiritual sense that we are one with nature and with each other. People have to reclaim their constitutional right to political power by getting money out of politics, and ensuring that the power of money is used for the common good. We also need to nurture an economy of cooperation, social and economic equity, while creating a partnership culture rather than a culture of domination. Finally, we have to achieve democratic, global sovereignty to establish Peace on Earth.

Achieving those visions will be the sunrise of civilization.



Cover images clockwise from upper left, is an outdoor mural in Vukovar, Croatia by Mario Matkovic, dedicated to the mothers of Vukovar. To the right of that is an image of the Lennon Wall in Prague, Czech Republic. Since the 1960s

it has been used to display dissident political messages. After the military shutdown of the Prague Spring in 1968 people posted their grievances against the authoritarian regime. After 1988 it became dedicated to John Lennon and his lyrics as a symbol of freedom relating to local and global causes. Below that is the Doomsday clock marking 90 seconds to nuclear midnight. To the left of that is a submission to the Lions Club International 2014-15 Peace Poster contest.



## GrassRoots Institute Takes Action Locally

By Carrie Durkee

Many of us have been involved in studying problems of inequity caused by corporate power, and how corporate power dominates our government and communities. Understanding is a piece of the whole, but to make change there needs to be more; a collective, strategic design that results in targeted action. Our workshops are a platform for groups of concerned citizens to seek positive change. We understand the dominant cultural narrative is part of what holds the status quo in place, keeping wealth and power in the hands of the few, and limiting opportunities for the many. To counter the dominant story, we need to create a new, life-affirming vision in our own community. We work collaboratively to build trust, and confidence while moving towards specific goals that align with our values.

As has been demonstrated by recent events across the country, the power structures of white supremacy, oppression and exploitation, long unexamined, are now being challenged openly and there is room, space for new, creative, inclusive ideas to emerge, get traction, and take hold. Now it is time to engage more directly with the persistent aspects of racism that are toxic to our culture, and many people's lives. When groups of people understand their history and are willing to explore the art of new possibilities, they can lean into, move towards, dance to a new rhythm, and sing a different song. This is the kind of transformational work we embrace. See [www.GrassRoots-Institute.org](http://www.GrassRoots-Institute.org)