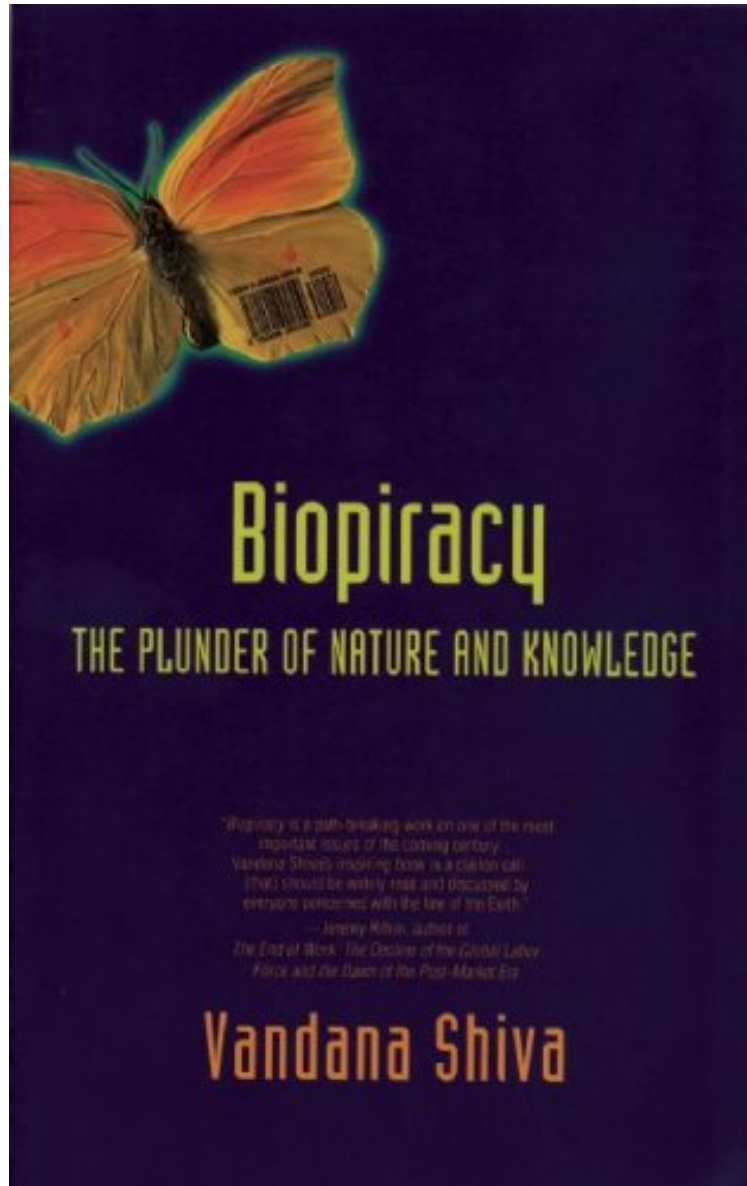


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Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge

Vandana Shiva

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Vandana Shiva : Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By JR Crombez, Ph.D. A required reading for anybody!!!! 38 of 43 people found the following review helpful. Impeccable analysis of one of world's greatest problems By Robert Walker In Biopiracy, the Plunder of Nature and Knowledge, Vandana Shiva starts from the very

reasonable premise that life forms, used for nutritional and medicinal purposes by native cultures for centuries, should not be patented by foreign multinational corporations as "new discoveries". In other words, this book is not for anyone who feels that it is okay to patent life forms which are modifications of already existing species. If you are interested in the problems with this approach and its political, economic, and moral implications, this book is necessary reading. Shiva exposes this exploitation of the intellectual and material wealth of the third world in the name of profits. Shiva's *Monocultures of the Mind* is also strongly recommended.² of 12 people found the following review helpful. A Mind Forever Wandering By Matthew Dovell The slant of this book is predominantly anti western and is devoid of that much of a logical argument. There is very little data actually cited within the context of the book. Initially I thought the extra one inch of blank space on the bottom was a formatting problem but it mostly likely is to write your own rebuttals! Page 11 uses the old north south economic argument but it fails to mention BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China). This book is dated..it was written before the global meltdown, before the housing bubble, before 9/11 and even before the dot com crash Page 14 The author fails to note that patents are sold to other companies and often expire after a few decades. Recently Goggle bought out quite a number of patents from IBM. Page 15 "Money becomes the arbiter of a scientific development's value" Well outside of religion money is mankind's only testament to itself. If you cannot put a price on something then there is no means of which that it can be sold or purchased by anyone. Page 16 The author decided to invoke fear by saying "We are on the verge of losing our ability to tel lone plant or animal from another..." um no. Last I checked we do not have dog/cat hybrids, birds fly and snakes slither. I do not see how anyone with an education that is sober can make such a odd claim. She implies she is homophobic on page 23 by saying that if a organizing cannot reproduce that it will create violence. She does not specifically even state what violence or how. She invokes eugenics programs even though they ended decades ago. She often wonders in here writing. Someone please hand her a gps so it can say "recalculating". Page 32 she claims "Eighteen percent of the piglets in factory farms are choked to death by their mother" according to who or what? The author has a patter of making claims without any real backup. Second hand accounts are also stated without names. To quote Lewis Black "Friend of a friend isn't even a urban legend!" Page 37 she states that Monsanto can get rent on seeds that it makes and charges farmers to grow. How is that different from an apartment owner charging rent? Page 39 Complacency on biosafety issues is therefore not justified on the basis of available scientific evidence" What evidence? She did not provide any. The other major issue with the author is that she is NOT an anthropologist. If you read Jarad Diamonds *Guns Germs and Steel* you'd be shaking your head at this stuff. Page 46 "Their lands could be usurped as terra nullius.." If there was no concept of land ownership logically nothing can be described as "theirs" Page 50 She seems to imply as if she knows nothing of farming. "Second, it does not produce by itself; it needs the help of other purchased inputs". Crops need to be rotated as they take nutrients out of the soil..few crops will produce by themselves and even then the ones that do are not the most productive in terms of a caloric intake. Page 59 she somehow gets on the topic of sperm and egg donation. To correct her actually egg donation pays much more than sperm donation. Page 66 She implies that "biodiversity" and the western world do not like the same products..that is not the case. In Asia many goods are made with bamboo. It is stronger than wood and grows faster than wood..so why use wood? 10 years ago no retailer would have been able to install bamboo flooring but now they do. Page 71 "Tinkering does not create value" Um...Louis Pasteur "tinkered" and we could get milk to last longer. Animal researched enabled us to create insulin saving countless lives. Aspirin itself was originally made by combining two herbs. I have to wonder if she is invoking John Zerzan...I am skipping another five or so because it is too much to write Page 107 "It wiped out thousands of crops and crop varieties, substituting them with monocultures of rice, wheat and maize across the third world" Except for the fact that rice is a staple in 2/3rds of the planet...and these are not "monocultures" as there are different forms of rice, wheat and maize. The author keeps going from one concept to the other without providing any form of viable solution to the issue at hand. More importantly she fails to account that this is simply evolution. There are those that advocate for animal rights and solicit for funds to "save" them. You cannot expect the same thing with a plant. If she believes in the concept of farming then she must also believe in the concept of the marketplace. If a farmer grows crops no one wants then obviously the farmer will not grow them again. The author should have realized that her content went here and there. It would be better written within the form of of a long article rather than a short book.

In this intelligently argued and principled book, internationally renowned Third World environmentalist Vandana Shiva exposes the latest frontier of the North's ongoing assault against the South's biological and other resources. Since the land, the forests, the oceans, and the atmosphere have already been colonized, eroded, and polluted, she argues, Northern capital is now carving out new colonies to exploit for gain: the interior spaces of the bodies of women, plants and animals.

Biopiracy is a path-breaking work on one of the most important issues of the coming century ... Vandana Shiva's inspiring book is a clarion call ... (that) should be widely read and discussed by everyone concerned by the fate of the Earth Jeremy Rifkin, author of *The End of Work: The Decline of the Global Labor Force and the Dawn of the* About the Author A world-renowned environmental leader and recipient of the 1993 Alternative Nobel Peace Prize (the Right

Livelihood Award), Shiva has authored several bestselling books, most recently *Earth Democracy*. Activist and scientist, Shiva leads, with Ralph Nader and Jeremy Rifkin, the International Forum on Globalization. Before becoming an activist, Shiva was one of India's leading physicists.