

CLIMATE CRISIS ROBBER BARONS

By Margaret Byfield

In the early 1900's, a handful of American entrepreneurs rose from humble beginnings and developed the nation's most prosperous industries that included steel, oil, and railroads, just to name a few. They demonstrated to the world how the principles of freedom enumerated through America's founding documents unleashed human ingenuity and prosperity across the globe.

They became the wealthiest men in the nation and, in turn, some of the greediest. Once they reached financial and political dominance, they coveted the ability to control others pursuit of the same, using their influence to drive out competition, creating monopolies. Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Edward H. Harriman, J. Pierpont Morgan, and others earned the unflattering remembrance as our first "Robber Barons."

Our Founding Fathers warned us this could happen. They understood human nature is flawed and all men are capable of sin. For some, the temptation would be too great. That is why when establishing a nation governed *by the people*, they placed important provisions in our Constitution, such as the separation of powers, precluding those powers from being concentrated in the hands of a few.

Another essential principle was ensuring the land and natural resources were owned by the people. This would forever make the government beholden to the citizens, instead of the citizens beholden to the government.

For the first part of America's settlement, this private property principle was executed as the nation's lands were claimed by the people, securing the first territories through the small landowner. The people were encouraged to claim a section of land to support their family and help build the local community. But for the thirteen most westward states, the influence of the Robber Barons changed all this. They funded the preservation movement that led to the withdrawal of fifty percent of these lands from

private settlement to protect their monopolies. The federal government would be our largest landowner, as a result.

History is repeating itself. This time, it is on a global scale.

Men like Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos, along with today's environmental organizations are once again using the preservationist's siren call to create an elite class of modern-day Robber Barons, controlling all wealth, power, and resources.

Robber Barons and the West

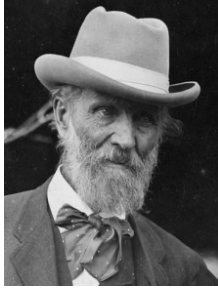
As the Robber Baron's rose to great wealth and power, the nation was just becoming aware of the enormous mineral, timber, water and grazing resources in the open Western lands that reached all the way to the Pacific Ocean. They feared whoever controlled these resources could dwarf their own wealth and power, so they set out to acquire these for themselves.

They largely failed because most of the West was already claimed by the early pioneers. Water had been appropriated as settlers established mining claims and grazing rights. Communities were established with local laws and customs, while property claims were validated by newly formed States. The land was being settled as it had been in the East, with the pioneers claiming the land, and the final disposal by the federal government expected to follow.

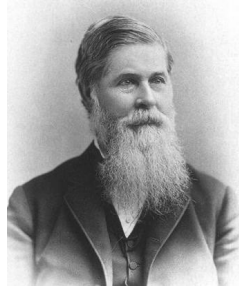
The Northeastern powers first tried to push out the original claims by investing heavily in large livestock companies used to compete with the small landholder on the public domain. They would deliberately overgraze the land making it impossible for the settlers to survive.

This method proved insufficient in clearing the original claims, however, and it forced the elites to change their tactics. If they could not control the resources, then no one would.

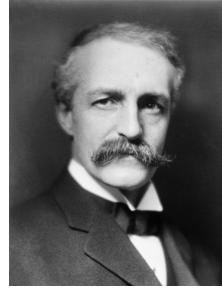
They began investing in the emerging preservation movement led by John Muir and Gifford Pinchot to control the western lands.



JOHN MUIR



JAY COOKE



GIFFORD PINCHOT



EDWARD H. HARRIMAN

Wayne Hage, my father, records this fascinating history in his book *“Storm Over Rangelands: Private Rights in Federal Lands.”*

Jay Cooke, a Northeastern capitalist who had effective control of the Northern Pacific Railroad, financed the expedition that explored and successfully lobbied for the creation of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. The Park’s withdrawal from the public domain secured a monopoly for Cooke’s railroad to this major attraction, all while clearing the claims of existing settlers.

“The effect was to monopolize a major tourist attraction for an eastern transportation capitalist and prevent exploitation by competing westerners. The expeditioners went from Yellowstone to Washington. With the leadership of Langford and the money of Cooke they spent the winter of 1871-72 lobbying Congress to create Yellowstone National Park. The rhetoric was all nature appreciation and public enjoyment. The real purpose was monopoly for the Northern Pacific. After listening to testimony assuring skeptical members that the proposed forty square mile park was worthless for settlement, mining, or timber, on March 1, 1872, Congress obliged.” (“Storm Over Rangeland”, Page 61)

Similar to Jay Cooke’s accomplishment, John Muir, the preservation folk hero who founded the Sierra Club, is credited with the creation of Yosemite National Park in California. Muir was on the payroll and good friends with another railroad magnate named Edward H. Harriman. The creation of Yosemite ensured Harriman the railroad route to the new federal park, securing yet another monopoly for Northeastern interests.

Then, there is the controversy surrounding the creation of the first national forests. A last-minute rider was slipped into “The Creative Act of 1891” giving the President power to withdraw “public land bearing forests” from the public domain. Known as “Section 24,” it was added to the bill in conference committee, but not referred back to the House or Senate for approval, making the inclusion an illegal act. And there is no Congressional record identifying who inserted the language.

Notably, “more than two hundred bills to designate forest reserves had been offered to Congress over the twenty-year period prior to 1891. They had all failed.” (“Storm” Page 116). But, the stealthily added “Section 24” became law. Hage’s book shows the high probability that this was accomplished by the northeastern elites determined to extinguish the land rights of Western settlers, and withhold the resources from production, or for their own exploitation.

The authority granted under this “Section 24” was first used to expand Yellowstone and Yosemite Parks, withdrawing various forested areas that would have competed with the Northeastern timber interests, and many additional lands containing no timber at all. One of these areas was a swath of land in Oregon that held vast mineral reserves. These became our first national forests currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

It is no coincidence that the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service was Gifford Pinchot, whose prior employment was as forester at Vanderbilt’s Biltmore Estate in North Carolina.

In Wilfred McClay’s book *“Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story,”* he notes the

enormous influence the Robber Barons had on Washington D.C. during this era when the first federal land withdrawals were made, stifling development of the west:

“Among [J. Pierpont] Morgan’s deepest beliefs, one he shared with [John D.] Rockefeller, was his conviction that competition was wasteful and disorderly. Accordingly, he sought to bring order and stability, wherever he could, to the wild and often chaotic economy. He was, in short, a firm believer in the virtues of consolidation, and his fingerprints were on many of the most prominent efforts to consolidate entire industries, including most notably the steel industry, which led to U.S. Steel becoming the world’s first billion-dollar company. The process by which he acquired and consolidated companies, and then controlled them by placing his partners on their governing boards, became known as “Morganizations,” and by 1900, he and his partners had places on the boards of corporations accounting for a quarter of the nation’s wealth. So wealthy and powerful did Morgan become that he twice (in 1895 and 1907) was called upon by a president of the United States to rescue the government and the national economy from financial panics.” (“Land of Hope,” Page 212)

New Age Robber Barons

Many of the world’s richest people today, such as Microsoft founder Bill Gates and Amazon pioneer Jeff Bezos, are calling on the masses to give up energy and food security and control of their private property to satisfy another environmental cause, the “Climate Crisis.”

Bill Gates wants us to give up eating beef. He’s invested heavily in synthetic meat products, while quietly becoming the largest farmland owner in America. He has the delusional belief he knows what is best for us and is insisting we comply.

Cabot Phillips with “The Daily Wire,” connected the dots in an article entitled: “*Who’s Really Behind The War On Meat? How Bill Gates Is Quietly Transforming America’s Food Industry From Within.*”

He’s acquired roughly a quarter million acres of farmland in America:

“...nearly the size of Hong Kong. There are 70,000 acres in Louisiana for corn, cotton, and rice and 20,000 acres in Nebraska for soybeans. One of his potato farms is so big you can literally see it from space. Gates’ farmland stretches across 19 states — from North Carolina to Michigan to California — and is valued at nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars.”

The crops produced from these lands are necessary for synthetic meats.

Gates has also become the world’s most vocal advocate for plant-based meat replacement products:

“‘All rich countries should move to 100% synthetic beef,’ Gates said during a conversation with MIT’s Technology Review. It’s so important, he says, that government coercion could be necessary to catalyze the shift. ‘You can sort of change the [behavior of] people or use regulation to totally shift the demand,’ he added bluntly.”

Gates has invested tens of millions of dollars in plant-based meat companies such as *Beyond Beef* and *Impossible Foods* and is the single largest investor in the lab-grown meat company, *Memphis Meats*.

He has become one of the leading voices claiming cows are giving off too much gas impacting the climate, even though recent studies conclude that producing synthetic meat creates more of the offensive emissions.

“As Marco Springmann, senior environmental researcher at the University of Oxford puts it, ‘Lab meat doesn’t solve anything from an environmental perspective, since the energy emissions are so high.’”

Nevertheless, while acquiring the market share of the synthetic meat industry, Bill Gates has funded key studies that claim red meat is harmful to our health. One of the most important of these was released in 2019, the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) report, which is the authoritative study on worldwide health. The study reversed years of accepted and well-researched conclusions. When a

skeptical group of scientists dug into the report, they found it to be full of hot air.

“Despite the fact that diets with regular meat intake result in higher bone density and energy levels as well as better muscle tone, brain health, etc., meat was suddenly deemed not just dangerous to the climate, but dangerous to our health. ... The supposed findings were so stunning that six scientists at UC Davis conducted their own assessment, finding that the GBD report was ‘woefully absent’ of any ‘cold, hard facts.’”

This begins to make sense when you realize that Bill Gates had funded the GBD research.

“In 2017, the University of Washington Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) — the coordinating center for the GBD report — announced that it had received a \$279 million gift from The Gates Foundation.”

Bill Gates would like for Americans to believe he is saving us from a climate crisis, but his tactics mirror that of the original Robber Barons, using an alliance with the environmental movement to help eliminate the competition.

Jeff Bezos wants government to control our land.

In 2020, the Amazon founder and one of the world’s richest men pledged to donate \$10 Billion to fight the climate crisis, creating the *Bezos Earth Fund*. A major focus of the *Fund* is to implement the 30x30 agenda to permanently protect 30 percent of the world’s land and water by 2030. The purpose of one of the grants issued by the fund describes the mission well:

“This project is mobilizing support for the global target of protecting 30% of land and ocean by 2030. The aim is to expand the ‘High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People’ by increasing the number of countries that are committed to the 30x30 goal to more than 100, secure a global agreement on 30x30 at the COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2022, and help build capacity within countries for implementation towards 2030.”



BILL GATES



JEFF BEZOS

Note the objective of the grant is to “protect,” not “conserve” land and oceans. He’s advocating for the elimination of “private” control, to be replaced by “government” control on at least 30 percent of the world’s land mass.

December of 2021, the *Bezos Fund* made a \$30 million dollar grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which is a key U.S. nonprofit organization created by Congress and tasked with accomplishing 30x30. April of 2022, the Biden Administration awarded the Foundation \$1 Billion for projects that will advance the Administration’s 30x30 goal.

Bezos has amassed 420,000 acres for himself, primarily in Texas, to become the 26th-largest private landholder in America.

While Gates and Bezos amass their fortunes and private property holdings, they are actively funding efforts that erode those freedoms for others.

Environmental Land Trusts

Then, there are the non-profit Land Trusts that claim their mission is to help landowners preserve land from development. Specifically, they want landowners to voluntarily turn over control of the land to them for a one-time tax-break, through a perpetual conservation easement.

A good example of this is *The Nature Conservancy* (TNC). It is actively lobbying across the globe to permanently preserve 30 percent of the world’s land and water, a program from which they are positioned to be one of the primary beneficiaries. June 30, 2021, they reported holding 3.7 million acres of land under permanent conservation

easements and had net assets and revenue totaling \$7.8 Billion. During this same fiscal year, they made \$62 million in land sales to governments.

TNC has been advocating for the adoption of 30x30 at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels. They can be found in the Texas Hill Country preaching their doctrine of preservation, while also pushing for a strongly worded international resolution to be advanced at the United Nation's Convention on Biological Diversity in Canada this December.

One of the reports they promoted is entitled: "Stockholm 50: Unlocking a Better Future." Some of the key actions advanced include: (1) moving people to plant-based diets; (2) designating "Nature as a legal entity with personhood;" (3) eliminating property ownership, shifting to functions and services; (4) consolidating government powers into one body; (5) creating an accounting of impacts for each human, which will require an elite group to track compliance and enforcement.

The world they are seeking to create is simple. Control what we eat. Control where we live. Control what we do. Control who we serve. Control what we own.

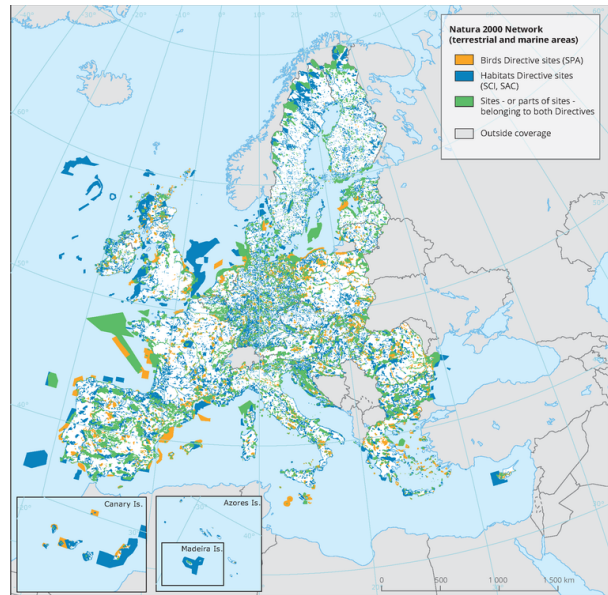
Wayne Hage's statement made years ago is haunting. He forewarned that either we will have the right to own property, or we will be property.

A Netherlands Foreshadowing

The farmers and ranchers in the Netherlands are in a full revolt. The climate Czars are shutting down their industry.

Their story began when the Netherland government signed on as a member state of the European Commission's (EU) Natura 2000, described as follows:

"Stretching over 18% of the EU's land area and more than 8% of its marine territory, Natura 2000 is the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world. It offers a haven to Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats."



Moss, clover, various hay, and other vegetation were designated for protection in the Netherlands under the EU Natura 2000 program. It was determined that nitrogen oxide negatively impacts these plants, which is prevalent in animal feces. To comply, the Netherlands Parliament advanced laws restricting nitrogen, requiring the nation's farmers to dramatically reduce their livestock herds by half, effectively putting them out of business.

But the landowners will tell you this is not about the clover or the moss. It is about the land. More specifically, a design to force generations of farmers and ranchers off their family's property so that it can be used for another purpose.

Bill Gates is also active in the Netherlands. It turns out he is one of the primary investors in the food delivery business "Picnic," which could profit handily if the nation is no longer able to produce its own food. His nonprofit foundation is also a member of the World Economic Forum, which is a partner in Natura 2000.

The Dutch government apparently believed the claims made by the preservation community that the science and data necessitated compliance. They were also promised the program would conserve the land while helping working landowners stay in business.

"Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves from which all human activities

would be excluded. While it includes strictly protected nature reserves, most of the land remains privately owned. The approach to conservation and sustainable use of the Natura 2000 areas is much wider, largely centered on people working with nature rather than against it. However, Member States must ensure that the sites are managed in a sustainable manner, both ecologically and economically.”

The Netherland farmers and ranchers now know what this means. Americans should as well. The Natura 2000 language is eerily similar to that being advanced by the Biden Administration under the 30x30 program.

The Climate Crisis Cartel

What is the end game? Global dominance. Concentration of power, wealth and control held by the elite few. They are all fighting for the best seat at this table now. For the rest of us, it means guarding our land and liberties against these dominating forces.

Property is power. If the people own the land then we can personally provide for our most basic necessities – grow our food, build shelter for our families and communities, defend our homes and lives while creating individual personal wealth. It also means we can organize together and fight off those seeking global dominance. We can do all this if *we the people* control the natural resources of our nation, as our Founding Fathers intended.

The Industrial Age Robber Barons successfully halted this path for our western state settlers in partnership with America’s first preservationists. Gates, Bezos, the World Economic Forum, The Nature Conservancy, and others are teaming up once again against the middle class, but this time their attack covers the globe.

As Hage states in his book, the battle between landowners and preservationists never was about “whether” we will use the land, but “who” will be doing so.

If the Climate Crisis Robber Barons succeed, the most prized commodity to own in future America will be land free of government

conservation programs, conservation easements, and other global governance tools. It will be hard to resist as the Biden Administration continues to increase the funds it is offering to landowners as enticements, driving up the price of land as a result, and directly competing with our working farmers and ranchers.

They are determined to get at least a third of our land under their conservation regulatory thumb by 2030, if not sooner.

But we must resist. The “climate crisis” narrative they are using to scare the masses and indoctrinate the children is a ruse to get us to hand over our land to their cartel. It has slowly entrenched itself into the social fabric of the world, dividing those who believe man is killing the environment from those who reject this farce. We have been watching this movement build for many years, but the march of the enemy is much clearer now and the birth pangs are increasing.

The Bible tells us we will not know the hour or the day when Christ returns and removes the enemy from the face of earth, but we are to know the signs. We are to confront the evils with courage, not fear, nor be dismayed. The outcome has already been determined. That we are here in this moment of time has been purposefully decided.



STORM \$25

To purchase a copy of Storm Over Rangelands by Wayne Hage, see the order form on back page.