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# **BETWEEN TWO WORLDS**

**TECHNOLOGICAL CONTROVERSY  
AND THE FUTURE OF FOOD**

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## A Policymaker's Guide to the GMO Controversies

Crops and food improved through biotechnology, popularly known as GMOs (for genetically modified organisms), have been a key factor in improving food abundance and environmental sustainability throughout the world.

**Unfortunately, the continued development of GMOs has been endangered by “neo-Luddite” opposition supported by a series of media-generated “controversies.”** While this opposition appears to be based on concerns for health and safety, it is almost always driven by hyperbole, not facts, manufactured by opponents with either vested financial interests or an ideological opposition to innovation in agriculture.

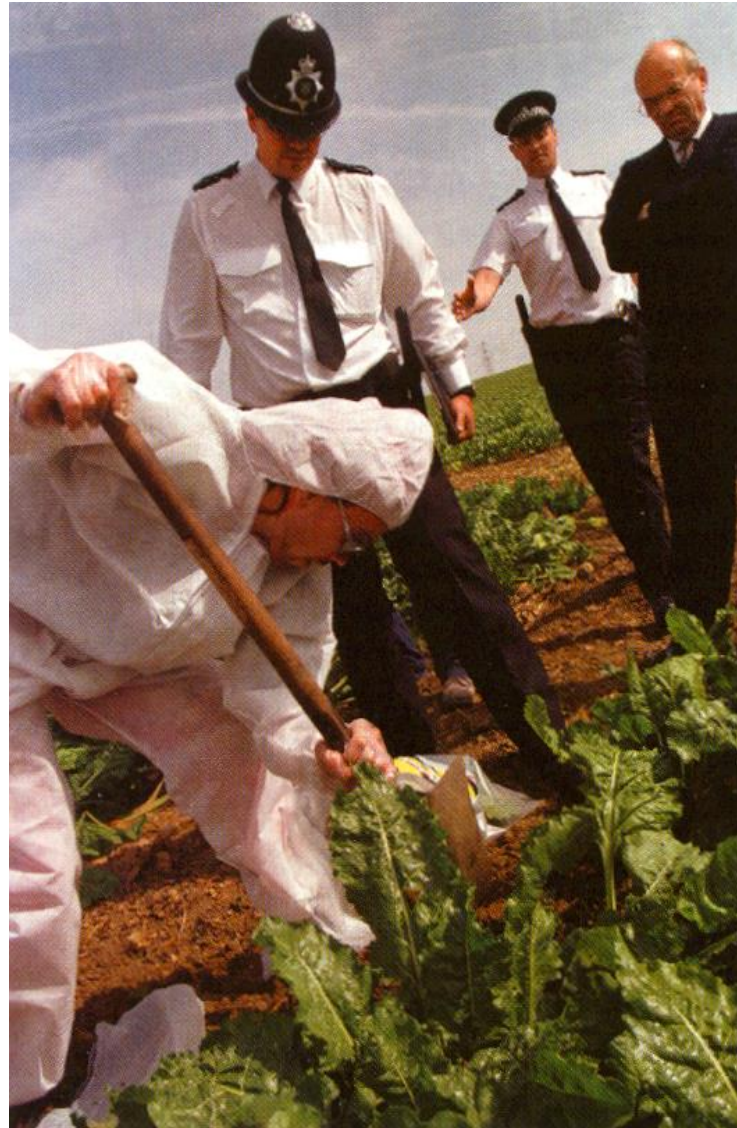
## *Poison Spring: The Secret History of Pollution and the EPA*, by Evaggelos Vallianatos

EPA ignored and dismissed scientific evidence of harm for numerous synthetic chemicals. This downplaying of risk by the EPA is not based in ignorance; rather, it is a function of calculated collusion with polluters and “independent” testing organisations. **The result is a complex and elaborate illusion of governmental precaution and rigour but which ultimately gives the petrochemical industries and agribusiness free reign.**

# REORDERING NATURE



# ING SCIENCE: A "NEO- LUDDITE" SOLUTION?



# ION BY OTHER MEANS

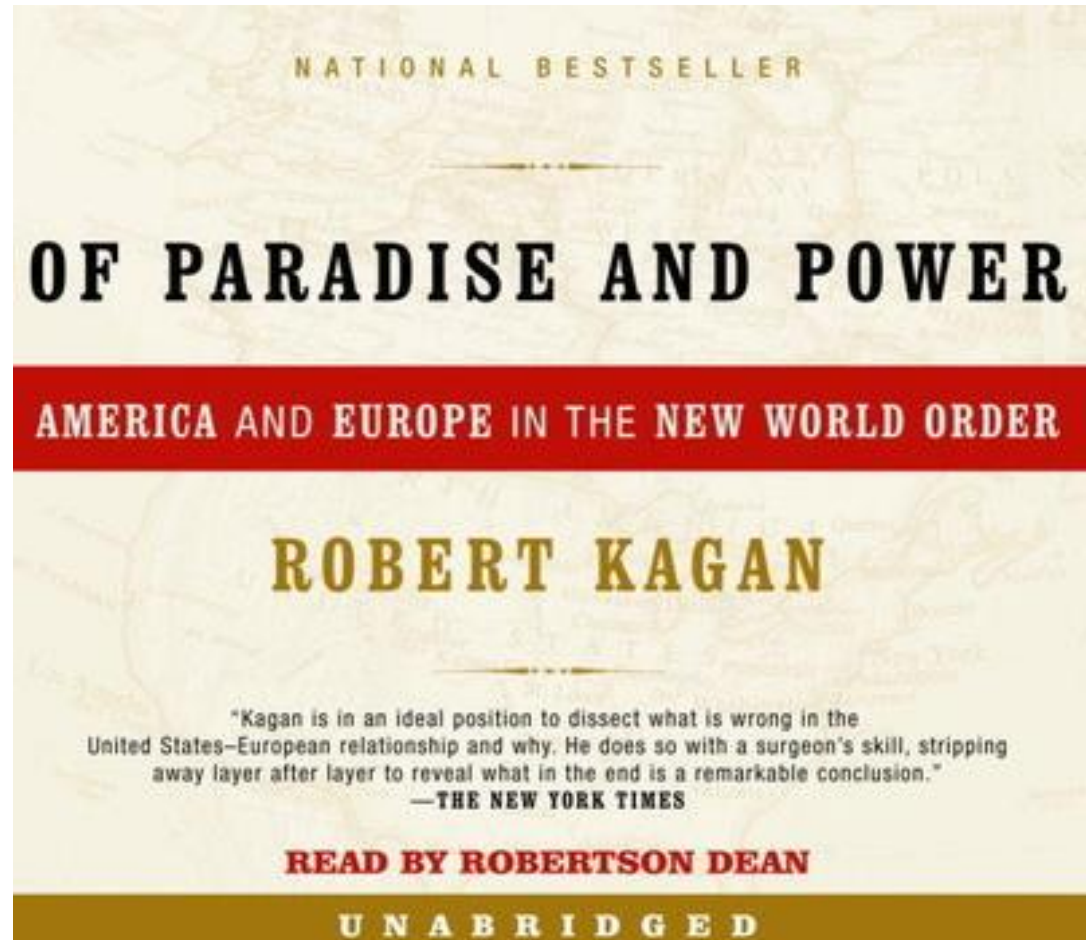




# APART

**“It is time to stop pretending that Europeans and Americans share a common view of the world, or even that they occupy the same world.”**

Robert Kagan  
(2003)



# "GMO DENIALISM"

## **Losey and monarch butterfly**

” Not a good model

## **Chapela and GM maize**

” Not good science

## **StarLink and Taco Bell**

” Regulatory failure to segregate

## **Prodigene**

” Bad cross-regional agricultural practices

## **Percy Schmeiser and Roundup-ready canola**

” Patent infringement

## **GM golf-course grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*)**

” No known harm to environment

# Reason: Expertise and Political Culture

	<b>Nature of Objectivity</b>	<b>Normative Commitments</b>	<b>Administrative Practices</b>
Bodies of knowledge (United States)	View from nowhere (transcendental)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“ Open access to information</li> <li>“ Transparency</li> <li>“ Public comment and criticism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“ Freedom of Information</li> <li>“ Public comment</li> <li>“ Legal challenge and review</li> </ul>
Embodied experts (United Kingdom)	View from everywhere (empirical, observational)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“ Issue-specific experience</li> <li>“ Dedication to the public good</li> <li>“ Balanced judgment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“ Nominations from the public</li> <li>“ Principles of public life</li> <li>“ Conflict of interest rules</li> </ul>
Advisory bodies (Germany)	View from everywhere (reasoned)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“ Inclusion of all relevant voices</li> <li>“ Willingness to accommodate reasons of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“ Representation of relevant institutional voices</li> <li>“ Appointment of substitute members</li> </ul>



**What kinds of  
food do we want?  
What kinds of  
politics and ethics  
do we want?**