

A MATCH MADE IN HELL

Last month **Bayer** completed its **\$63 Billion** acquisition of **Monsanto**, the company would have you believe that this merger will be good for the environment, for farmers, for ending global hunger, and, *incidentally*, for lining the pockets of shareholders—these two corporate giants are in fact committed to the consolidation and transformation of the world's food supply in the hands of the genetic engineers.

It is hardly surprising that the first thing Bayer did after completing their takeover was to announce that they were dropping the **Monsanto** name, merging the two companies' agrochemical divisions under the "**Bayer Crop Science**" name.

Monsanto's sordid past includes its role in the development of **Agent Orange**, which resulted in one of the largest human-induced health epidemics in modern history. They made **Dioxin**, they created and distributed **PCBs** across the planet, and now there is pending litigation against them for **Roundup**. In recent years the company has gained special notoriety for its attempts to push the boundaries of patent law in a self-admitted effort to gain a monopoly over the world's food supply.

But Bayer itself has an equally atrocious history of death and destruction. Although less well-known by the general public, Bayer's shameful history is, like Monsanto's, a case study in corporate psychopathy.

Founded in 1863 by Friedrich Bayer and Johann Friedrich Wesskott, it wasn't until 1899 that the company trademarked its most well-known product: aspirin. **Less well-remembered is the fact that Bayer was the first company to trademark heroin, which they marketed as a "non-addictive" alternative to morphine and a "cough suppressant."**

But it was under the stewardship of Carl Duisberg at the turn of the 20th century that the company began to develop its psychopathic character. In 1914 the German Ministry of War appointed Duisberg as one of the co-directors of a commission into the use of dangerous byproducts from the chemical industry. Unsurprisingly, Duisberg and his fellow directors jumped at the opportunity to turn their waste into profit by recommending the development of chlorine gas for use on the battlefield, a direct contravention of the **Hague Convention Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land**, which Germany had signed just seven years earlier.

Bayer, under Duisberg's command, did not just participate in the development and use of poison gas in warfare; they spearheaded it. Duisberg personally oversaw the earliest tests of poison gas and bragged about its lethal capabilities: "*The enemy won't even know when an area has been sprayed with it and will remain quietly in place until the consequences occur.*" Setting up a School for Chemical Warfare at Bayer headquarters in Leverkusen, Duisberg also oversaw the development of **phosgene** and **mustard gas**, which he urged the German government to use: "*This phosgene is the meanest weapon I know. I strongly recommend that we not let the opportunity of this war pass without also testing gas grenades.*"

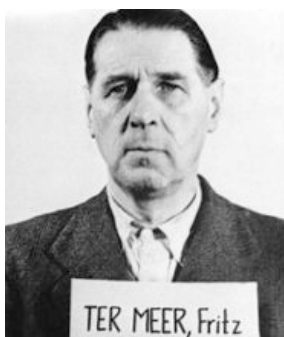
On April 22, 1915, Duisberg got his wish. On that day 170 tons of chlorine gas was used against French troops at Ypres, Belgium, killing 1,000 and injuring a further 4,000. Attacks on the British followed days later. In all, some 60,000 people died as the result of the chemical warfare perfected by Bayer and urged on by Duisberg, one of the great, largely-forgotten atrocities of the First World War.

Most galling of all, Duisberg was not ashamed of his accomplishments. On the contrary, he was immensely proud of them. He even commissioned famed artist **Otto Bollhagen** to paint the scene of the earliest poison gas test at Cologne. (above) Duisberg so enjoyed the finished result that he



had it hung in his breakfast room at Bayer headquarters in Leverkusen.

Later, Duisberg—inspired by a tour of Rockefeller's Standard Oil in the US—wedded Bayer to the **IG Farben** chemical cartel. IG Farben was a key player in the burgeoning '**oilgarchy**' of the early 20th century, boasting key '**oilgarchs**' like **Royal Dutch Shell's** Prince Bernhard and **Standard Oil's** Walter Teagle on the boards of its various branches. Bayer's Duisberg served as the head of its supervisory board.



Joining Duisberg on the board was **Fritz Ter Meer**, who oversaw the construction of the IG Farben factory at **Auschwitz**, which ran on slave labor and participated in human experimentation. After the war, Ter Meer was sentenced to seven years in prison for his

participation in looting and enslavement of the camp prisoners, but was released in 1950 for "*good behavior*," and, in 1956 became chairman of Bayer AG, newly resurrected from the ashes of IG Farben.

But this legacy of death is not some ancient relic of Bayer's distant past. Decade after decade, the company continues to be involved in scandal after scandal, involving wanton environmental destruction, injury, and even mass murder.

In the 1980's, when Bayer's Cutter Laboratories realized that their blood products, Factor VIII and IX or antihemophilic factor (AHF), were contaminated with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the financial investment in the product was considered too high to destroy the inventory. Cutter misrepresented the results of its own research and sold the contaminated AHF to overseas markets in Asia and Latin America without the precaution of heat treating the product recommended for eliminating the risk. As a consequence, hemophiliacs who infused the HIV-contaminated Factor VIII and IX tested positive for HIV and developed AIDS.

Indeed, it is not difficult to see why these two companies—each one a titan of its respective industry, each one guilty of the most atrocious crimes against humanity and the destruction of the environment—would feel an affinity for each other. But why merge? What does a pharmaceutical giant have to gain from buying out and merging with an agrochemical giant, especially one that carries as much baggage as Monsanto?

If the connection between these corporate behemoths seems tenuous, then perhaps the key to understanding it is presented in that 1995 quote from former Monsanto CEO Robert Shapiro: "***We're talking about three of the largest industries in the world—agriculture, food and health—that now operate as separate businesses. But there are a set of changes that will lead to their integration.***"

Integration of agriculture, food and "health" is the goal, and once that goal is reached the entire life support system of the human population, including all of our food and "medicine," will be in the hands of a few mega-corporations. Indeed, the history of the production of food and

pharmaceuticals has always followed the same trajectory: away from natural, abundant, locally-produced organic materials and toward artificial, scarce, factory-produced synthetic alternatives.

The process of consolidating these industries is of course nothing new. Even the current agrochemical industry has to be seen in its historical context as a fusion of the petrochemical fertilizer giants (**Dupont, Dow, Hercules Powder** and other businesses in the **Standard Oil** orbit) with the "ABCD" seed cartel of **Archer Daniels Midland, Bunge, Cargill and Louis Dreyfus**. These previously separate fields were gradually consolidated under the flag of "agribusiness," itself developed at Harvard Business School in the 1950s with the help of research conducted by Wassily Leontief for the Rockefeller Foundation.

Big Pharma, too, was a creation of the same drive toward consolidation, by the same people. From the Carnegie and Rockefeller-funded institutionalization of the medical profession to Standard Oil's role in supplying the petrochemicals for the burgeoning pharmaceutical industry to the role of Rockefeller Institute researchers like Cornelius Rhoads, who developed chemotherapy from the mustard gas pioneered by Bayer, the overlap of the oligarchical interests in cementing global control has been abundantly clear.

Then, with the advancement of **GMO** technology in the 1980s and 1990s (again, with considerable help from the Rockefellers and other oilgarchical interests), new opportunities for consolidation presented themselves. Seeds used to be sold by seed companies, and fertilizers and herbicides used to be sold by chemical companies. But then the GMO "revolution" came along and all of these companies spun off "biotech" branches to genetically engineer seeds. That, in turn, opened up opportunities to create GMO seed strains that are tailored to work with patented herbicides and fertilizers. The combination of GMO seeds and specially tailored agrochemicals has been especially lucrative for Monsanto, which was the first to capitalize on those synergies when it won regulatory approval for its first Roundup Ready soybeans in 1994.

Roundup, aka glyphosate, has gone on to become the most-used agricultural chemical in the history of the world.

Monsanto and Bayer—not to mention their cohorts in the agrochemical, pharmaceutical, and euphemistically-named "**life sciences**" industries—are ultimately seeking the same thing: complete control over the population, from the genetic engineering of its food supply to the control of its "medicines" and chemicals. It is a race toward complete centralization, and with this acquisition, Bayer and Monsanto are getting a head start.

All of the efforts that have been made in recent years to "**March Against Monsanto**" must be translated into a "**Boycott Against Bayer**" and all of their friends in the burgeoning biotech/big agra/seed cartel GMO franken-industry. It is only by increasing our support for locally sourced, organic, heirloom seed-grown produce that we can hope to supplant this new mega-giant and consign it to the dustbin of history where it belongs.

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