

# Frances Moore Lappé

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“Some of the 20th century’s most vibrant activist thinkers have been American women – Margaret Mead, Jeanette Rankin, Barbara Ward, Dorothy Day – who took it upon themselves to pump life into basic truths. Frances Moore Lappé is among them.”

—*The Washington Post*

Frances Moore Lappé is the author or coauthor of fifteen books. Her 1971 three-million-copy bestseller, *Diet for a Small Planet*, continues to awaken readers to the human-made causes of hunger and the power of our everyday choices to create the world we want.

Her newly released *Democracy’s Edge* has been widely praised. Historian Howard Zinn called the book “poetic and passionate,” adding: “A small number of people in every generation are forerunners, in thought, action, spirit, who swerve past the barriers of greed and power to hold a torch high for the rest of us. Lappé is one of those.”

*Democracy’s Edge* is the completion of a trilogy which began in 2002 with *Hope’s Edge*, written with her daughter Anna Lappé. It is the 30th anniversary sequel to Lappé’s first book. Jane Goodall said of *Hope’s Edge*: “Absolutely one of the most important books as we enter the 21st century.” Second in the trilogy is *You Have the Power: Choosing Courage in a Culture of Fear*, written with Jeffrey Perkins.

Frances and Anna Lappé lead the Cambridge-based Small Planet Institute, a collaborative network for research and popular education to bring democracy to life. Together they founded the Small Planet Fund which solicits and channels resources to democratic social movements, especially those featured in *Hope’s Edge*.

In 1975, with Joseph Collins Lappé launched the California-based Institute for Food and Development Policy (Food First). Its publications continue to shape the international debate on the root causes of hunger and poverty. The Institute was described by *The New York Times* as one of the nation’s “most respected food think tanks.”

In 1990, Lappé co-founded the Center for Living Democracy, a ten-year initiative to help accelerate the spread of democratic innovations. Lappé served as founding editor of the Center’s American News Service, which placed solutions-oriented news stories in almost 300 newspapers nationwide.

Lappé’s books have been used in a broad array of courses in hundreds of colleges and universities and in more than 50 countries. Her articles and opinion pieces have appeared in publications as diverse as the *New York Times*, *O Magazine* and *Christian Century*. Her television and radio appearances have included PBS with Bill Moyers, the Today Show, CBS Radio, and National Public Radio. She is a contributing editor to *Yes! Magazine*, a founding councilor of the **World Future Council**, and serves on the **National Advisory Council of the Union of Concerned Scientists**.

Lappé is a sought after public speaker and has received 17 honorary doctorates from distinguished institutions. In 1987 in Sweden, Lappé became the fourth American to receive the Right Livelihood Award, sometimes called the “Alternative Nobel,” for her “vision and work healing our planet and uplifting humanity.” Frances’ most recent honor was an award for “Lifetime Service to Increase Planetary Awareness,” granted to her and to biologist E.O. Wilson, at the AltWheels Alternative Transportation Festival, 2006.