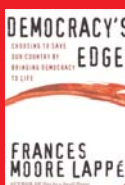
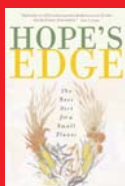


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In her 3-million copy bestseller *Diet for a Small Planet*, she forever changed our thoughts about the politics of food and hunger. Now, in *Democracy's Edge*, Lappé reshapes our ideas about democracy. In a lecture that inspires by example, Frances shows us how citizens here and around the world are discovering the power within themselves to act on democracy's core values and find solutions to society's toughest problems.

The War on Democracy

For many Americans, democracy means nothing more than casting a vote every four years, teaching school children about our Founding Fathers, and participating in a market economy. But this understanding of democracy won't allow us to create the world we want. What's more, we're losing what democracy we have.

From Jefferson to Eisenhower, presidents from both parties have warned us of the danger of allowing economic and political power to concentrate in the hands of the few. Yet today, a small, unrepresentative group of business and government leaders is making life-and-death decisions for us. As a result, the gap is widening between public desires and public policies, and seven out of ten of us, Republicans and Democrats alike, worry that our country is headed in the wrong direction.

This crisis is really only a symptom, Lappé argues. It's a symptom of *thin democracy*, something done *to* us or *for* us, not *by* or *with* us. Such democracy, whether here or abroad, is always at risk of being stolen by private interests or extremist groups, left and right.

But there is a solution. The answer, says Lappé, is *Living Democracy*, a powerful yet often invisible citizens' revolution surging in communities across America and the world. Moving beyond rhetoric, they are tackling problems that have stumped the elite experts—from electoral politics to local economies, from media and food to security and schools. It's the emergence of a new historical stage of democracy in which regular citizens realize that *democracy isn't something we have, but something that we do*.

Biography

Frances Moore Lappé has published fourteen books since her three-million copy best-seller *Diet for a Small Planet*, including *Hope's Edge*, winner of the 2002 Nautilus award. Lappé has received 17 honorary doctorates and the Right Livelihood Award. She is cofounder of Food First, the American News Service, and the Small Planet Institute. Lappé has appeared on the 'Today Show', NPR's 'Weekend Edition', C-SPAN's 'Washington Journal', and 'PBS Now'. Her work is featured in publications as diverse as *The New York Times* and *O Magazine*.

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