

THE (UN)PROTECTED EARTH

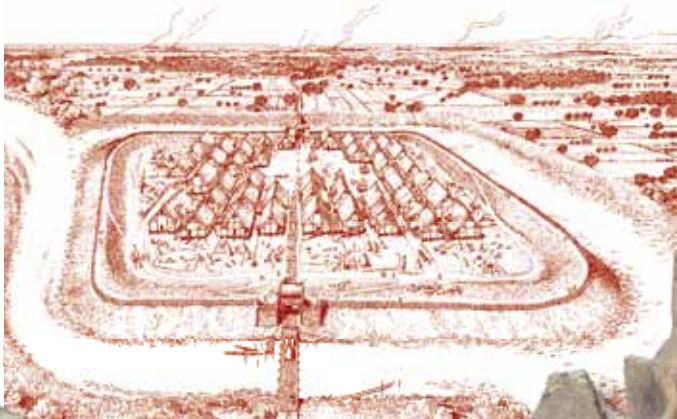
Exploiting the earth's resources
has been the cause of many ills,
upsetting the delicate balance of
the ecosystem and placing
traditional values at risk



IN THE HISTORY OF THE TERRITORY AROUND MODENA, THE TERRAMARE OFFERS AN EXEMPLARY CASE OF HOW RESOURCES WERE OVER-USED

The Bronze Age communities that colonised the Po plain between 1650 and 1550 B.C. began a process of clearing forests, which gradually reduced the area covered by woodlands. This was to procure timber for building villages and to clear land for grazing and arable farming using ox-drawn ploughs. Over the course of time, deforestation, depletion of the soil and droughts (probably) caused the collapse of the terramare system after some five centuries of prosperity.

THE TERRAMARA at Montale
Drawn reconstruction



FRAGMENT OF A CUP
with handles in the form of ox horns
and **PART OF A SMALL WOODEN PLOUGH**
Terramara, Montale (XV - XIV century B.C.)

GERMAIN, CONGO FROM RUBBER TO COLTAN

IN THE CONGO A FULL-SCALE PILLAGE OF THE COUNTRY'S HUGE NATURAL RESOURCES USING ALL MEANS POSSIBLE INCLUDING BLOOD-SHED HAS PERMANENTLY CHANGED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAN AND THE ENVIRONMENT



YESTERDAY

Nearly 125 years ago, the nations of Europe began the race to take possession of the African continent, pillaging its natural resources. The King of Belgium, Leopold II, made the Congo Free State his personal property so as to have access to its enormous reserves



MUTILATED RUBBER COLLECTORS

Those who didn't ensure a sufficient amount of rubber had their hands amputated

of RUBBER.

The cruel use of local labour led to the death of 10 million people either brutally murdered or decimated by famine, physical exhaustion and disease. The birth rate plummeted.

TODAY

A resource more strategic than ever for the western market is COLTAN, a mix of minerals (columbite-tantalite) from which the metal Tantalium derives, an essential component in biomedical instruments and electronics, but also in the military and aerospace industries. It drives the new economy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In less than two years the mineral's value has skyrocketed on the commodities market, and appears to be the reason behind the Congo's civil war.

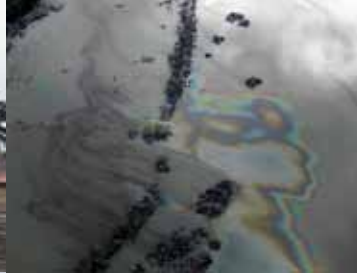
Open-cast COLTAN MINE



WILFRED, NIGERIA OIL RIVERS OIL BUSINESS

IN THE DELTA OF THE NIGER THE RUTHLESS QUEST FOR PROFITS IS CREATING ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE ON A HUGE SCALE, QUITE APART FROM THE IRREPARABLE LOSS IN IDENTITY VALUES SUFFERED BY THE POPULATION

It's an ironic twist of fate that, at the time of the British Protectorate, it was called **OIL RIVERS**, because the zone boasted a lucrative trade in palm-olive oil. Today, the Delta of the Niger can boast eight-thousand square miles of oil slick, following crude spills from a Shell drilling platform between 2008 and 2009. Creating destruction in the delta are rotten, rusting pipelines and cut-price, obsolete technologies. If Britain's Shell, extracting just under a half of Nigeria's Petroleum, comes top of the black list, then Italy's Eni also gets a dishonourable mention, accused of using **GAS FLARING**, a highly polluting practice banned under Nigerian law, which consists of setting fire to oil-field gases in order to cut the costs of recycling.



NORA, ARGENTINA LAND FOR SALE

THE LAND IN THE HANDS OF FOREIGN FIRMS
ACCOUNTS FOR 10% OF ARGENTINA'S SURFACE
AREA, BUT BENEATH THE SURFACE ARE 90%
OF THE NATION'S MINERAL DEPOSITS

The chief beneficiary is **BENETTON**, which, through the **COMPAÑÍA DE TIERRAS SUD ARGENTINO SA**, has purchased over 900, 000 hectares of land in Patagonia (4,500 times the area of Buenos Aires). The reason? To breed sheep for wool. In exchange, the indigenous Mapuche community, which held the hereditary land rights, was offered other lands in areas unsuitable for farming and grazing.



The Mapuche occupied the territory but a court injunction forced them to move out. Benetton justifies their action by saying that the proposed exchange of one territory for another is both a concrete and token contribution to the co-existence of diverse peoples in Patagonia. “If property rights are necessary,” Benetton say, “then we need to discuss whether it is necessary that they remain in the same hands for ever. In Patagonia, we have simply followed the economic rules in which we believe: running a company, innovating, operating on behalf of development, continuing to invest for the future.”

PASCUA LAMA is a transnational mineral project involving Chile and Argentina and launched by **BARRICK GOLD CORPORATION**.

The leading gold producer intends to create an open-cast mine to extract approx. 500 tonnes of gold. The project envisages “moving” three glaciers and threatens the ecosystem of an entire valley. It will effect the primary water sources of a semi-desert region, which would be contaminated by a mining operation that makes use of cyanide and heavy metals. The project would affect the ancestral territory of the indigenous Diaguita communities, which live mainly from farming. The People’s Tribune, set up in Santiago, Chile, in 2006, has declared Barrick Gold responsible for crimes against the environment, and serious social, cultural and economic malpractice. The charges made against the giant multi-national have been repeated in other parts of the globe: from the Congo, to Papua New Guinea and Australia.



IRMA, COLOMBIA

EX- AND REAPPROPRIATION

IN COLOMBIA, THE COCA TRADE, IN THE HANDS OF THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, AND THE PALM-OLIVE OIL TRADE, RUN BY THE MULTINATIONALS, HAS ALTERED THE TRADITIONAL ECONOMY OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES.

LAS PAVAS is an estate inhabited for generations by a hundred or so peasant families. They were driven from their land for the first time in the 1960s, then again in the 1980s by Emilio Escobar Fernandez, a relative of Pablo Escobar, the coca trade grandee. They managed to return in 1997 to resume growing sweet corn, rice, bananas and other farm products. After a decade or so they were evicted once more by the local police, because in the meantime the area had attracted the attention of the foodstuff multinationals, whose interest was in growing the African palm. Recently, on 4 April, 2011, following a decision in favour of the “vulnerable” population, the families from Las Pavas were able to return to their homelands.



CELEBRATING THE RETURN TO LAS PAVAS

BAG FOR COCA LEAVES AND GOURD CONTAINING LIME

from tombs on the central Peruvian coast (XIV-XV century).

The ownership of the coca leaves has been recognised for thousands of years by Andean populations. Lime, chewed with the coca leaves, release the stimulating substance.



LIBERA TERRA

**THE THEME OF RECLAIMING THE LAND
IN COLOMBIA IMMEDIATELY CALLS TO MIND
A SITUATION IN ITALY WHERE LANDS ARE
CONFISCATED FROM THE MAFIA**



LIBERA. ASSOCIATIONS, NAMES AND NUMBERS AGAINST THE MAFIAS, founded by don Luigi Ciotti, came into being on 25 March 1995 with the intent of calling on those with a sense of civic responsibility to come out against the mafias and promote legality and justice. It currently coordinates over 1500 associations and groups. Among its concrete initiatives are: a law on the social recycling of assets confiscated from the mafias; educating citizens in democracy and respect for the law; a commitment to fighting corruption; anti-mafia training camps; work and development projects; and the fight against loan sharks and usury.

The lands confiscated from the mafias are owned by the local municipalities in which they are repossessed; they are assigned, by a contract which lets them free of charge, to social cooperatives which farm them and make them productive. Projects undertaken in lands reclaimed from the mafias do not just benefit those who run them and their associates; they also involve legitimate

local players, transforming confiscated assets into a resource for the development of the entire socio-economic fabric. Lands which return to productivity apply best practices thanks to the involvement of organic farmers, who share a respect for the uniqueness of "typical" local products and traditions. Their mission is to place on the tables of Italian families a product that is genuine, good and... fair.

