Frances Moore Lappé Brief Bios

General bio, 266 words

Frances Moore Lappé is an American original. New York Magazine dubbed her “Movement Mother” while the Smithsonian described this book as “one of the most influential political tracts of the times.” Gourmet Magazine named Lappé as one of 25 people—from Thomas Jefferson to Julia Child—whose work has changed the way America eats. Writing, either by or about Lappé, has appeared in Harper’s, New York Times Magazine, O Magazine, among others. Her media appearances range from the Today Show to Hardball with Chris Matthews, from Fox and Friends to the BBC and PBS Retro Report.

The recipient of 20 honorary degrees, Lappé has authored 20 books, most recently Daring Democracy, coauthored with Adam Eichen, and It’s Not Too Late.


A sought-after public speaker, Lappé has been a visiting scholar at MIT and U.C. Berkeley. In 1987, Lappé received the Right Livelihood Award, often called the “Alternative Nobel.” She is a founding member of the World Future Council and serves on the National Advisory Board of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Lappé is co-founder of three national organizations—Oakland-based Food First, the Center for Living Democracy (1991-2000), and her current home, the Cambridge-based Small Planet Institute, cofounded with her daughter Anna Lappé.

General bio, 159 words

Frances Moore Lappé is the author or coauthor of 20 books, many focusing on themes of “living democracy”—suggesting a government accountable to citizens and a way of living aligned with the deep human need for connection, meaning and power.

Her first book, Diet for a Small Planet published in 1971, has now sold three-million copies. Her latest work is It’s Not Too Late! Crisis, Opportunity, and the Power of Hope. In 2017 she coauthored with Adam Eichen, Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want focusing on the roots of the U.S. democracy crisis and how Americans are creatively responding to the challenge. Frances is co-founder of Oakland-based Food First and the Cambridge-based Small Planet Institute, which she leads with her daughter Anna Lappé. The recipient of twenty honorary degrees, Frances has been a visiting scholar at MIT and U.C. Berkeley and in 1987 received the Right Livelihood Award, often called the “Alternative Nobel.”
General bio, 80 words

Frances Moore Lappé is the author of twenty books, many focusing on themes of “living democracy,” including the three-million copy Diet for a Small Planet. In 2017 she coauthored with Adam Eichen, Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want. Frances is co-founder of Food First and Small Planet Institute, which she leads with her daughter Anna Lappé. Frances is the recipient of twenty honorary degrees and the Right Livelihood Award, often called the “Alternative Nobel.”

Very short bio, 63 words

Frances Moore Lappé has authored twenty books, most focusing on themes of “living democracy” including Diet for a Small Planet and in 2017 she coauthored with Adam Eichen, Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want. Frances co-founded Small Planet Institute, and is the recipient of twenty honorary degrees and the Right Livelihood Award, often called the “Alternative Nobel.”

Short democracy bio, 134 words

Frances Moore Lappé is the author three-million copy Diet for a Small Planet and 19 other, many focusing on themes of “living democracy”—suggesting a government accountable to citizens and a way of living aligned with the deep human need for connection, meaning and power. In 2017 she coauthored with Adam Eichen, Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want focusing on the roots of the U.S. democracy crisis and how Americans are creatively responding to the challenge. Frances is co-founder of Oakland-based Food First, Vermont-based Center for Living Democracy (1991-2000) and the Cambridge-based Small Planet Institute, which she leads with her daughter Anna Lappé. Frances was the founding editor of the American News Service (1995-2000) whose stories of citizen problem-solving appeared in half of the top 100 U.S. newspapers.