

When Oil Became Medicine

The most profound shift in modern health did not happen in a hospital. It happened in a refinery. When oil was refined, waste remained. And the industrial mind asked a familiar question: How can this be turned into profit? The answer became petrochemicals. And petrochemicals became medicine. At the beginning of the twentieth century, healing was still local. Plants. Knowledge passed hand to hand. Systems that could not be owned, patented, or centralized. They were messy, variable, human. Industrial chemistry offered something cleaner: consistency, scalability, control. And so the system selected it. Not because it healed better — but because it fit better.

The Moment Medicine Became an Industry

Rockefeller's money did not need to silence alternatives. It only needed to fund one path so thoroughly that all others faded. Medical schools were standardized. Licenses were issued. Research was reorganized around laboratories and molecules rather than ecosystems and relationships. What could be synthesized was elevated. What could not be owned was dismissed. What could not be scaled was forgotten. This is how medicine stopped being knowledge and became product.

The Chemical World

Once petrochemicals became medicine, they became everything else too: fertilizers that replaced soil, plastics that replaced durability, preservatives that replaced freshness, additives that replaced nutrition, pharmaceuticals that replaced prevention. The same logic spread everywhere: if it can be manufactured, it can be sold. If it can be sold, it must be protected. If it must be protected, alternatives must disappear. Not through force. Through funding.

Stop Dystopia Reflection

This is not a story of villains. It is a story of incentives. A system that rewards control will always choose the solution it can own. And once built, that system will defend itself — even when the cost is ecological collapse, chronic illness, and generational dependence. The tragedy is not that petrochemicals exist. It is that they replaced balance. What was once a partnership with living systems became a transaction with dead ones. And we still call this progress.