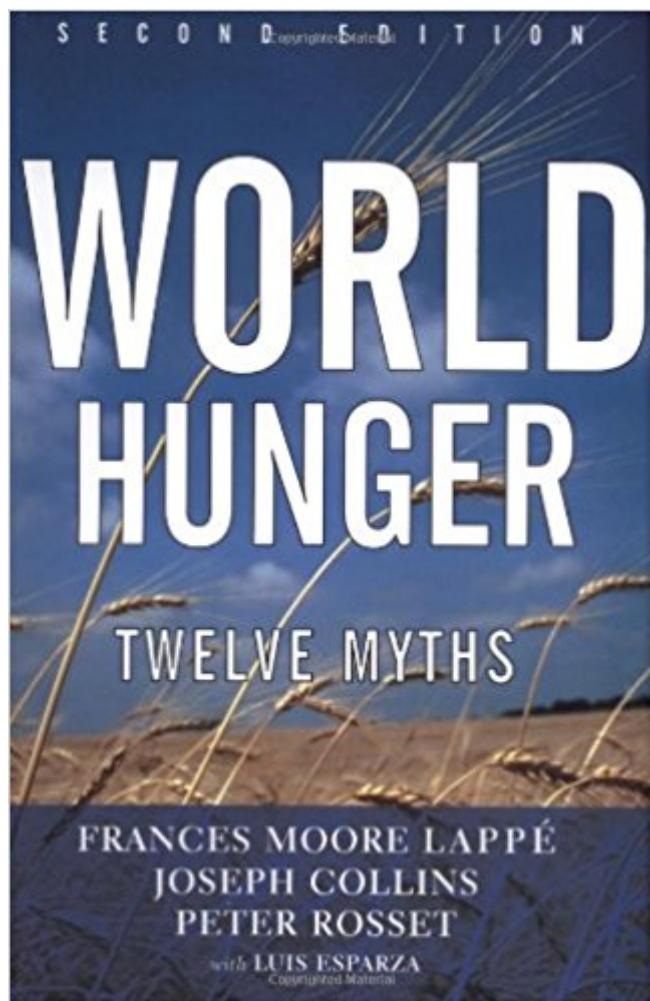


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World Hunger: Twelve Myths (22)



Synopsis

In this completely revised and updated edition of the most authoritative book on world hunger, three of our foremost experts on food and agriculture expose and explode the myths that prevent us from effectively addressing the problem. Drawing on and distilling the extensive research of the Institute for Food and Development Policy (Food First), Lapp, Collins, and Rosset examine head-on the policies and politics that have kept hungry people from feeding themselves around the world, in both Third and First World countries, as well as the misconceptions that have obscured our own national, social, and humanitarian interests. Written in a straightforward, easy-to-read style, *World Hunger: Twelve Myths* shakes many tenaciously held beliefs; but most important, it convinces readers that by standing together with the hungry we can advance not only humanitarian interests, but our own well-being.

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Customer Reviews

The Revised and Updated Edition of the Classic on World Hunger from the Internationally Recognized Institute for Food and Development Policy/Food First. The completely revised Second Edition includes:

- o Substantial new material on hunger in the aftermath of the Cold War
- o Global food production vs. population growth
- o Changing demographics and falling birth rates around the world
- o The shifting focus of foreign assistance in the new world order
- o Structural adjustment and other budget-slashing policies
- o Trade liberalization and free trade agreements
- o Famine and

humanitarian interventions o The Third Worldization of First World nations In this completely revised and updated edition of the most authoritative book on world hunger, three of our foremost experts on food and agriculture expose and explode the myths that prevent us from effectively addressing the problem. Drawing on and distilling the extensive research of the Institute for Food and Development Policy (Food First), Lapp, Collins, and Rosset examine head-on the policies and politics that have kept hungry people from feeding themselves around the world, in both Third and First World countries, as well as the misconceptions that have obscured our own national, social, and humanitarian interests. Written in a straightforward, easy-to-read style, *World Hunger: Twelve Myths* shakes many tenaciously held beliefs; but most important, it convinces readers that by standing together with the hungry we can advance not only humanitarian interests, but our own well-being. "World Hunger addresses problems of enormous human significance with valuable and often surprising information, much insight, sound common sense, and fundamental decency. It should become not only a book for study, but a guide to action."-Noam Chomsky, MIT "A marvelously lucid message: the most important cause of death and disease is hunger; the remedy is food; the remedy exists. Their message swiftly demolishes the myths and powerfully arms us for the political task of ending hunger, here and throughout the world."-Dr. Barry Commoner Frances Moore Lapp is the author of twelve books including the international bestseller, *Diet for a Small Planet*, and co-director of the Center for Living Democracy in Brattleboro, Vermont. In 1975, she and Joseph Collins founded the Oakland-based Institute for Food and Development Policy. Dr. Collins' many books include *Food First: Beyond the Myth of Scarcity*, and *Aid as Obstacle: Twenty Questions About Our Foreign Aid and the Hungry* (both with Lapp, as well as *No Free Lunch: Food and Revolution in Cuba*, and *Chile's Free Market Miracle: A Second Look*. An author, lecturer and consultant on international development issues, Collins makes his home in Santa Cruz, California. Peter Rosset is the Executive Director of the Institute for Food and Development Policy. Dr. Rosset's many books include *A Cautionary Tale: Failed U.S. Development Policy in Central America*, *The Greening of the Revolution: Cuba's Experiment with Organic Agriculture*, and *Agroecology*. Dr. Luis Esparza is a Geographer from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

Lapp et al.'s "World Hunger: Twelve Myths", a production of the Institute for Food and Development Policy, does exactly what it promises: it mentions and then subsequently refutes twelve often held false beliefs about global food issues and worldwide hunger. Although most of the material in this book will be familiar to anyone who has made some study of development issues,

economic theory, and Third World politics, it is nonetheless an excellent primer for those who do not. The accessible and simple writing style, the useful examples, the systematic approach to all the relevant issues in food policy, and the historical awareness in the book all combine to make it the best introduction to the world problematic of agriculture that one could give to family, friends and so forth. The twelve myths addressed are familiar: that the world is overpopulated, that hunger is caused by absolute lack of food, that food production cannot be both efficient and good for the environment, that biotechnology will solve the problem for us (or has), that free trade or free markets will solve the food issue, that foreign aid is the best way to address it, and so forth. Though the authors of the book shy away from any too radical conclusions in their refutations of the above, and they are sometimes quite naive in their appeal to people's interests (particularly in the part where they argue that the American working class has broadly the same interests as the Third World poor), nonetheless their facts and arguments are correct and to the point, and the conclusions the authors do not wish to draw are no less obvious for that. Lappé et al. can even help refute misconceptions about food widely held among the left, such as a distaste for organic production as inefficient or elitist, or the idea that as long as you eat vegetarian, you're not contributing to food or environmental problems. In summary, although one should not take all the conclusions the authors draw at face value, this book is an excellent primer and introduction to global agriculture issues when it comes to the facts.

Frances Moore Lappe is a political and social visionary. The author of *Diet for a Small Planet*, in *World Hunger*, she points out how food is wrongly being used as a political tool. She gives us hope and guidance for making it better, in a voice that anyone can understand. She has dedicated her life to making sure that people get fed, that food is grown safely, and that we make cautious decisions about how we handle our food supply. I highly respect her opinions and recommend her books to anyone interested in the politics of food and how it affects our future.

Great overview of issues relating to chronic poverty. There are plenty of endnotes to support what the authors are saying and provide avenues for further investigation. I read a lot of development literature and books. Easy to read, great intro type book.

This one really makes you rethink your ideas about hunger. The authors take each of the presumed causes and presumed cures for hunger and show why they are not accurate and will not work. Each chapter is well documented, making it a little harder to read, but easier to believe. Toward the end, it

begins to feel like a science fiction novel in the vein of 1984. A little scary in that respect. They assert that the free trade legislation, agricultural trade laws, and even hunger relief efforts go to support the acquisition of more land by the big international corporations, reducing the land owned by individual families. Even when a smaller country is exporting huge amounts of food products, local people are still starving, because it is the international corporations that are doing the exporting, and sending the money out of the country. The only solutions, they say, are rather dramatic. They call for land redistribution, and greater sharing by the big international agricultural giants. They call for a balance between the free market and government regulation, in the interest of everyone having a way to produce enough to eat. I recommend this one for everyone A Call to Arms! Out of the Pews and Into the Streets

This is one of the most comprehensive books on the true causes of world hunger written by distinguished people in the field. Highly recommend it.

Great textbook for school!

An updated Diet for a Small Planet A wake up call for the future of food and population growth. Should be read with the CD - Food, Inc.

Interesting read!

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