

Waste: Uncovering the Global Food Scandal

Tristram Stuart | 2009 | Penguin | ISBN 978-0-141-03634-2

A fascinating exposé of the shocking waste in the global food system. Stuart tells of post harvest losses in developing countries that could be avoided by providing cardboard boxes to farmers, and appalling wastefulness of Western snack bars and cafes. He traces the links between the world's hungry and full. But despite these huge divides, his message is clear and positive: buy the food you need, and eat the food you buy. EB

Food, Inc.

Karl Weber ed. | 2009 | PublicAffairs Books
ISBN 978-1-58648-694-5

Companion book to the film 'Food, inc.' this is a series of essays by some of the world's experts on food and related issues, Eric Schlosser, Marion Nestle and Muhammad Yunus among them. The chapters deal with different aspects of the corporate food industry, what it means for citizens, and how we can challenge the status quo. EB

The Crisis of Food Brands

Lindgreen, Hingley & Vanhamme eds. | 2009
Gower Applied Research | ISBN 978-0-566-08812-4

Cutting edge research on some of the most hotly contested controversies in food and agricultural marketing. From Coca-Cola's Dasani launch to functional foods, from green consumerism and fair trade to supermarket power, this is a must-read for anyone interested in food marketing. EB

The New Cultures of Food

Lindgreen & Hingley eds. | 2009
Gower Applied Research | ISBN 978-0-566-08813-1

Changes in our food landscape, brought about by the rich mix of religious, ethnic and cultural groups in the UK and Western Europe, present a fascinating set of opportunities and challenges for food businesses. This collection of essays looks in detail at those opportunities, and what they mean for the future of food and food marketing. EB

The World of Soy

Du Bois, Tan & Mintz eds. | 2009 | University of Illinois Press
ISBN 978-0-252-03341-4

This book explores how and why we eat soya, as a food and near ubiquitous ingredient. By focusing purposefully on soya for human consumption, as opposed to for feed or industrial uses, it makes a virtue of what at first seems an odd omission. TM

Globesity

Delpeuch, Maire, Monnier & Holdsworth eds. | 2009 | Earthscan
ISBN 978-1-84407-667-3

Obesity is no longer a disease of the 'McDonaldised' wealthy. It is a global pandemic that is spreading across developing and industrialised countries alike. Our innate taste for fat and sugary foods has met its perfect match, a food industry that produces these products cheaply and at huge profits. Globesity tells the tale of how our high-energy and low-quality diets are bringing us to the brink of a public health disaster. SR

**The Food Economy**

Bunte & Dagevos eds. | 2009 | Wageningen Academic Publishers
ISBN 978-90-8686-109-5 | €43

The Food Economy takes as its starting point the largely behind-the-scenes transformation of our food system in recent years. But, as it becomes more complex, it also incorporates issues previously considered as external to food economics, like trust, CSR and ethics, as well as economics and safety. This book acts as a bridge between those worlds, and attempts to reconnect consumers to the food they eat and the people that produce it. EB

Ethical Futures: Bioscience and Food Horizons

Millar, Hobson West & Nerlich eds. | 2009 | Wageningen Academic Publishers | ISBN 978-90-8686-115-6 | €59

'What has social justice got to do with sustainable food?'; 'When does a new technology pose novel philosophical problems?'; 'What kinds of moral view about the human-animal relationship will predominate in the future?' These are just three of the myriad ethical issues addressed in this fascinating exploration of what the future holds for agriculture and food production. SR

Famine: A Short History

Cormac O Grada | 2009 | Princeton | ISBN 978-0-691-12237-3

A fascinating read, this book delves into the role of population pressure, food markets and government intervention in preventing or provoking famines, O Grada's insightful historical account depicts the horrors of famine in the last five thousand years, and analyses in depth the causes of mass starvation. SR

Feeding the World

Giovanni Federico | 2009 | Princeton | ISBN 978-0-691-13853-4

A comprehensive global economic history of agriculture. In contrast with the first 12,000 years of farming, the last 200 have seen the world population increase from 1bn to nearly 7bn while the amount of food grown has increased 10 fold. Federico has produced a balanced and sensitive text which is essential reading. ABC

The End of Overeating: Taking Control of the Insatiable American Appetite

David A. Kessler | 2009 | Rodale Press | ISBN 978-1-60529785-9

Despite testimonials from some well-respected critics of our food system, this volume fails to live up to its title. Kessler, former director of the US Food and Drug Administration and a paediatrician, does an adequate, though repetitive, job of showing how the food companies have discovered how to make us eat too much by layering fat, salt, and sugar. But only neoliberals will applaud his solution: greater individual willpower developed via a trademarked method he calls Food Rehab®.

Indeed, the volume only notes in a sentence or two that it might also be necessary to change food regulation if we are to avoid a global public health problem. (Reviewed by Lawrence Busch, Professor of Standards and Society, Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics, Lancaster University)