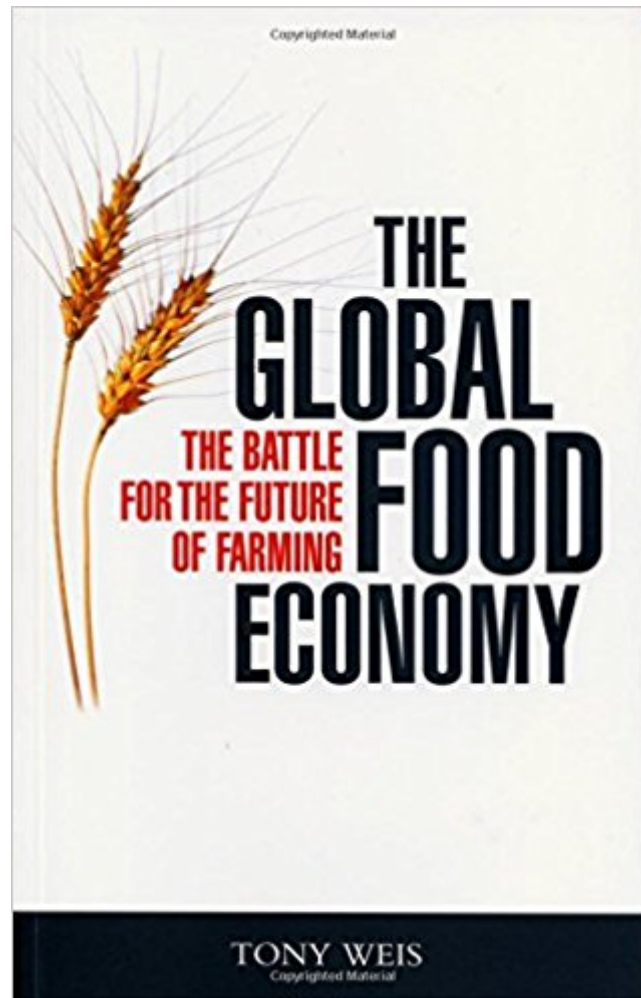




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The Global Food Economy: The Battle For The Future Of Farming



Synopsis

This book sets out some answers to the question: how can we build an ecologically sustainable and humane system of food production and distribution? The modern food economy is a paradox. Surplus 'food mountains' sit alongside global malnutrition and the developed world subsidizes its own agriculture while pressurizing the developing world to liberalize at all costs. Export competition is increasingly aggressive whilst the reliance on imports in many countries has worrying implications for food security. Family farms go out of business and dispossessed peasant farmers are driven into urban slums. The WTO's uneven application of neoliberal economics to food production is relatively new, and the consequences of mounting deficits, rising 'food miles', and social upheaval, are untested but ominous.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'I hadn't imagined that a small book could do justice to so large a topic before I read Tony Weis on the global food economy - it's necessary and terrific: intellectually rigorous and informative, full of insight and provocation.'-Henry Bernstein, SOAS'Praise for the first edition of The Global Food Economy: 'This is the book I have been waiting for. Tony Weis gives an ecological foundation to analysis of food regimes, something that many of us having been attempting in less capable ways for some time' Harriet Friedmann, Journal of Agrarian Change`Finally, a book summarizing the current state of agricultural policies that my mother could read, and that can stand up to a critical eye...In this effort, Weis succeeds with flying colours' K.R. Aviles-Vasquez, Development and

Change'I hadn't imagined that a small book could do justice to so large a topic before I read Tony Weis on the global food economy - it's necessary and terrific: intellectually rigorous and informative, full of insight and provocation.' Henry Bernstein, SOAS'A searing indictment of big agri-businesses ... A sane and passionate plea to reorder the global food economy ... The book ... should find a place in our bookshelf.' Economic and Political Weekly'A sweeping overview of the contradictions and crises in the global food economy.' Food Ethics'Compact and readable, Tony Weis confronts head-on the forces that have brought about the paradoxes in the production and distribution of food around the world.'The New Agriculturist 'A patient and enthusiastic insight into a key aspect of international development and environmentalism.'Red Pepper 'A powerful book ... incorporate[s] so many components into its contained and up-to-date narrative, it is well worth reading by both scholars advanced along the road of global food and agricultural studies, and by those who reside in Weis's state of original unconsciousness ... Weis has made an impressive and valuable contribution to a burgeoning scholar-activist literature that seeks not just to show us the dangerous flaws and injustices of our contemporary models of food production, but also to indicate where we might go for practical and meaningful alternatives.'Josh Brem-Wilson, Organization and Environment 'Students new to the political economy/ecology of food and agriculture...sometimes struggle to place the various components of the global agrifood system into a coherent conceptual framework. This book will be a useful tool for such students, as it outlines both the causes and impacts of accelerating structural changes around the globe in one accessible narrative.'P.H. Howard, Agriculture and Human Values 'Tony Weis ... presents a highly informative narrative ... [and] provides abundant fact-based arguments to confidently engage in political dialogue on the driving forces of a food system seemingly in perpetual crisis ... With his important book on this vital topic, Tony Weis has provided nothing less than a solid departure point for such debate.'Glenn Brigaldino, Review of African Political Economy 'At last, here is a book that draws together the differing historical-geographical trajectories that today invite discussion of a specifically global agricultural dilemma, and what might be done about it ... this is an uncommonly synthetic and focused book.'Daniel Niles, Annals of the Association of American Geographers

Tony Weiss is Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Western Ontario, Canada.

While Weis has lots of good statistics his presentation of modern farming, especially American Midwestern farming leaves a lot to be desired. From the descriptions he cherry picks to the laws he chooses to ignore about animal feeding it is clear this book is incredibly biased. He is a fan of big

words and even bigger sentences. Weis does a great job of illustrating how national agricultural corporations have come into power he frames it so a reader who knows nothing of agriculture would think they are evil and out solely for profit, the producer and land be damned. His descriptions of modern animal farming leave a lot to be desired if you have ever been on a farm and he does little to mention that GMOs have had tons of research, mostly independent, that verify they are safe; nor does he talk about how Mark Lynas, the man behind the anti-GMO EU, has changed his position on them. Great read if you are setting out to hate the "agro-industrial grain-livestock complex" or already do, but it is too biased for me to want to recommend it to anyone.

Good book on policy and how politics play a role in food policy. Not the easiest read, and starts slow, but gets better as you go through it.

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