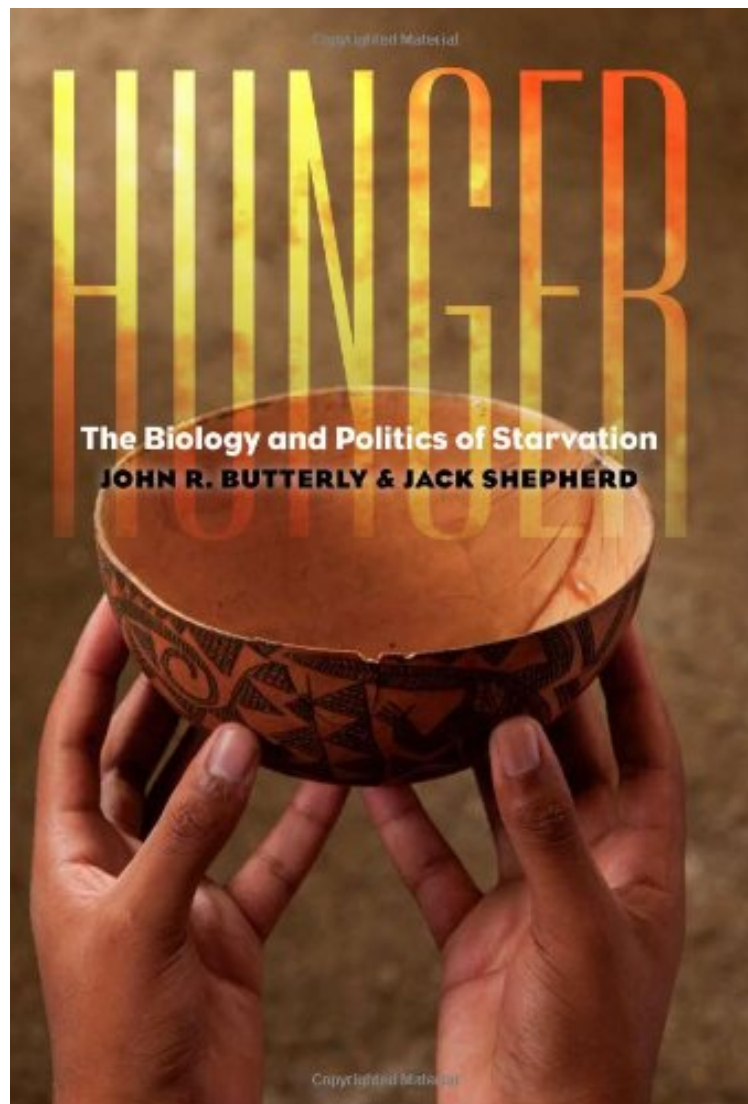


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Hunger: The Biology and Politics of Starvation (Geisel Series in Global Health and Medicine)

John R. Butterly, Jack Shepherd
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John R. Butterly, Jack Shepherd : Hunger: The Biology and Politics of Starvation (Geisel Series in Global Health and Medicine) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hunger: The Biology and Politics of Starvation (Geisel Series in Global Health and Medicine):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and highly researched look at the hunger crisis around

...By CustomerFascinating and highly researched look at the hunger crisis around us and our options as informed citizens of the world. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. All over the place By P. Troutman This book -- a collaboration of two professors, one in medicine and the other in environmental sciences -- is a slightly odd amalgam of different perspectives on starvation worldwide. The book goes back and forth between nuanced discussions of global (really African) famines at a policy level and discussions of human biology. Then the first four (of five) parts of the book apply concepts to the Great Irish Famine of 1845-1850. The differences between the two styles of writing is startling: During the late 1980s, the IMF (part of the World Bank) began encouraging selected developing states around the globe to address a broad range of obstacles to post-colonial state development by undertaking "economic structural adjustment programs" (ESAPs). The large intestine, or colon, has the function of peristalsis, storage, and to a lesser degree absorption of whatever water has not been absorbed in the small intestine. The reader can expect repeated cultural shocks going back and forth, to say nothing of flashbacks to high school biology. The more biological parts keep promising that connections will be made, but when it is, it is often something that could be said without a deep understanding of what is happening at the molecular level. The one place where they try to meld the two halves is in a chapter that uses sociobiology, which, like so many other books that pull that out as an ultimate explanation, is completely oblivious of the damning critiques made decades ago. (It doesn't prove anything to take one behavior -- no matter how many times it is repeated -- out of context and then imagine how it could be the result of natural selection.) But that's only one chapter. The main reason I couldn't say that it's worth the time to read is the sheer disjointedness of it. Individual chapters are interesting as is looking at the Irish famine from different angles, and I could see assigning individual chapters for an undergraduate class. But overall, I'm slightly baffled by the book (which of course is a reaction that you might not have, which makes it a pity that there aren't more reviews).

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948, recognizes the individuals right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care. More than sixty years later, despite the rapid advancement of science and technology and the proliferation of humanitarian efforts, inadequate nutrition remains a major health and social problem worldwide. Food insecurity chronic malnutrition, persistent hunger, even starvation still afflicts more than one in seven of the world's people. As Butterly and Shepherd show, hunger is not the result of inadequate resources and technologies; rather, its cause is a lack of political will to ensure that all people have access to the food to which they are entitled food distributed safely, fairly, and equitably. Using a cross-disciplinary approach rooted in both medicine and social science to address this crucial issue, the authors provide in-depth coverage of the biology of human nutrition; malnutrition and associated health-related factors; political theories of inadequate nutrition and famine; historical-political behaviors that have led to famine in the past; and the current political behaviors that cause hunger and malnutrition to remain a major health problem today.

When people are subjected to chronic physical hunger, as well as malnutrition, they become more susceptible to disease. According to Butterly and Shepherd, as a result of its effects, chronic hunger becomes the leading cause of death throughout the world. When there are severe food shortages that lead to an actual breakdown of society, we call that famine. Ultimately, though there are many causes of starvation or famine (e.g. weather, political conflict or corruption, reliance on a single crop, etc.), Butterly and Shepherd believe that poverty is the underlying cause. The rich rarely starve except, of course, by choice! Psychology Today