

If hunger were simply a matter of food production, no one would go without. There is more than enough food produced annually to provide every living person on the planet with a healthy diet. Yet nearly a billion people suffer from food shortages, unsafe water, and malnutrition. If there is plenty of food, then why are there so many hungry people in the world?

In this pathbreaking book, Thomas J. Bassett and Alex Winter-Nelson set out to understand the geography and causes of world hunger. They begin their inquiry by defining hunger broadly: hunger is a problem both for those who are hungry and those who are vulnerable to hunger. *The Atlas of World Hunger*, the first of its kind, asks where and why hunger and hunger vulnerability exist in today's world. The *Atlas* assesses the most common indicators of hunger and then proposes an alternative measure called the Hunger Vulnerability Index, which combines data on food availability, household access, and nutritional outcomes into a single tool—one that delivers a fuller understanding of the scope of global hunger, its underlying mechanisms, and the ways in which the goal of ending hunger can be achieved. The second part of the *Atlas* maps the relationship between hunger and its causes.

The first depiction of the geography of hunger worldwide, the *Atlas* is a timely and valuable resource for teachers, students, and anyone else interested in understanding the geography and causes of hunger. This knowledge, the authors argue, is a critical first step toward eliminating unnecessary suffering in a world of plenty.

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