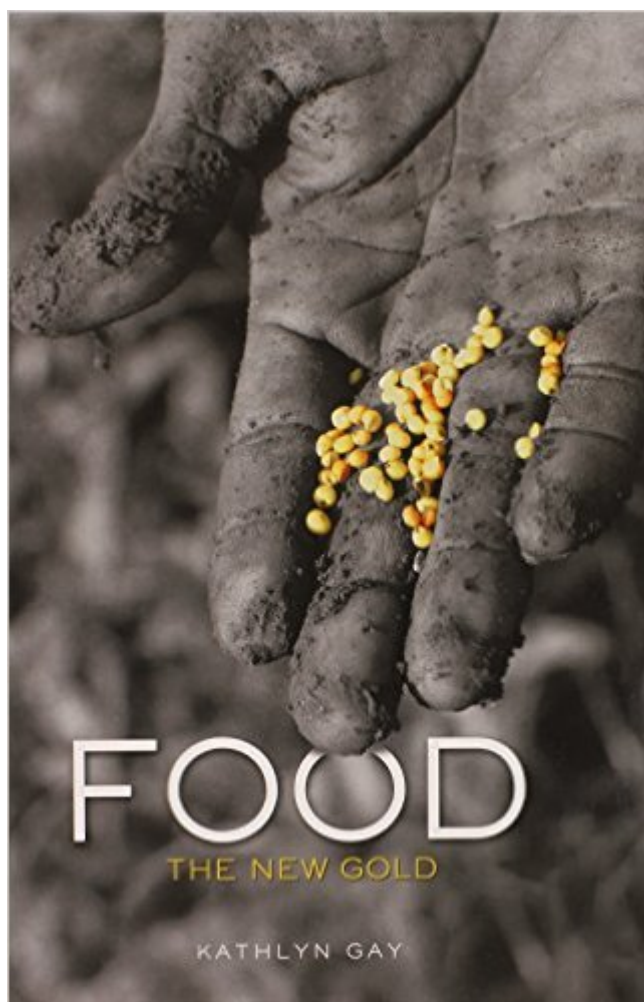


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# Food: The New Gold (Single Titles)



## Synopsis

Did you know starvation kills more people every year than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined? Around the world, millions go to bed hungry every night. Farmers produce enough food to feed everyone, but the food does not get to the people who need it most. In some places, food has become a precious commodity almost like gold. Why is food scarce in some places and abundant in others? In this book, author Kathlyn Gay explores the complicated interaction between food, business, politics, and the environment. She examines the international food aid system; giant factory farms, which grow and slaughter animals using assembly-line techniques; and the genetic engineering of seeds, plants, and animals. These systems promise to get more food to the people who need it but the promises don't always pan out. Worse, many modern agricultural practices are harmful to the environment, to workers, and even to consumers. Food politics will only become more complicated as Earth's climate grows warmer, bringing rising sea levels, shifting growing seasons, and shrinking freshwater supplies. But despite these dreary predictions for the future of food and agriculture, the news is not all bad. Around the world, people are forging a new food future to provide good food for everyone and to do so in ways that nurture the soil and water, keeping farmland healthy and productive for generations to come.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 6 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Many people looked askance at the Group of Eight (G8) summit held in Japan to "discuss the global food crisis." The banquet was almost frighteningly gluttonous in light of the topic they had come to discuss. Delicacies such as caviar and milkfed lamb were a far cry from the dirt cookies that Haitian women made to enable their families to survive. Worldwide food shortages in many areas caused food to "become a precious item---almost like gold." Such circumstances often lead to desperation, but even though the summit was somewhat of an embarrassment, people have started to come together to try to solve the crisis and feed people on both local and global levels. In this day and age, many of us are now very much aware of efforts to feed people in our nation who are "food insecure." There are an astounding "thirty-five million Americans [who] are unable to buy enough food." You'll read about programs set in place to help them. Globally, many feel it is not enough to simply deliver food to those in need, but also to help them "grow or obtain their own food so they can be self-sufficient." In America, the family who could once grow enough food to support and nourish themselves is gone. Giant agribusiness are at the forefront of food production as the family farm has all but vanished from the face of the landscape. These agribusinesses "do not handle the hard, day-to-day work of planting and picking crops, milking cows, or slaughtering animals." These farms are owned by international corporations who run them from afar. Their agricultural domination extends not only to farms, but also to things such as seed companies and food-processing plants. In the 1970s "concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) appeared on the scene.

What is the biggest killer in the world today? AIDS? No. Malaria? No. Traffic? No. The answer is shockingly simple. Food. Or more precisely the lack of it. Research shows that starvation is killing off more people each year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined, even though farmers are producing more than enough food to go around. Here author Kathlyn Gay takes a look at this situation to discover why food has become the `new gold`, a precious commodity that remains out of reach for many. Many millions of people around the world are said to be starving (to death). Over a billion people are said to be separately undernourished. Reading this book helps bring home just how fortunate many of us are. As a reviewer of cookery and food books it is easy to overlook the regular commodity of food. Most cookery books are, after all, aiming to create something special using perhaps better-than-average ingredients. You hardly need a recipe book for "starvation" sustenance cookery. Consumers in the `affluent west` are, even if they just `regular people` on a regular income, conspicuously lucky by comparison to many. How many times have we gone into a food store and become angry because our favourite brand of something isn't there or left frustrated

as a certain ingredient for our luxurious recipe was not available? Reading this book can make you feel uncomfortable by self-awareness and a realisation of just how lucky we are. Why do people in some parts of the world have to beg for food and sometimes even scrounge in garbage dumps, while people in other parts of the globe have more than enough food? They can buy almost every kind of food imaginable on grocery store shelves. Why isn't food affordable for everyone?

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