

World Hunger

World Hunger and Food Resources: A Bibliographic Essay

by Leonard S. Kenworthy

In recent months many Americans have suddenly become aware of the gaunt ghost of hunger which stalks our planet. Pictures of children with bloated stomachs, video images of old people scrounging in garbage pails for food, and documentaries of people dying in India and parts of Africa have burned the grim facts of hunger into the consciences of sensitive, caring persons.

Too few, however, are aware that hunger is no newcomer to our global community. It has long been the daily companion of millions of our fellow passengers on Spaceship Earth. Unseen by many of us, hunger and malnutrition continue to take their toll not only in deaths, but in stunted physical development, in blindness, in mental retardation.

Unless drastic steps are taken soon to ameliorate this condition, the problem of world hunger will grow worse in the months and years ahead—an additional 200,000 human beings are added to the world population every day, 74 million each year, or the equivalent of the entire population of the United States every three years. Furthermore, the claims on our limited global food resources are rapidly increasing because of the demand for more and better food by people in all parts of the earth.

Surely the problem of hunger, one of the most pressing issues of our time, calls for inclusion in the curricula of our schools. Young children should not be made to feel guilty about this complex and frightening problem, but they can be introduced to it in an elementary way, with stories and classroom discussion. Middle grade students should certainly begin to study this world-wide situation, and to speculate on what they as individuals can do about it. And no student should leave an American high school without having studied in detail the world hunger crisis, the world's food resources, and possible solutions.

Even though there are large gaps in the present inventory of educational materials, there is a growing list of publications on this subject. Since the situation changes

[Ed. Note: Refer to "Other Organizations and Addresses" on p. 27 for all agency locations.]

rapidly, librarians and teachers need to keep files of clippings from recent newspapers and magazines and to limit themselves mainly to books produced in the last few years. (Almost all the items mentioned in this bibliography were published since 1970.) Materials used should present the optimistic as well as the pessimistic aspects of the food supply question, for there are many hopeful signs that we are at last beginning to realize the seriousness of the problem and to work out plans to ameliorate it.

A detailed account of malnutrition and health problems in Africa appears in a special issue of **Focus** magazine for September-October, 1974. This is the magazine of the American Geographical Society and is available for \$2.00 a copy.

Magazines

One of the most helpful publications in this field is the monthly magazine **War on Hunger** available free from The Agency for International Development. This is a highly readable and profusely illustrated periodical.

Some schools may also want to subscribe to **Ceres**, a publication of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations available through UNIPUB. The subscription price is \$6.00 per year.

The Unesco Courier, done in a lavishly illustrated format and priced at \$9.00 per year, is a truly international magazine to which all schools should subscribe. It is also available from UNIPUB. Two recent issues highlight the world food and world population problems—the issue for May, 1974, on "And Tomorrow How Many?" (\$.85) and the double issue for July-August, 1974, on "Six Million More Every Month" (\$1.70).

A wealth of background data, suggested methods, and resources on world food and hunger is contained in a special issue (November-December, 1974) of **Social Education**, the professional publication of the National Council for the Social Studies, on "Global Hunger and Poverty." The regular yearly subscription rate is \$12.00 without membership in the N.C.S.S. Individual issues cost \$1.75.

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Packets

Four excellent packets of materials are available on the international food problem. One is free from the Materials Distribution Service of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. A second is a small packet from the Schools Services division of the Committee for UNICEF. The order must be accompanied by a large, stamped, self-addressed envelope. A third is the **World Hunger Packet** of the American Friends Service Committee, available for \$1.00.

One of the most important organizations in this broad field is the Overseas Development Council, a private, non-profit agency. Included in their packet **Toward Global Development** are three leaflets bearing directly on the world food situation: **The Changing Face of Food Scarcity**, **Fertilizer Scarcity and the Food Outlook**, and **A 'People' Strategy for Development**. The entire packet costs only \$1.00; any one of the titles may be obtained for \$.05 a copy in quantities of ten or more.

Pamphlets

Two pamphlets are especially recommended for use with better junior high readers and with most high school students. One is the Public Affairs Committee's booklet, **Food for the World's Hungry**, written by Maxwell Stewart and available for \$.35 a copy (or less if ordered in quantity) from the Public Affairs Committee. This is a compact, concise, yet comprehensive and very readable account. It includes material on the causes of our current difficulties, as well as suggested means of improving the contemporary situation.

A popular account of the United Nations World Food Conference, held in 1974, is contained in a booklet called **Things to Come: The World Food Crisis: The Way Out**, sold for \$1.00 a copy by UNIPUB. It is extensively illustrated with a short text accompanying the black-and-white photographs.

Free materials are also available from the Bureau of Public Affairs. Among their recent publications are a special report on **Drought Damage and Famine in Sub-Sahara Africa** (October, 1974) and an address by Edwin M. Martin on the global food crisis, given June 18, 1974.

Books for High School Students

Unfortunately there are few books as yet for elementary school students on the world food problem. It is hoped that publishers will soon consider issuing such books with this important story told simply and illustrated graphically. But there are several written specifically for secondary school students, although these are not as recent as one would hope.

The most simple of these and the most attractively laid out is Elizabeth S. Helfman's **This Hungry World**

(Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1970, 160 pp., \$5.11). This volume is illustrated with many excellent black-and-white photographs and stresses the possibilities of food from the sea, new foods, and "The Green Revolution."

Similar but on a higher reading level is John Scott's volume, **Hunger: Man's Struggle to Feed Himself** (Parents' Magazine Press, 1969, 181 pp., \$4.50). Two chapters which are unusually comprehensive are "The Battle of the Pests" and "The ABC's of Nutrition." Many small black-and-white pictures enhance the text.

Most outstanding is Nigel Hey's volume, **How Will We Feed the Hungry Billions: Food for Tomorrow's World** (Julian Messner, 1971, 191 pp., \$4.29). Written in conjunction with the editors of Science Book Associates, this book presents many exciting future approaches to alleviate—if not solve—the global food crisis. These include adopting new strains of rice, wheat, and other crops; improving water facilities; using atomic rays to preserve food; developing hitherto unused land; and farming the oceans. In the light of today's situation, this book may be overly optimistic, but people have often found surprising methods of ameliorating bad conditions when confronted with frightful problems.

Written specifically for high school students is Barbara Milbauer and Gerald Leinwand's **Hunger** (Pocket Books, 1971, 159 pp., \$.95). This paperback, devoted to the tragic plight of twenty-five million Americans, is one of several volumes in the *Problems of American Society Series*. Included are fifteen readings with excerpts ranging from *Playboy* magazine to *Today's Health*.

Books for Adults and Advanced Readers

A gold mine of data for teachers is Jayne C. Millar's **Focusing on Global Poverty and Development: A Resource Book for Educators** (Overseas Development Council, 1974, 630 pp., \$12.00). This is a tremendous compendium of background material, teaching suggestions for several courses, and resources on the broad field of development. Included is a fine chapter on "Hunger and Affluence in an Interdependent World."

Teachers and many high school students will be thrilled by the story of Nobel prize winner Norman Borlaug's life as told by Lennard Bickel in **Facing Starvation: Norman Borlaug and the Fight Against Hunger** (The Reader's Digest Press and E. P. Dutton and Co., 1974, 376 pp., \$8.95). This fascinating and well-written story chronicles Borlaug's discoveries as a plant pathologist and grain breeder, with special emphasis on his work in Mexico developing new strains of wheat. This work led to "The Green Revolution" and helped feed at least a quarter of the world's people. Included in this volume are his latest proposals for defeating hunger

on a world-wide scale. [Ed. Note: See detailed review of Facing Starvation in this issue on p. 32.]

The most prolific and expert writer on world hunger and the world's food supply is Lester R. Brown. A former administrator of the International Agricultural Development Service and a policy adviser to the Secretary of Agriculture on world food needs, Lester Brown is now a Senior Fellow with the Overseas Development Council. One of his best-known books is **Seeds of Change: The Green Revolution and Development in the 1970's** (Praeger, 1970, 222 pp., \$3.95). This volume is now out of print but is available in many libraries. A later volume written by Brown in cooperation with Gail W. Finsterbusch is **Man and His Environment: Food** (Harper & Row, 1972, 208 pp., \$4.95).

More recent is Brown's **By Bread Alone**, written in collaboration with Erik P. Eckholm (Praeger, 1974, 272 pp., \$8.95). This is probably the most clear and comprehensive account of the contemporary situation regarding food and hunger on a global scale. This superb volume emphasizes developing agriculture in the poor nations and urges the cutback of protein use by the world's affluent minority. [Ed. Note: See detailed review in this issue on p. 33.]

On the same theme is D. S. Halacy Jr.'s volume on **The Geometry of Hunger** (Harper & Row, 1972, 280 pp., \$7.95). This book contains an unusually detailed account of the story of population expansion. It also stresses the area of nutrition. Perhaps the third part of

the book is of most interest—it deals with "Solving the Problems" and devotes considerable attention to "The Green Revolution," exotic foods, and the theme of "Can We Get from Here to There?" Published in 1972, this volume is still current, although the viewpoint is more optimistic than that of many contemporary writers.

Finally, there is **A New U.S. Farm Policy for Changing World Food Needs** (Committee for Economic Development, 1974, 77 pp., \$2.00). Schools may receive five free copies of this book if they write on school stationery and include a description of the course for which the book will be used. Teachers and good high school readers will find the "Introduction and Summary of Recommendations" particularly helpful. Charts and graphs throughout the volume add a dimension that is unique to this publication.

Leonard S. Kenworthy, Ed.D., is a Professor Emeritus of Social Science Education, formerly associated with the Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. Dr. Kenworthy, well known educator and prolific writer, is currently active on committees for the Children's Book Council and the National Council for Social Studies. His most recent publications include three additions to his World Study Guides series, Studying China, Studying India, and Studying Japan as well as the brand new Camels and Their Cousins.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND ADDRESSES:

(Individuals, classes, student clubs, and other groups interested in taking some action regarding world hunger may wish to contact one or more of the organizations listed below.)

Africare, 1424 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
Agency for International Development, Publications Division, Room 4953, State Department Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20523

American Friends Service Committee, 15 Rutherford Pl., New York, N.Y. 10003

American Geographical Society, Broadway at 156th St., New York, N.Y. 10032

Bureau of Public Affairs, Department of State, Office of Media Services, Washington, D.C. 20520.

CARE, 660 First Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016.

Catholic Relief Services, 1011 First Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Center for Science in the Public Interest 1779 Church St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Center for War/Peace Studies, 218 E. 18th St., New York, N.Y. 10003.

Committee for Economic Development, 477 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Institute for World Order, Inc., 1140 Ave. of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036.

Management Institute for National Development (MIND), 230 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

Materials Distribution Service, Presbyterian Church of the United States, 341 Ponce de Leon Ave., N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30308.

Meals for Millions Foundation, 1800 Olympic Blvd., P.O. Box 1666, Santa Monica, Cal. 90406.

National Council for the Social Studies, 1201 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Oxfam-America, 302 Columbus Ave., Boston, Mass. 02116.

Public Affairs Committee, 381 Park Ave. S., New York, N.Y. 10016.

UNIPUB, P.O. Box 433, New York, N.Y. 10016.

U.S. Committee for UNICEF, 331 E. 38th St., New York, N.Y. 10016.