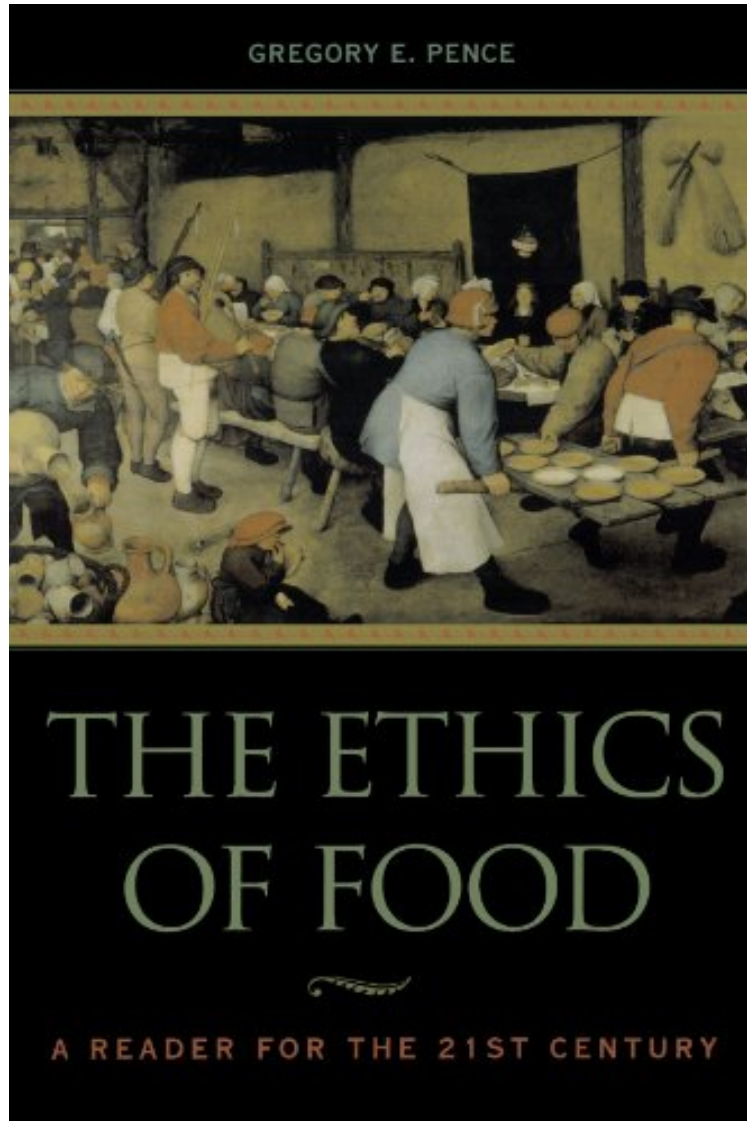


The Ethics of Food: A Reader for the Twenty-First Century

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From Brand: Rowman n Littlefield Publishers : The Ethics of Food: A Reader for the Twenty-First Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ethics of Food: A Reader for the Twenty-First Century:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy AMcEllove it27 of 32 people found the following review helpful. Biases in the name of ethicsBy E. N. AndersonThis should be a good book. It deals with current debates about food--mostly about genetically modified (genetically engineered) food, but with a nod to vegetarianism, the food industry, and other issues. Essays from both sides of the issues are presented. Unfortunately, this is not a good

book. The problem is that the essays are not serious or scientific pieces, but popular op-ed items, many of them outrageously biased and distorting. The editor has good credentials as an ethicist and expert on the issues, and so do a few of the writers (Norman Borlaug, Nicols Fox...), but most of the writers are political activists, industry shills, or experts on technology who are notably ignorant of ethics. Even the editor himself takes leave of his hard-won credentials in his essay here, which is long on rhetoric and very short on data. The section on vegetarianism may stand as typical: it consists of a short article by Peter Singer, longtime anchor of the most extreme pro-animal and anti-meat side, and an even shorter piece by Stuart Patton, who presents half-truths in defense of the meat industry. Similarly, in a section on food biotechnology, Marc Lappe, who is well beyond the pale in the anti-industry direction, is balanced by Andrew Trewavas, an industry apologist. They simply dismiss each other's arguments--hardly a credible way to deal with real problems. The sole exception is the section on the food industry, which matches Nicols Fox' good, well-researched reportage with a thorough, objective report by USFDA on its regulation system. Comparing this section with the rest of the book shows what could have been done--and wasn't. Because of the general lack of extensive, fair, data-based treatment of the issues, both scientific and ethical, the book loses all chance of presenting a reasonable middle ground on the ethical issues. On genetically modified foods, for instance, the sensible position would be test them for safety, as we test other new foods, and use them if they pass the tests. Instead, what we have in the world today is a choice: either totally trust the food industry and use the new foods without serious test, as we do in the US, or ban them outright and lose all their very real advantages, as Europe does. This choice is neither reasonable nor necessary. It seems to me that the world already has far too much biased and inadequate reportage and rhetoric--not least in the area of food ethics. Giving it more spin, under a prestigious editorship and publisher, seems to me rather less than helpful. The editor has neglected better material; SCIENCE magazine, for example, has carried moderate and data-driven op-ed pieces, letters, and articles on several of these topics.⁷ of 10 people found the following review helpful. tells it like it is
By Brad Neal
The debate about genetically-reorganized food in the literature astounds me by how passionate it is on both sides. This is IDEOLOGY infecting science on both sides. Pence does a good job of including the true passion on both sides of this intense debate. Warning: this book is NOT for those interested in charts, tables, numbers or dry technical articles. The articles selected, both by scientists and anti-scientists, show how committed each side is to the pluses and minuses of organic vs. GM food, eating meat vs vegetarianism, and capitalism vs. anti-capitalism. All in all, a fine anthology that accurately conveys the feelings of this new debate.

Food makes philosophers of us all. Death does the same . . . but death comes only once . . . and choices about food come many times each day. In *The Ethics of Food*, Gregory E. Pence brings together a collection of voices who share the view that the ethics of genetically modified food is among the most pressing societal questions of our time. This comprehensive collection addresses a broad range of subjects, including the meaning of food, moral analyses of vegetarianism and starvation, the safety and environmental risks of genetically modified food, issues of global food politics and the food industry, and the relationships among food, evolution, and human history. Will genetically modified food feed the poor or destroy the environment? Is it a threat to our health? Is the assumed healthfulness of organic food a myth or a reality? The answers to these and other questions are engagingly pursued in this substantive collection, the first of its kind to address the broad range of philosophical, sociological, political, scientific, and technological issues surrounding the ethics of food.

An excellent introduction for undergraduates. A broad range of problems is treated in an engaging and lucid manner. Nice bibliographies. (Dr. S. N. Fratantaro, Providence College) Nicely produced. (Food Science and Technology) Both the publishers and the editor are to be commended for bringing together such diverse viewpoints in one, easy-to-read volume. (Experimental Agriculture) The reader is led to compellingly consider the pressing issues of starvation, the consumption of meat and the benefits and dangers of genetically modified food. (Science and Theology News) Finally, we have a book that speaks to one of the most pressing, though under-examined, issues in our biotech age. Greg Pence has produced, again, a stimulating and timely text. Crisp and comprehensive in its approach, *The Ethics of Food* takes stock of the morally imperative questions surrounding food production, modification, and consumption, particularly their global impact upon ecosystems. The text offers a judicious menu of readings that articulate differing perspectives from various fields. Combining scholarship and access, this pioneering work insightfully underscores the ongoing tension between food biotechnologies and biodiversity, compelling us to move toward reasonable resolutions. (Michael Brannigan, executive director, Center for the Study of Ethics, La Roche College) About the Author Gregory E. Pence is a medical ethicist with twenty years of experience reviewing significant cases in bioethics, and is professor in the School of Medicine and the Department of Philosophy at the University of Alabama. Pence has contributed to the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, and the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. He is the author of *Classical Cases in Medical Ethics: Accounts of the Cases that Shaped Medical Ethics*, 3rd edition (2000) and *Who's Afraid of Human Cloning?* (1998).