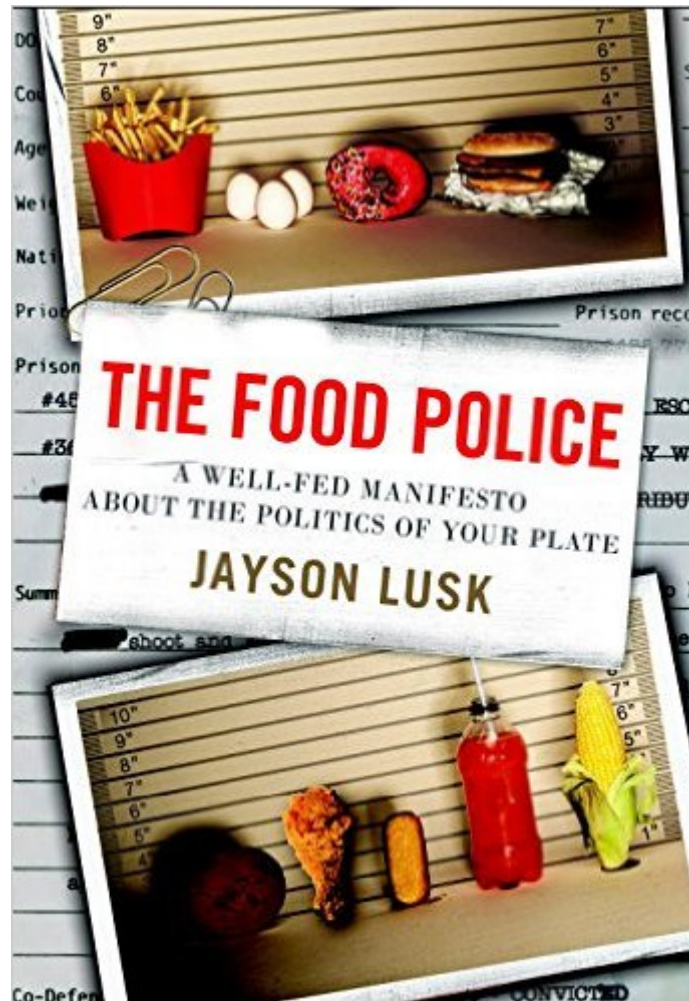


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The Food Police: A Well-Fed Manifesto About The Politics Of Your Plate



Synopsis

A rollicking indictment of the liberal elite's hypocrisy when it comes to food. Ban trans-fats? Outlaw Happy Meals? Tax Twinkies? What's next? Affirmative action for cows? A catastrophe is looming. Farmers are raping the land and torturing animals. Food is riddled with deadly pesticides, hormones and foreign DNA. Corporate farms are wallowing in government subsidies. Meat packers and fast food restaurants are exploiting workers and tainting the food supply. And Paula Deen has diabetes! Something must be done. So says an emerging elite in this country who think they know exactly what we should grow, cook and eat. They are the food police. Taking on the commandments and condescension the likes of Michael Pollan, Alice Waters, and Mark Bittman, *The Food Police* casts long overdue skepticism on fascist food snobbery, debunking the myths propagated by the food elite. You'll learn: Organic food is not necessarily healthier or tastier (and is certainly more expensive). Genetically modified foods haven't sickened a single person but they have made farmers more profitable and they do hold the promise of feeding impoverished Africans. Farm policies aren't making us fat. Voguish locavorism is not greener or better for the economy. Fat taxes won't slim our waists and "fixing" school lunch programs won't make our kids any smarter. Why the food police hypocritically believe an iPad is a technological marvel but food technology is an industrial evil. So before Big Brother and Animal Farm merge into a socialist nightmare, read *The Food Police* and let us as Americans celebrate what is good about our food system and take back our forks and foie gras before it's too late!

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Customer Reviews

As a member of the culinary trade, I have become alarmed at how politicized dining has become. We must have the correct type of food, raised the correct way and never very far from the source. I find this infuriating, but I have never been able to argue my point of view as well as Jayson Lusk has. He devastates every argument for locavorism, so-called sustainable and organic agriculture as well as all the other myths surrounding the food world today. This book is a must read for every foodie who thinks they know better.

This book is amazing. It thoroughly describes the how the food police screw things up, increase costs for foods, hurt the environment, and ultimately, costs us freedom. Some of my favorite lines: Page 70: "Here is the irony. The behavioral economists have told us for years that humans make mistakes by exaggerating the importance of low-probability risks. Yet I have not seen a single behavioral economist use this insight to tell the food police to relax and put their fears about growth hormones, genetically modified food, or pesticide into perspective" Page 148: "If we really wanted to curb fat through taxes ... it would probably be more efficient to tax fat people than fat food. ... I have yet to see a compelling argument why taxing fatty foods is any more righteous than taxing fatty folk." When discussing why just saying "eat local foods" to improve the environment could be counterproductive, on page 168: "Of all the global warming impacts that are said to come from food consumption, only 10 percent is due to transportation, whereas 80 percent is a result of activities on the farm. The implication for those worried about global warming is clear: to reduce the carbon impacts from food consumption, one should grow food on farms where production is more efficient and then ship it to the consumer." Everybody should read this book. Anybody upset with The Food Police will gain from it, as it will help give an economic foundation to why many of the activities the food police are advocating are wrong. You will find it both enjoyable and educational. Anybody who's initial bias is to restrict food consumption choices, i.e., you are the food police -- I hope you have the courage to read this book to at least understand the other side of the argument. Who knows, maybe you'll even change your opinion!

Until the book Food Police the public has been exposed to only one notion about food: that large food corporations are trying to kill us with unsafe and unhealthy food, factory farmers are raping the soil in their greedy pursuit of profit, and the only alternative is to mimic the Amish system of

agriculture. But now, one of the most prestigious agricultural economists in the world has given us an alternative perspective. Food corporations are merely doing their job, which is making the kinds of foods we wish to buy. There are many reasons to be optimistic about the food we currently raise and our ability to raise food in the future. Converting to local organic farms brings with it many disadvantages that might not be obvious to the non-economist. Those are just three of many examples in this book. Even if you are a member of the Food Police, this book can help you become a better food activist by helping you see areas where your activism is destructive and when it is constructive. If you are not a member of the Food Police, this book can help you understand when to take the Food Police seriously, and when not to. For those who know a lot about food but little about how food policy is actually conducted--and little about the "experts" sought to inform public policy--this book is essential to forming an educated opinion. The point is that regardless of your current views on food, this book will make your views more enlightened, rational, and grounded in fact. It is succinct, well-written, and quite fun to read.

I was hoping to get a new perspective as a reader from Food Police. I always feel it is important to hear the other side of the story and see where we can meet in the middle. Even as someone who knows the shortcomings of organic production, supports tech and GE technology in agricultural, agrees on the false beliefs about farm subsidies and agrees there are a lot of positives about our modern agricultural system; The Food Police was a very, very hard book to read. I think it was sad that Jayson Lusk had to use such poor word choices that were obviously meant to play towards a specific political view point. He went astray by not letting the facts and citations stand for themselves, but making it a political issue with throwing a bunch of conservative v.s. liberal buzzwords. This extra noise took away from some impressive stats, which might have persuaded a reader who did not believe such views. I would also challenge Jayson Lusk on his view on nutrition and food choices. Jayson is an expert economist. There are also experts on nutrition who should be leading the conversation. I doubt Jayson would call anyone who uses money an economist, the same holds true with nutrition. Just because you eat, does not make you an expert on nutrition. With 50 percent of the population going on to develop type 2 diabetes, nutrition is an issue of society. I agree that we need to be careful with policy and have a strong backing before we just write new legislation. However, Jayson Lusk does not highlight the issues of food supply in regards to nutrition enough in this book. Overall, I believe Parke Wilde highlighted the errors of the Food Police perfectly (I posted his link below). Just like with anything in life, using politically charged words is not likely to persuade anyone's view point. I would save your money and purchase other books such as Food Policy in The

United States, In Meat We Trust, The Locavore's Dilemma and Tomorrow's Table
instead.<http://usfoodpolicy.blogspot.com/2013/05/the-food-police-by-jayson-lusk.html>

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