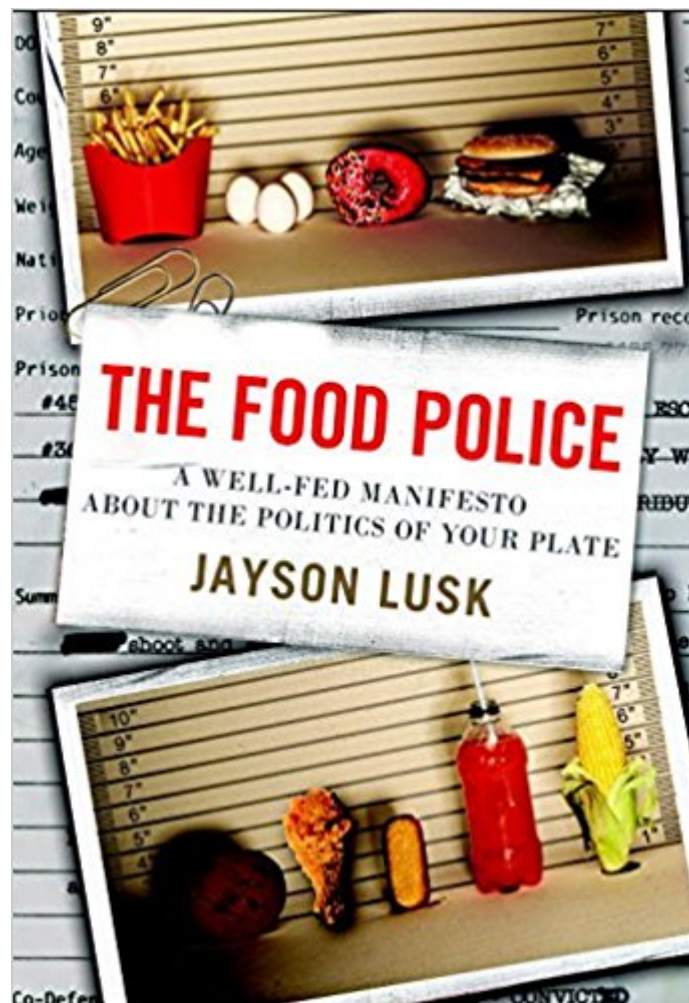


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The Food Police: A Well-Fed Manifesto About The Politics Of Your Plate



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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Q&A with Jayson Lusk Q. In your book, you really pull the lid off of the hypocrisy surrounding the food police and the crusade against big food companies. Why? A. Two reasons. The first is that, having grown up around many people involved in agricultural and food production, it was time to set the record straight, and to reveal that these folks are neither stupid nor sinister but rather care passionately about their land, their children, and the foods they make. Secondly, it was becoming apparent that the policies proffered by the food police were largely based on ideological agenda rather than empirical evidence that they actually work; rather, the evidence is that the implementation of those policies would harm the very people the food police purport to help. Q. Do you think salt, sugar, and fat are really addictive? If so, can the fat taxes really save us? A. Eating salt, sugar, and fat are enjoyable. Thus it shouldn't be surprising that the reward centers of our brain get fired up when we eat them. The argument that these ingredients are addictive teeters on calling anything pleasurable addictive. Calling salt, sugar, and fat addictive is stretching the science to fit an agenda. The economic research on fat taxes shows that the policy will have only trivial effects on weight. Adding a new tax is akin to lowering someone's income, and few of us are happier with less money. The logic that fat taxes will actually help the people who are supposed to be helped is untenable. Q. In your book, you discuss the importance of us consumers making our own choices. Are we as consumers really so weak as to succumb to the whims of Big Food and their flavor construction, marketing, and placement at the grocery store or deli? A. There is schizophrenic paternalism that results from an awkward attempt to walk a fine line between a liberal agenda that yields to freedom of choice and expression when it comes to abortion, sex, speech, and drugs but stops short when those same freedoms might benefit evil corporations like Big Food. It is an odd position that posits us so weak as to fall for anything offered by Ronald McDonald or Tony the Tiger yet so strong as to know when to keep a baby alive or which truths to speak to power. It is true, of course, that we are affected by advertising. However, much of the research shows that advertising is primarily used to persuade consumers to switch brands (rather than buy more). The truth is that Big Food can't force us to buy anything, and they constantly scurry to meet our every whim. Q. Are organic or locally grown foods actually better for you? A. By and large, the answer is no. Numerous scientific studies have shown that the nutritional content of

organic is essentially equivalent to conventional. Furthermore, it is a complete misnomer that organics are pesticide-free. Organic producers do use "natural" pesticides, many of which are more toxic than "synthetic" pesticides used on conventional farms. You have to remember that organics are much more expensive than the conventional, and if the choice is between eating fewer organic veggies (because they are more expensive) or more conventional veggies (because they are cheaper), the healthier choice is probably to go with the conventional. Local is a whole other issue, which I unpack in the book. You can eat unhealthy local food or healthy foreign food. One has nothing to do with the other. Q. Are you concerned with the rise in obesity in America? What are some things that you think can improve this issue? A. I think a better question is: what should the government do about your weight? That is a much more uncomfortable question but it is the better question to ask. There are a lot of personal incentives to reduce weight. The evidence suggests that people with very high levels of obesity earn lower wages, die sooner, have higher medical costs, and face a lot of social scorn. So, the question isn't whether I'm concerned about obesity but rather whether the obese are concerned about it themselves. The good news is that the upward trend in obesity is beginning to level off, and among some groups, has actually begun to decline in recent years. It is important to keep in mind the reasons why we experienced a rise in obesity in the first place, and many of those reasons—from less strenuous jobs to more convenient foods to more air-conditioned offices to less expensive food to the development of microwaves and dishwashers—are cause for rejoicing rather than dismay. That doesn't mean we can look for ways to have our cake and eat it, too, only that we shouldn't forget how we got the cake.

"If you are looking for one book to set the record straight on the progress in American food, start here." — Tyler Cowen, author of *An Economist Gets Lunch* "Jayson Lusk boils down and slices and dices the hypocrisy of liberals ever growing fetish with America's food in a way nobody has before. No empty calories in this expose. You'll be hungry for more." — Andrea Tantaros, New York Daily News columnist and co-host of *The Five* on Fox News "This is hard hitting and to the point., And scary. The Food and Drug Administration is mainly known for its activities that "protect" consumers from new and beneficial drugs. But, as Jayson Lusk, shows in powerful and pointed detail, the FDA creates massive levels of mischief and confusion through its misguided regulation of food and drink. Chocked-filled with telling anecdotes, and informed by strong economic theory, Lusk offers a compelling expose of government misadventure that tends to hurt the very people whom it is said to protect." — Richard Epstein, law professor at

university of Chicago and author of several books" This is a wonderful and well-written book. It packs an awful lot of common sense and clear headed thinking into a small space. Lusk makes clear that a lot of what academics and politicians take for granted about our agricultural system is in fact nonsense. It is tempting to dismiss the food police as well-intentioned, if not exactly well-informed about the science and economics of food production and consumption. Lusk has reinforced my conviction that to ignore them would be irresponsible. The food police have considerable clout at the highest levels of government and they think they know best about what everyone should eat, including you and me. If they get their way, they would put at risk the ability of our farms to produce healthy and nutritious food at a price the whole world can afford." Jay Bhattacharya, M.D., Ph.D. Associate Professor of Medicine, Stanford University

"The conclusions from [Lusk's] research will do more to advance healthy eating than would a nation of Mayor Bloomberg." - Jeff Stier in the New York Post.

"Lusk makes a strong case that the food police are a major obstacle to the kind of innovation we need. Their intransigence on many of the benefits of food modernization • from genetically modified food to industrial farming and synthetic fertilizers, and even modern conveniences such as large-scale grocery stores and today's shipping methods • is the kind of thinking that will, as Lusk warns, ultimately doom us to poverty." - Julie Gunlock in The National Review

"Sometimes sacred cows must be slaughtered to get to the truth. Lusk does that, and in a way that reads like a charming personal memoir by your favorite college professor." - Henry Miller at Forbes.com

"to newcomers who want the story of how a few cranks took over how a country thinks about food, The Food Police provides an excellent primer." - Center for Consumer Freedom

"This book is amazing at how it thoroughly describes the how the food police screw things up, increase costs, hurt the environment, and ultimately, cost us freedom." - Matt Rousu

"Whether or not readers agree with Lusk's on agriculture and the politics of food production, he will make you think about your food choices." - Kirkus 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.

A well written and thoughtful debunking of the policies and myths behind our national food policy. I bought my 20 year old kids a copy and begged them to read it. Dr Lusk nails the truth behind our feel good food policies, and their very harmful results. Let the rich eat organic, sustainable, low carbon foot print cake; but let the poor have life sustaining nutrition.

In a culture where being uppity about food is the new normal it was extremely helpful for Dr. Lusk to compile a thorough set of counter arguments for those of us who just want to eat in moderation and be left alone. I've recommended this book to several friends on all sides of the organic/GMO debate and look forward to seeing the author become more of a star in the "pro-choice" side of the great food debate.

Lusk attacks food elitists throughout most of this book, but often contradicts himself and writes from a hypocritical perspective on the politics of food. He discounts a very supported science on the subversive influences that affect our choices, and tells us what to do just as much as he claims the elitists do.

If you are interested in an honest look at modern agricultural production, you need to read this book. Jayson Lusk sets aside emotion, politics and hype to delve into how our food is produced, who produces it and why they use the methods they do.

....thought provoking, well-documented, common sense rebuttal to all the "politically correct" rhetoric about agriculture and our food supply....

I love how this book is written with facts and (un)common sense. It makes me appreciate America's farmers more than I ever did.

Yes! Honestly this is good, not too many books that are actually pro food freedom.

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