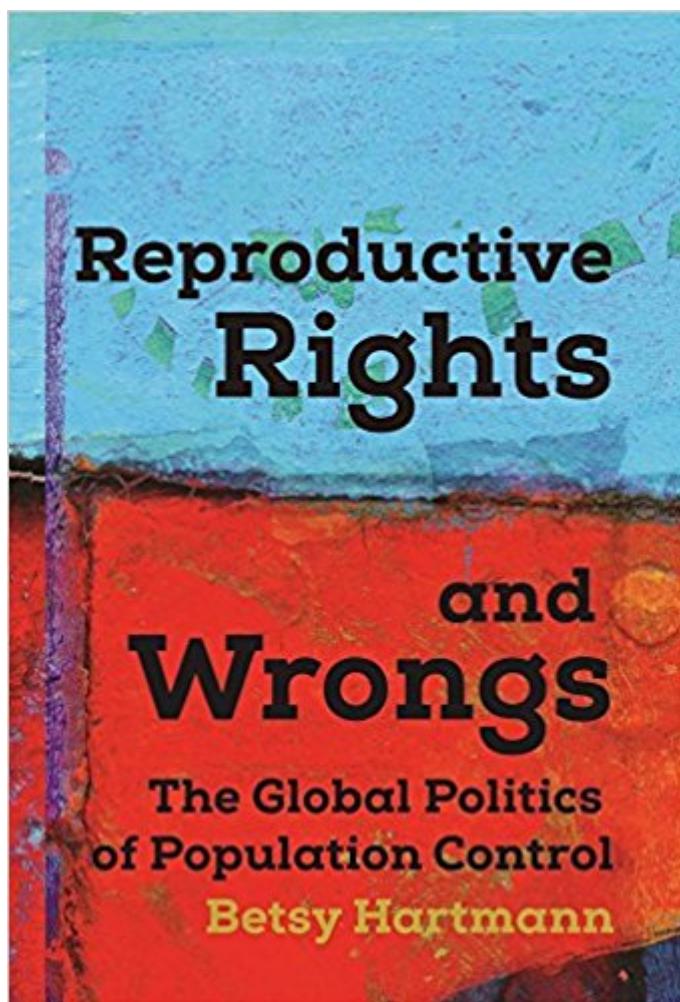


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Reproductive Rights And Wrongs: The Global Politics Of Population Control



Synopsis

With a new prologue by the author, this feminist classic is an important gateway into the controversial topic of population for students, activists, researchers and policymakers. It challenges the myth of overpopulation, uncovering the deeper roots of poverty, environmental degradation and gender inequalities. With vivid case studies, it explores how population control programs came to be promoted by powerful governments, foundations and international agencies as an instrument of Cold War development and security policy. Mainly targeting poor women, these programs were designed to drive down birth rates as rapidly and cheaply as possible, with coercion often a matter of course. In the war on population growth, birth control was deployed as a weapon, rather than as a tool of reproductive choice. Threaded throughout *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs* is the story of how international women's health activists fought to reform population control and promote a new agenda of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all people. While their efforts bore fruit, many obstacles remain. On one side is the anti-choice movement that wants to deny women access not only to abortion, but to most methods of contraception. On the other is a resurgent, well-funded population control lobby that often obscures its motives with the language of women's empowerment. Despite declining birth rates worldwide; average global family size is now 2.5 children; overpopulation alarm is on the rise, tied now to the threats of climate change and terrorism. *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs* helps readers understand how these contemporary developments are rooted in the longer history and politics of population control. In the pages of this book a new generation of readers will find knowledge, argumentation and inspiration that will help in ongoing struggles to achieve reproductive rights and social, environmental and gender justice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a book of conscience. Shocking, eloquent, carefully researched, it should be read and acted upon. —Gena Corea "This revised edition of a feminist classic adds new information on AIDS, contraception, and the anti-abortion movement as it probes world patterns of population and reproduction control and its meaning for the future. Rapid population growth is here linked to economic and social problems in chapters which provide strong keys to understanding world population patterns." —Midwest Book Review "Stands out amid the rising tide of books on the population question. Hartmann's critique of global special interests in population and the environment are must reading for students and policy analysts." —Judy Norsigian and Norma Swenson, coauthors *The New Our Bodies, Ourselves* "If I had time to read just one book to gain an understanding of the population and development link, this one would be it." —Dianne J. Forte, National Black Women's Health Project "It is unusual to find such a clear explanation of the complex issues involved in population control in the modern world; Ms. Hartmann's clarity can have come only from enormous work and deep understanding. This is a modern analysis which gives us hope." —Jonathan Mann, director, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health "At this juncture in history when victim blaming has become more blatant and oppressive, there is a need for voices of sanity. This book is such a voice. It reflects conviction, courage, sensitivity, and deep insight." —Mira Shiva, Asian representative, International Peoples' Health Council

Betsy Hartmann writes nonfiction and fiction about important national and global challenges. Her forthcoming book *The America Syndrome: Apocalypse, War and Our Call to Greatness* reveals how end-times thinking profoundly influences American foreign policy, environmental politics and the persistence of injustice. She is also the co-author of *A Quiet Violence: View from a Bangladesh Village* and co-editor of the anthology *Making Threats: Biofears and Environmental Anxieties*. Her political thrillers *The Truth About Fire* and *Deadly Election* explore the threat the Far Right poses to American democracy. From 1988 until recently Betsy taught at Hampshire College where she directed the Population and Development Program. She is a well-known educator, commentator, and advocate on women's rights, population, environment and security concerns. For more

on Betsy, see BetsyHartmann.com.

Although I disagreed with many of this author's assertions, I was still powerfully moved by the information included in this book. It is both thought provoking, and a call for all humans to revisit the assumptions that guide our daily decisions.

The research is painstaking and relentlessly documented. Statistics and anecdotal evidence are interwoven flawlessly, bringing home the human reality and demonstrating the full scope of the problem. I recommend this book, without qualification, to everyone concerned with reproductive politics regardless of where they stand on the prolife/prochoice spectrum.

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