[Download] Living within Limits: Ecology, Economics, and Population Taboos

Living within Limits: Ecology, Economics, and Population Taboos

Garrett Hardin
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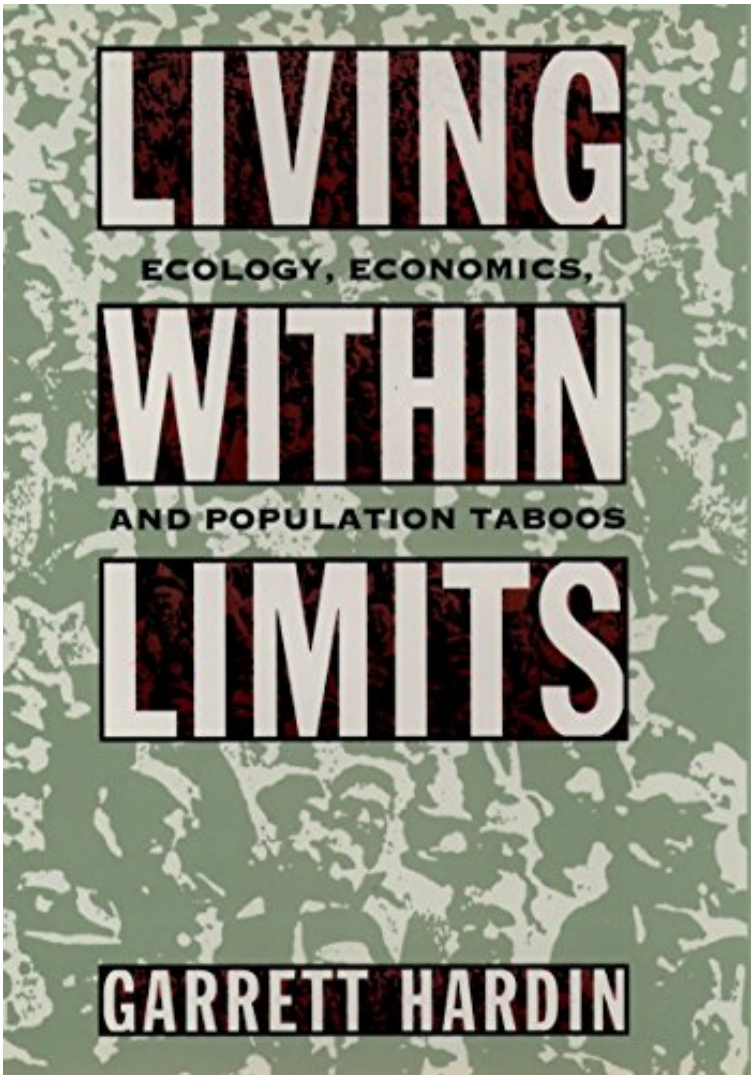

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Garrett Hardin : Living within Limits: Ecology, Economics, and Population Taboos before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living within Limits: Ecology, Economics, and Population Taboos:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I was surprised how well written this was. It ...By Otto JacobI was surprised how well written this was. It has a text book content and topic, but I could hardly put it down.20 of 22 people found the following review helpful. A great book about the most important issue of our time.By CustomerI would give this book 99 stars if I could. Garrett Hardin, most famous for his essay 'The Tragedy of the Commons' (look it up on Wikipedia), intellectually evicerates anyone who would be so foolish as to think that overpopulation is NOT a problem. Nearly every human ill can be attributed to the simple phrase 'too many people and too few resources,' and

Hardin attacks this issue from every angle. As a self styled 'ecological conservative' Hardin attacks both liberal democratic and traditional conservative ideology.I thought I knew a little bit about 'real' economics until I read this book, boy was I wrong. If, like me, you thought that Freakonomics was cutting edge and savvy then you would definitely love this book. Hardin clearly has a firm grasp on what economics is actually about. He throws everything at you - natural selection, Thomas Malthus, carrying capacity, demographics, Unmanaged Commons and so much more that this book is sure to open your eyes to the growing problem around us.The only negative thing (hence the -1 star from 100) I can say about the book is that there is little continuity or flow to it. Rather than any continuous theme, it seems more like his lecture notes stuck together in some kind of topical series. Besides that, I highly highly recommend everyone read this book - sadly though, I am a realist and know that few will (to society's detriment).If you like this book, you will like Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed; or if you liked Collapse, then you will like this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Anybody else see that cement barrier dead-head?By g miklashekWe have NOT been living within our ecologically sustainable limits for hundreds of years, as this author so clearly shows.

"We fail to mandate economic sanity," writes Garrett Hardin, "because our brains are addled by...compassion." With such startling assertions, Hardin has cut a swathe through the field of ecology for decades, winning a reputation as a fearless and original thinker. A prominent biologist, ecological philosopher, and keen student of human population control, Hardin now offers the finest summation of his work to date, with an eloquent argument for accepting the limits of the earth's resources--and the hard choices we must make to live within them.In Living Within Limits, Hardin focuses on the neglected problem of overpopulation, making a forceful case for dramatically changing the way we live in and manage our world. Our world itself, he writes, is in the dilemma of the lifeboat: it can only hold a certain number of people before it sinks--not everyone can be saved. The old idea of progress and limitless growth misses the point that the earth (and each part of it) has a limited carrying capacity; sentimentality should not cloud our ability to take necessary steps to limit population. But Hardin refutes the notion that goodwill and voluntary restraints will be enough. Instead, nations where population is growing must suffer the consequences alone. Too often, he writes, we operate on the faulty principle of shared costs matched with private profits. In Hardin's famous essay, "The Tragedy of the Commons," he showed how a village common pasture suffers from overgrazing because each villager puts as many cattle on it as possible--since the costs of grazing are shared by everyone, but the profits go to the individual. The metaphor applies to global ecology, he argues, making a powerful case for closed borders and an end to immigration from poor nations to rich ones. "The production of human beings is the result of very localized human actions; corrective action must be local....Globalizing the 'population problem' would only ensure that it would never be solved." Hardin does not shrink from the startling implications of his argument, as he criticizes the shipment of food to overpopulated regions and asserts that coercion in population control is inevitable. But he also proposes a free flow of information across boundaries, to allow each state to help itself."The time-honored practice of pollute and move on is no longer acceptable," Hardin tells us. We now fill the globe, and we have no where else to go. In this powerful book, one of our leading ecological philosophers points out the hard choices we must make--and the solutions we have been afraid to consider.

"Hardin, though walking a minefield in this book, sets off very few because his analysis, with a handful of exceptions, is politically and culturally neutral: he argues credibly that immigration to rich countries must be controlled, that foreign aid sets the groundwork for future disaster, that birth control is a necessary but insufficient answer to overpopulation."--Los Angeles Times"Well worth reading. It is filled with provocative and controversial, even disturbing ideas, and nowhere will you find a better critique of traditional economic theories that ignore the basic ecological concept of limited resources."--San Francisco Chronicle"Hardin deftly demolishes the optimistic scenarios--from 'escape to the stars' and nuclear power to 'benign demographic transition'--by which some politicians, businesspeople, and aid officials seek to preserve 'growth' in the face of limits imposed by the earth's carrying capacity."--Booklist"Garrett Hardin has done it again! Fuzzy thinkers will hate this book. Numerate people may not agree with all that is in it, but they will love Hardin's keen analyses and crisp exposition."--Paul R. Ehrlich"Wonderfully rich in original ideas and insights, Living Within Limits is a compelling examination of the central question facing our civilization at the close of the millennium. In giving his answers, Hardin is unfailingly serious and his analysis is penetrating. But as he is unable to write a dull sentence, he also offers a rare intellectual feast that challenges, charms, and engages the reader in every page. A book that will be widely read and is bound to be enduringly influential."--Paul Demeny, Editor, Population and Development "Another valuable addition to the already extensive, important, and extremely readable ecological literature by Garrett Hardin." --Dan Scurlock, Human Ecology From the Back CoverIn Living Within Limits, Hardin focuses on the neglected problem of overpopulation, making a forceful case for dramatically changing the way we live in and manage our world.About the AuthorAbout the Author: Garrett Hardin is Professor Emeritus of Human Ecology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the author of a number of books about ecology, biology, and ethics, including Promethean Ethics, The Limits of Altruism,

Stalking the Wild Taboo, and Population, Evolution, and Birth Control.