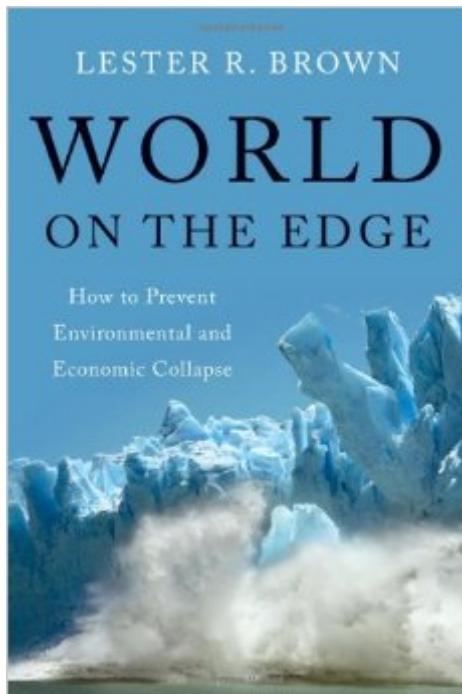


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World On The Edge: How To Prevent Environmental And Economic Collapse



Synopsis

In this urgent time, *World on the Edge* calls out the pivotal environmental issues and how to solve them now. We are in a race between political and natural tipping points. Can we close coal-fired power plants fast enough to save the Greenland ice sheet and avoid catastrophic sea level rise? Can we raise water productivity fast enough to halt the depletion of aquifers and avoid water-driven food shortages? Can we cope with peak water and peak oil at the same time? These are some of the issues Lester R. Brown skillfully distills in *World on the Edge*. Bringing decades of research and analysis into play, he provides the responses needed to reclaim our future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've read and reviewed a number of books by Lester Brown and his advocacy agency, and have especially appreciated the *State of the World* series, and his *Plan B* Series that keeps getting pushed back, and now has a *Plan B 4.0*, but between that latter book and this one, I chose this one. It gets four stars for reasons I outline in passing below. The author has his pet rocks, they are all here, but NOT in this book can one find corruption, disease, mercury, rare earths, a strategic analytic model that is holistic, actual true costs across the spectrum of options, or a strategic analytic model. However, and this is strong praise, if you are going to get only one book by Lester Brown, this is the book to get. There are others I recommend, including *High Noon 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them*, and *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility--Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change*, the latter also free

online. Here are highlights, generally things I did not know and thought worth putting into my notes.+ 2020 could be the ultimate recession+ We need a massive mobilization at wartime speed -- but I have a negative annotation, "Old C4I mindset?" In my thinking, and all the books I am reading on cognitive surplus, web 4.

Lester Brown brings to his latest book a distinguished career packed with ominous but prescient forecasting on the dangerous decline of our planet's capacity to survive and provide for the future. His impressive history can be found many places including Wikipedia. In a poignant piece in the Sunday January 16, 2010 Washington Post, Susan Eisenhower, Ike's granddaughter reminds us of another great American's look into our future with this quote from his January, 1961 farewell address, more famous for his warning about our burgeoning "military industrial complex", but more important when he said, "We . . . must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering for our own ease and convenience the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage. We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, not to become the insolvent phantom of tomorrow." Not quite an environmental statement, but one which counsels a careful look at the future and a deep concern for next generation, even before most of us were thinking about peak oil, global warming, and the population explosion. Born in 1931, I feel an enormous kinship with this author, as I have been an activist in the family planning field since 1965, having helped start and served on the boards of several then fledgling NGO's just when so many of these presently now well known agencies were first organized to address this primary underlying influence on all our present planetary crises.

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