

# REVIEWS

## Book Review

### **THIRD WORLD HEALTH: HOSTAGE TO FIRST WORLD WEALTH**

Theodore H MacDonald (Foreword  
by Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

Radcliffe Publishing Ltd £35.00  
www.radcliffe-oxford.com

*Reviewed by Dr Richard Stacey*

Professor MacDonald has succeeded in producing a passionate, yet considered appraisal of the complex global socio-political web, which shamefully ensures that the first world continues to feast at the expense of the ever-worsening third world famine.

The book opens with a foreword from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who is of course well placed to comment on the situation and is enthusiastically supportive of the author's approach.

The author argues that poverty rapidly manifests itself in the form of health

issues, which are therefore reflective of global economic inequity. He explains that these inequalities are progressively exacerbated by first world nations, who have a stranglehold on international trade. Part of the problem is that first world nations simply do not appreciate the extent and nature of the problem; for example, a quarter of the world's population live on the equivalent of one US dollar a day or less and 80% do not have reasonable access to a clean water supply!

The book is written in an engaging style, is up-to-the-minute and has been meticulously researched. The author's strong feelings about the issues have not prevented him from presenting a balanced view and recognising the significant obstacles that

must be overcome to achieve global health equity. He also has had considerable first hand experience of the problems facing the developing world, which adds credibility to his arguments.

The chapters describing the despicable way in which large first world companies have created and exploited the "third world market" for powdered bottle milk baby feeds and tobacco make compelling yet distressful reading.

Professor MacDonald concludes by suggesting strategies to reach the target of global health equity,

making it clear that first world countries must work together and put past differences aside in order to reach this goal. I only hope that his wise words will be heeded before it is too late.