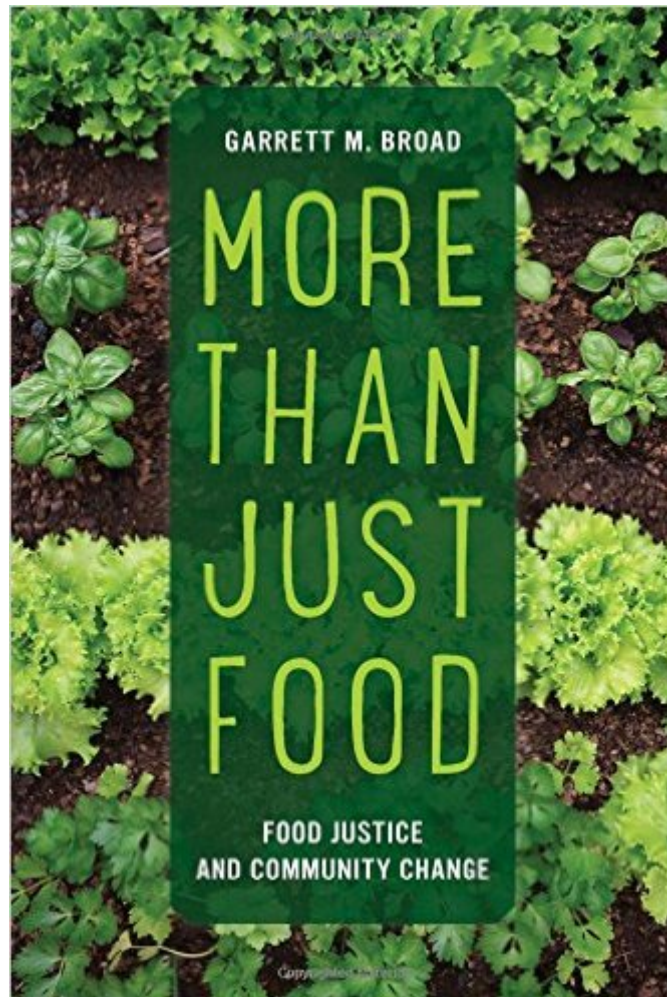


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More Than Just Food: Food Justice And Community Change (California Studies In Food And Culture)



Synopsis

The industrial food system has created a crisis in the United States that is characterized by abundant food for privileged citizens and "food deserts" for the historically marginalized. In response, food justice activists based in low-income communities of color have developed community-based solutions, arguing that activities like urban agriculture, nutrition education, and food-related social enterprises can drive systemic social change. Focusing on the work of several food justice groups—including Community Services Unlimited, a South Los Angeles organization founded as the nonprofit arm of the Southern California Black Panther Party—"More Than Just Food" explores the possibilities and limitations of the community-based approach, offering a networked examination of the food justice movement in the age of the nonprofit industrial complex.

Book Information

Series: California Studies in Food and Culture (Book 60)

Paperback: 296 pages

Publisher: University of California Press (February 9, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520287452

ISBN-13: 978-0520287457

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #340,256 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #180 in Books > Business & Money > Industries > Agriculture #1832 in Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences

Customer Reviews

In "More Than Just Food", Dr. Garrett Broad, a communication scientist and faculty member at Fordham University, provides an in-depth analysis of the industrial food system, many of its effects on society, and potential avenues for systemic change. He describes and analyzes the actions of community-based food justice organizations, and through interviews, gives voice to the perspectives of local residents and young people who endure food injustice. Early on in the book the author examines possible root causes of food justice-related problems and builds a case for concern with the global industrial food system. The productivity of the global industrial food system is spectacular, but it is a deeply flawed system which has given rise to a national crisis: privileged citizens have an abundance of food while marginalized minorities languish in "food deserts". Broad points to a wide

range of problems related to the industrial food system, including corporate consolidation which leads to widespread exploitation across the globe, large-scale and chemically intensive industrial agriculture and its detrimental effects on natural resources and the health of livestock, dietary and public health problems, chronic diet-related diseases, and food safety and access issues. The book then brings into focus the issue of food insecurity and describes in detail the magnitude of that problem for food consumers in the United States. In 2013, for example, 14.3 percent of households had inadequate access to food at some point in the year due to lack of money or other resources. We learn that the problem of food insecurity is also intimately related to the profit motives of corporations.

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