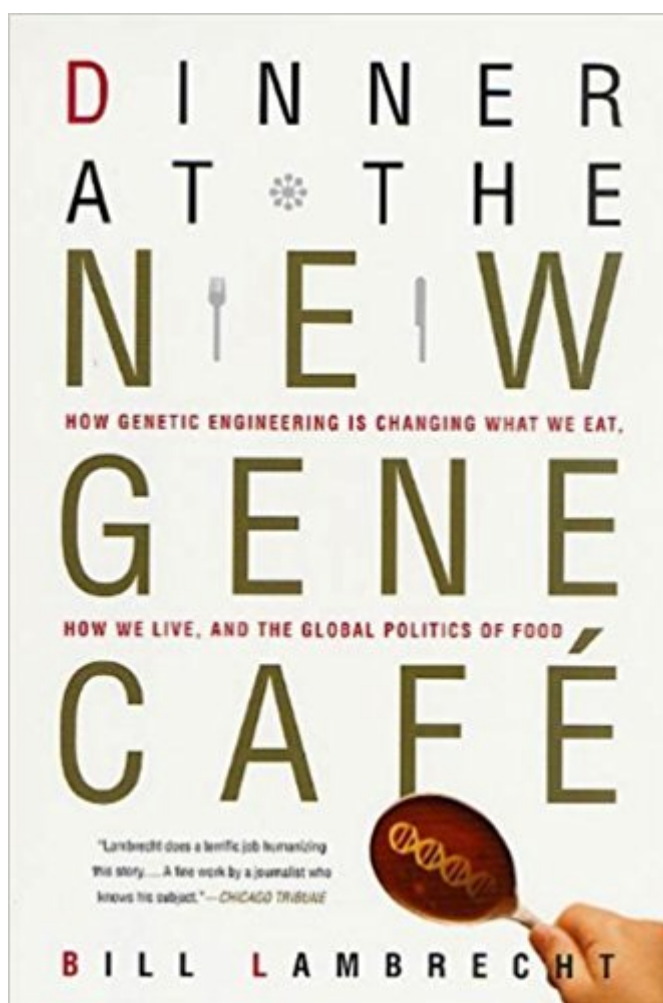


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# Dinner At The New Gene Café: How Genetic Engineering Is Changing What We Eat, How We Live, And The Global Politics Of Food



## Synopsis

Biotech companies are racing to alter the genetic building blocks of the world's food. In the United States, the primary venue for this quiet revolution, the acreage of genetically modified crops has soared from zero to 70 million acres since 1996. More than half of America's processed grocery products-from cornflakes to granola bars to diet drinks-contain gene-altered ingredients. But the U.S., unlike Europe and other democratic nations, does not require labeling of modified food. Dinner at the New Gene Café expertly lays out the battle lines of the impending collision between a powerful but unproved technology and a gathering resistance from people worried about the safety of genetic change.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although I second the other review here, I must add that this book could be some 100 pages shorter and still hit the mark. The way it is, Lambrecht uses too much words to deliver his message. Also, because of the subject matter itself, the book is a bit outdated. Other than that, good

reading material.

The author did a lot of research and maintains a very neutral tone, as if the GMO adherents could do no wrong. He just reports what they say, does not probe deeply in a caring way for whether people or the Earth will be damaged. This is not an exposé or an attempt to uncover hidden sources of influence. Almost an apologist for whatever will transpire will be interesting. He does not seem interested in the kinds of issues presented by Rifkin, for example. He quotes from a personal conversation he had with him: "There hasn't been a single discussion in any parliament of the world or in any scientific academy about the environmental implications of what they are talking about. What happens to foraging birds and insects and microbes and other animals when they come in contact with millions of acres of plants that are coding proteins for vaccines, vitamins, and chemicals? The problems they are going to have are a potential nightmare. And what about liability? And the health implications? A lot of these proteins are going to be innocuous. But you're going to get proteins that will be toxic, and the question is, who's it going to be toxic to? It might be one person in ten thousand." "If I were a company in this, I wouldn't want to deal with an introduction where there's no long-term risk assessment, no insurance company to take care of long-term losses, and the health implications are unknowable. And finally, the market isn't there." His response to this outpouring of concern was very ho-hum.

I was a little wary when purchasing this book that the entire premise would be zealotish anti-GMO and anti-biotechnology. The quotes on the cover seemed to indicate that would also be the case. I was extremely pleased to find a very balanced reporting of both sides of the genetic engineering debate. The author has been a reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for over 2 decades, and has been covering the debate and progress since its inception. His style is engaging and fast-paced, with humor and human interest sprinkled in to lighten a complex topic. He seems to lean toward the side of caution, but gives full reporting to the biotech companies' claims and biotech's proponents' enthusiasm. I personally am hopeful of the promise and potential of this technology, but this book helped me understand opponents' fears in a very sympathetic way. Particularly frightening was the disclosure of some of the big biotech firms' less-than-open trials and political influences. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone interested in learning more about the issues involved in genetically engineering our food.

This book was very enlightening in the subject of GMO's, as they are a powerful new technology

with frightening implications. Lambrecht uses entertaining anecdotes and accounts of his dealings with ordinary farmer and head agricultural powerfigures. I recommend this book because it tried to show an objective perspective on the entire issue, and left no voice unheard.

If you are curious about what you are eating this is a necessary book for you. Bill Lambrecht provides an unbiased resource for those intrested in the history of GMO food. Lambrecht gives the opinions of scientists, politicians and the farmers that grow these crops. This provides a balanced collage of information that allows anyone to make up their own mind about what the future of food should be.

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