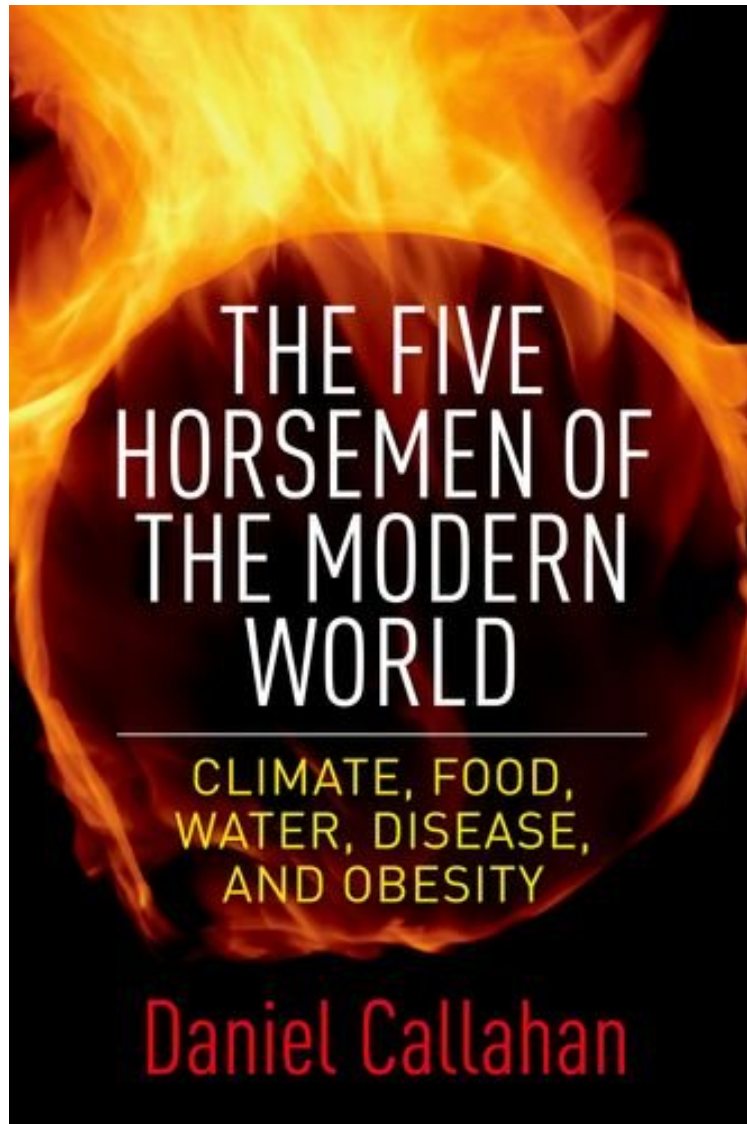


(Free pdf) The Five Horsemen of the Modern World: Climate, Food, Water, Disease, and Obesity

# The Five Horsemen of the Modern World: Climate, Food, Water, Disease, and Obesity

*Daniel Callahan*

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**Daniel Callahan : The Five Horsemen of the Modern World: Climate, Food, Water, Disease, and Obesity**  
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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very little originalBy the engineer-historianVery little here that is

original. It's almost all based on -- and much quoted from -- the work of other researchers. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. May be an outline for some hope! By Lars Tomanek Callahan's main interest is a comparison of the progress we have made or the lack thereof of addressing the five horsemen. He provides a review of the attempts that have been made at several levels. For example, how have social movements helped with finding solutions to the five horsemen. He also reviews the contributions of technology, business and government (laws and regulations) to addressing the problems. What can we learn from this book? First, by providing a comprehensive overview he offers a rare view of the systemic challenges that humanity will have to face or is facing. Every bit of progress in one arena, e.g., addressing famine, will come with a trade-off, e.g., obesity. While these trade-offs seem manageable at a smaller scale, together they form a web of future limits that will shrink our future manoeuvrability in terms of mobilizing the resources needed to invest into the transformation of our energy landscape. For example, having more people living longer lives will cost society disproportionately more and may limit our ability to invest into the energy transformation needed. Many of the young people will be needed to take care of the aging population, possibly preventing them from contributing to a solution of other problems we need to address. The list goes on. In other words, the current collusion of the five horsemen will possibly make it very difficult to find a solution to even one of them or simply put, they are all connected. Second, he searches for hope and with every sign of hope he finds two that seem to negate the possibility. However, he does develop a framework of hope at the end without making it all explicit. I think the framework entails a deeply held belief in progress. And while it may be the origin of all five horsemen, it could also be the driver for a sustainable business model in the future. Furthermore, addressing the five horsemen will be good for the bottom line, although it is unclear whose bottom line. Finally, addressing the five horsemen successfully could be greatly satisfying emotionally for every one. At least these are my three perspectives that I have drawn from reading this book and that I will use to motivate social change leading to solutions. Importantly, nobody knows when awareness for the potential positive benefits for addressing the five horsemen, and global warming in particular, will start at a level that will make a real difference. I will start to try with myself. 1 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Paula Clarke Arrived on time and as described! Thank you!

In recent decades, we have seen five perilous and interlocking trends dominate global discourse: irreversible climate change, extreme food and water shortages, rising chronic illnesses, and rampant obesity. Why can't we make any progress in counteracting these problems despite vast expenditures of intellectual, institutional, and social capital? What makes these global emergencies the "wicked problems" that resist our best efforts and only grow more daunting? Daniel Callahan, noted author and the nation's preeminent scholar in bioethics, examines these global problems and shines a light on the institutions, practices, and actors that block major change. We see partisan political and ideological forces, old-fashioned hucksters, and trumped-up scientific disagreements but also the problem of modern progress itself. Obesity, anthropogenic climate change, degenerative diseases, ecological degradation, and global famine are often the unintended consequences of unchecked industrial growth, insatiable eating habits, and technologically extended life spans. Only through well-crafted political, regulatory, industrial, and cultural counterstrategies can we change enough minds to check these threats. With big thinking on issues that are usually evaluated separately, this book is sure to scramble partisan divides and provoke unusual, heated debate.

This book is a wide-ranging, sincere, and syncretic attempt to identify and analyze the greatest threats to the planet today. It is a work of tremendous breadth of vision, with an earnest concern about some of the most serious problems of our time. Callahan is a master of clear communication. (Donna Dickenson, author of *Me Medicine vs. We Medicine: Reclaiming Biotechnology for the Common Good*) Daniel Callahan's powerful, lucid book offers a sober confrontation with some of the most serious problems facing the world today, asking us to change our ideas of progress to mitigate the catastrophic consequences of how we have come to live. (Michael Roth, Wesleyan University) Callahan, a pioneer in bioethics, has written a thoughtful meditation on our most recalcitrant worldly challenges, from the health of our bodies to the wellbeing of our planet. Well-written and accessible, *The Five Horsemen of the Modern World* demonstrates how the complex mix of technology, politics, and media have slowed progress and calls for a more productive partnership with sustainable businesses to chart a path forward. (Paul Sabin, author of *The Bet: Paul Ehrlich, Julian Simon and Our Gamble Over Earth's Future*) Callahan is subtle in expressing his point of view; you never feel like he is pushing an ideology or a single-minded solution at the reader. He lets the data speak first, and then he sets the path. (Sheldon Krinsky, author of *Stem Cell Dialogues: A Philosophical and Scientific Inquiry Into Medical Frontiers*) Callahan's analysis of the evolution of global problems is instructive and accessible; his use of data, clear and persuasive. A work of impressive scope. (Steve Cohen, Columbia University) It is hard enough to write a wise book on a single major social problem, but Daniel Callahan has written a wise book about five of them, ultimately proposing important suggestions for moving forward. *The Five Horsemen* should be mandatory reading for anyone interested in climate change, food distribution, the water supply, chronic illness or obesity; in other words, all of us. This book challenges us to look at the global and local ramifications of everything we know and do. (Barron H. Lerner, MD, PhD, Author of *The Good Doctor: A Father, A Son and the Evolution of*

Medical Ethics)Pragmatic and measured. (Nature)Recommended. (CHOICE)About the AuthorDaniel Callahan is president emeritus and cofounder of The Hastings Center, which focuses on ethical and policy issues. He has published seventeen volumes, including *Taming the Beloved Beast: How Medical Technology Costs Are Destroying Our Health Care System* (2009), *Medicine and the Market: Equity v. Choice* (2006); and *What Price Better Health? Hazards of the Research Imperative* (2006).