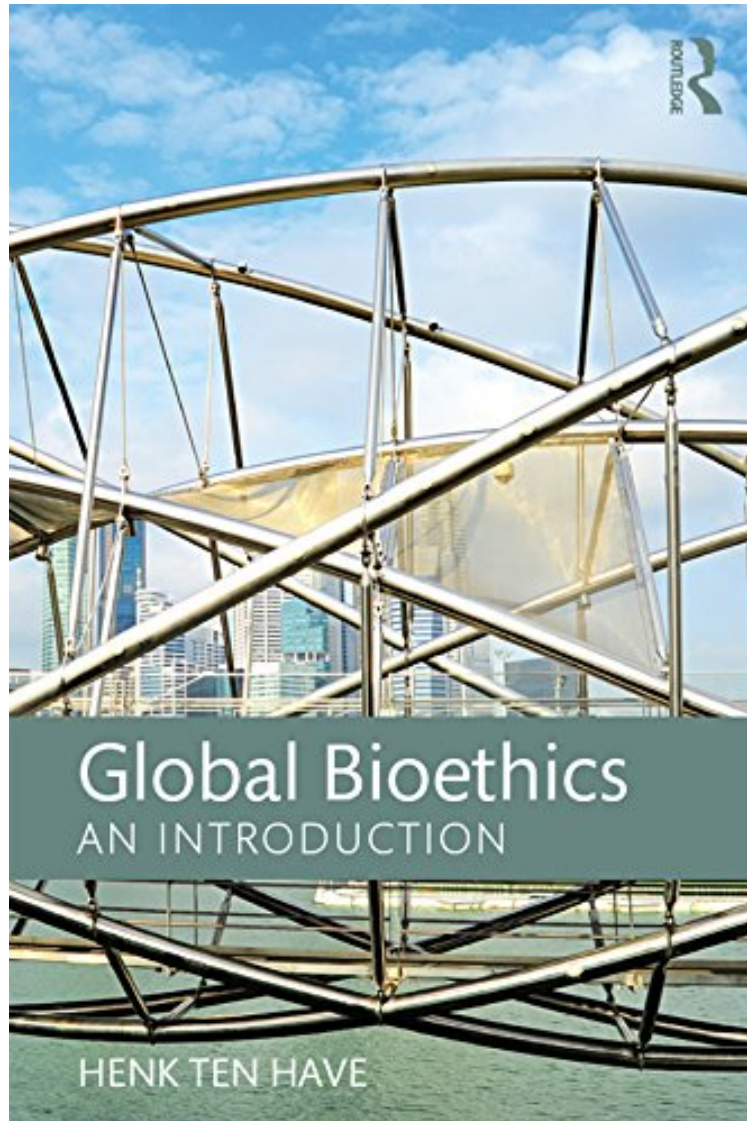


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Global Bioethics: An introduction

Henk ten Have

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Henk ten Have : Global Bioethics: An introduction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Global Bioethics: An introduction:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is time for a broad approach to bioethics...By R ToumiProf. Henk ten Have is a prolific and internationally-renowned author of many books and articles on bioethics. He has worked through the UNESCO on developing bioethics education in many countries around the world.This is an introductory book on the growing interest in the study of global bioethics. It aims at fostering a broad interest in bioethics, not in its 'mainstream' version but in a version that is comprehensive and inclusive. This global framework for bioethics does not ignore the particularity of different cultures and value systems nor advocates any moral

imperialism. Prof. Henk ten Have argues against the narrow mainstream bioethics that has developed in the US over the past few decades. One premise behind the argument for a global bioethical framework is that human health is determined by many factors beyond medical technologies and access to medical care. Ten Have highlights that bioethical dilemmas cannot be limited to the encounter between physicians and patients. Through many interesting stories, he emphasizes that this encounter does not take place in a political, social, economic, and cultural vacuum. Both parties are embedded within a very complex web of relationships within our globalized reality. Therefore, he advocates a global framework for bioethics to overcome the narrow standards of mainstream bioethics and to guard against moral double standards across different cultural and social contexts. In contrast to other bioethicists who advocated a common purely-rational morality, ten Have approaches morality from a different angle. His common morality springs from the common and dynamic human experience of life despite the various social contexts that shape it. His global framework highlights the general responsibility of every human being toward the others as citizens of the same world. For him, distances and borders are morally irrelevant when it comes to rising bioethical dilemmas in a globalized world. He does not claim to offer final answers on bioethical issues; rather, he wants to emphasize the dynamic nature of such global discourse and to foster a genuine search for common grounds. This book is an illuminating read; it connects the dots through real stories and highlights the complexity of global health issues. It uses and explains the relevance of concepts that are usually ignored in mainstream literature on bioethics, such as human vulnerability, brain drain, common heritage of humankind, and bio-piracy. This book is highly recommended for those who wish to have a fresh and broad perspective on bioethics. Scholars and students in various disciplines should read it including those who are interested in public and global health, healthcare management, international relations and surely medical sciences. It may also be used in undergraduate programs to shape the perspective of a new generation of cosmopolitan scholars for the betterment of humankind.

The panorama of bioethical problems is different today. Patients travel to Thailand for fast surgery; commercial surrogate mothers in India deliver babies to parents in rich countries; organs, body parts and tissues are trafficked from East to Western Europe; physicians and nurses migrating from Africa to the U.S; thousands of children or patients with malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS are dying each day because they cannot afford effective drugs that are too expensive. Mainstream bioethics as it has developed during the last 50 years in Western countries is evolving into a broader approach that is relevant for people across the world and is focused on new global problems. This book provides an introduction into the new field of global bioethics. Addressing these problems requires a broader vision of bioethics that not only goes beyond the current emphasis on individual autonomy, but that criticizes the social, economic and political context that is producing the problems at global level. This book argues that global bioethics is a necessity because the social, economic and environmental effects of globalization require critical responses. Global bioethics is not a finished product that can simply be applied to solve global problems, but it is the ongoing result of interaction and exchange between local practices and global discourse. It combines recognition of differences and respect for cultural diversity with convergence towards common perspectives and shared values. The book examines the nature of global problems as well as the type of responses that are needed, in order to exemplify the substance of global bioethics. It discusses the ethical frameworks that are available for global discourse and shows how these are transformed into global governance mechanisms and practices.

"Global bioethics is eloquent in its critique of the moral myopia of main stream bioethics and is a must for any reader seriously concerned with the role bioethics should play in the face of globalization."—Jan Helge Solbakk, University of Oslo, Norway "Unlike other authors of the Northern hemisphere, the meaning of bioethics for Henk ten Have goes beyond the biomedical field. The inclusion in the framework proposed by the author of topics related to health care, social inclusion and preservation of the environment provides a new historical mark that puts this book in the pleasant academic surprises of this early 21st century." —Volnei Garrafa, University of Brasilia, Brazil "A comprehensive and penetrating account of how Bioethics could be extended to become Global Bioethics through an ambitious and visionary ethical and multi-disciplinary discourse. Addressing biological, social, political and ecological determinants of health from bio-centric and eco-centric perspectives is offered as a new bridge towards sustainable improvement in the health of people and our planet."—Solomon Benatar, University of Cape Town, South Africa; University of Toronto, Canada About the Author Henk ten Have is Director of the Center for Healthcare Ethics at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, US.