



## Making Peace With the Planet

By Barry Commoner

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### Making Peace With the Planet By Barry Commoner

In his monumental bestsellers, *The Closing Circle* and *Science and Survival*, Barry Commoner was one of the first scientists to alert us to the hideous environmental costs of our technological development. Now, twenty years later, Commoner reviews the vast efforts made in the public and private spheres to address and control the damage done and shows us why, despite billions of dollars spent to save the environment, we now find ourselves in an even deeper crisis. It is a book of hard facts and figures whose conclusion—that environmental pollution can be prevented only through fundamental redesign of the way we produce goods—demands basic changes all across America, from the highest offices in Washington, D.C., to your own kitchen garbage can.

If, in the sixties and seventies, an eco-revolution seemed afoot, Commoner now documents how short we have fallen. Attempts to reshape consumer patterns have been halfhearted, there have been terrible miscalculations in government policy (and in environmental organization strategies), and we still face the deliberate resistance of private industry to change.

Despite these problems, Commoner argues convincingly for the key role still to be played by community organizations in scrutinizing and directing environmental action.

Translating technical information into digestible form, Commoner takes us step by step through an EPA “environmental impact” review, breaks down the arguments for and against incineration, explains dioxin, Bhopal, auto emission controls, mercury poisoning, the greenhouse effect, and the Byzantine calculation of “acceptable risk”—in ways that show how each of these factors affects all of us.

With a new introduction by the author, *Making Peace with the Planet* makes a clear and impassioned plea for us to stop wasting money and precious nonrenewable resources, including time.

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# Making Peace With the Planet

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## Making Peace With the Planet By Barry Commoner Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Commoner's environmentalism is guided by a simple precept: "Preventing a disease is far more efficient than treating it." He argues that our misdirected, costly and ineffectual effort at environmental cleanup proves that "controlling" pollutants doesn't work--the pollutants must be eliminated from the production process itself, at the point of origin. To this end, he recommends, for starters, solar energy, ethanol fuel for cars, electric-powered autos, a massive recycling campaign, replacement of many petrochemical products by wood, cotton, paper and other ecologically sound materials. Commoner ( *The Closing Circle* ) recognizes that a massive redesign of our industrial, energy, transport and agricultural systems is a formidable task. It is also, he insists, the only way to reverse the suicidal assault on the planet waged by capitalist and socialist nations alike. Visionary yet specific, his urgent essay is a blueprint of our possible future and a beacon for the environmental struggles of the '90s.

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Review

I regard [Commoner] as right and compassionate on nearly every major issue. -- *Stephen Jay Gould, New York Times Book Review*

[*Making Peace with the Planet*] is a model of clarity, even for the reader who knows little about science. -- *New York Times*

About the Author

Barry Commoner (1917–2012) directed the Center for Biology of Natural Systems at Queens College and lives in Brooklyn. His previous books include *Science and Survival*, *The Closing Circle*, *The Poverty of Power*, and *The Politics of Energy*.

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**James Reed:**

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive currently, people have to do something to make all of them survive, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a book your ability to survive improve then having chance to remain than other is high. In your case who want to start reading the book, we give you this *Making Peace With the Planet* book as basic and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

**Clarence Cobb:**

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