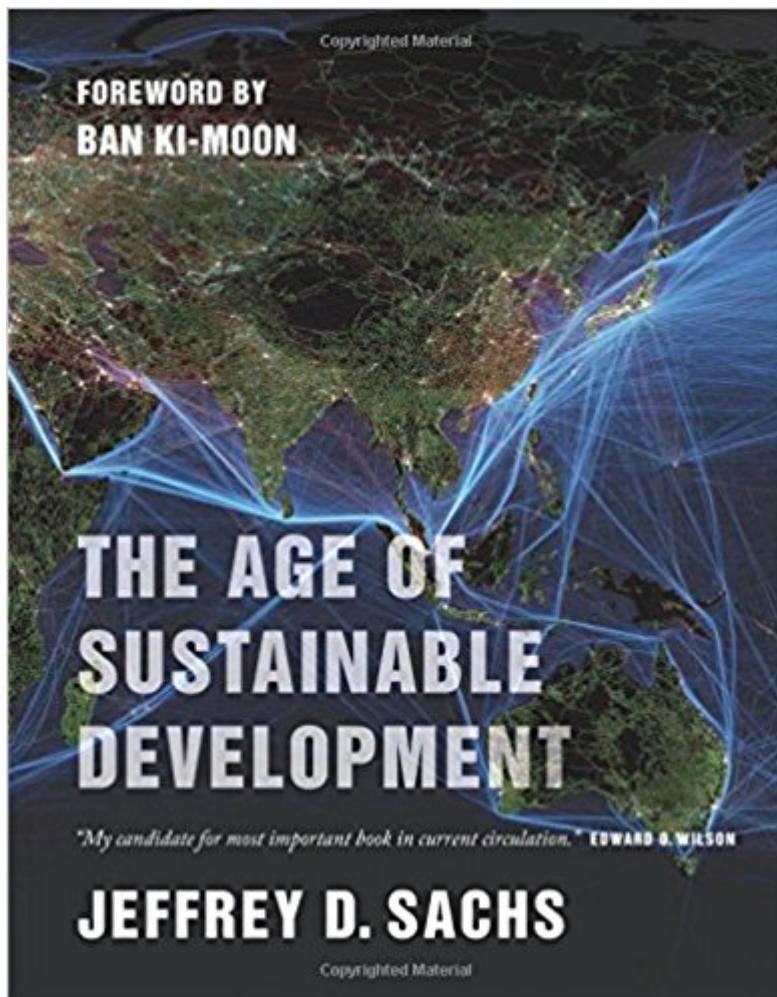


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# The Age Of Sustainable Development



## **Synopsis**

Jeffrey D. Sachs is one of the world's most perceptive and original analysts of global development. In this major new work he presents a compelling and practical framework for how global citizens can use a holistic way forward to address the seemingly intractable worldwide problems of persistent extreme poverty, environmental degradation, and political-economic injustice: sustainable development. Sachs offers readers, students, activists, environmentalists, and policy makers the tools, metrics, and practical pathways they need to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. Far more than a rhetorical exercise, this book is designed to inform, inspire, and spur action. Based on Sachs's twelve years as director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, his thirteen years advising the United Nations secretary-general on the Millennium Development Goals, and his recent presentation of these ideas in a popular online course, *The Age of Sustainable Development* is a landmark publication and clarion call for all who care about our planet and global justice. Visit <http://cup.columbia.edu/extras supplement/sachs-9780231173148> for additional teaching materials for students and instructors, including chapter summaries, key concepts, problem sets, and slides.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Jeff Sachs's admirable book explains what sustainable development means, why it matters, and our history in relation to our environment. It shows how the pattern of growth we have followed has placed intense strains on our planet and generated severe risks to our lives and livelihoods. Above all, it explains clearly where we can go and how to get there. It describes a potential future of great

attraction in terms of wellbeing, community and prosperity, properly understood. It should, and I hope it will, strengthen both the understanding of the great choices we face and the resolve to act. It is a splendid achievement. (Lord Nicholas Stern, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment)This terrific book stands out for its breadth, clarity, mastery of detail, honest discussion of complex matters, and its author's practical experience and good sense. It is actually ten terrific books under one cover because its accounts of economics, history, health, development, education, gender issues, food, climate change and biological diversity are among the best available. If you want to understand the modern world, and if you have room on your shelf for only one book, this is your book. (Jared Diamond, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Guns, Germs, and Steel*)There are very few authors that can so effectively rally the masses around an important cause—none that in this case concerns our collective future. There are still too few leaders with knowledge about global sustainable development challenges to affect the scalable changes that are needed. Professor Sachs's book is a comprehensive summary of complex issues, but it breaks them down and makes them digestible and understandable while making the imperative clear. It will clearly contribute significantly in closing the gap between science and policy, and hopefully serve as a catalyst for action. (Hans Vestberg, CEO, Ericsson)An important, comprehensive and remarkably accessible book—a standout in a sea of jargon-laden titles that fail to explain and vivify this enormously complex topic (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))Sweeping, enlightening, affecting, and invaluable, *The Age of Sustainable Development* should be available to everyone and consulted repeatedly. (Booklist (starred review))Clear straightforward prose and a wealth of statistics.... Sachs balances alarming forecasts with signs of progress. (Publishers Weekly)It is truly gratifying that an economist as distinguished as Jeffrey Sachs has authored *The Age of Sustainable Development*. His vast knowledge in the field and deep insights on various sectors of economic activity make him uniquely qualified to provide a view of the subject. Given the fact that almost a quartercentury has gone by since the Rio Summit of 1992, it is time for an authoritative volume such as the one Professor Sachs has authored for the benefit of global society. (Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, director-general, TERI; former chairman, IPCC)Comprehensive and crystal clear—what we need to make sustainable development a reality, not a dream. (James E. Hansen, director, Earth Institute Program in Climate Science, Awareness, and Solutions)The *Age of Sustainable Development* is both sobering and inspiring: sobering because it presents in great detail the unprecedented challenges facing mankind; inspiring because it assures us that we can meet those challenges, if only we summon the will to act. (Kerry Kennedy, president, RFK Center for Justice and Human Rights)It is, in my view, the best, most

comprehensive and most articulate exposition of sustainable development ever written.... I would make this book compulsory reading for all politicians and business leaders. (David Griggs Nature)Sachs has probably produced the best book to date on how to manage the planet for 10 billion people. (Fred Pearce New Scientist)A comprehensive introduction to the field of sustainable development by one of its leading scholars, advocates, and practitioners.... Recommended. (Library Journal)In a book of incredible breadth, Sachs delivers a sobering account of the impact of human activity upon the balance of life on Earth.... Highly recommended. (Choice)An inspiring and enlightening read. (Africa Report)a perceptive, analytical, and hopeful book about the future...This landmark in economic publications presents a brilliant examination of major worldwide threats to the planet and puts forward ways to balance economic development and environmental sustainability to overcome those threats...It is a magnum opus; the chief source of information for any person interested in understanding what sustainable development is all about. (Bill Schwab Missourian)A thoughtful and comprehensive resource on this crucial topic. (Civil Engineering)A clear and cogent nontechnical survey of the world's major challenges beyond the preservation of peace and security. (Richard N. Cooper Foreign Affairs)Sachs's book is written for a popular audience and could be used as a complementary text for courses in environmental or development economics or in public health classes or environmental studies classes. Its breadth of insights and coverage is staggering and students and general readers will find new ideas on every page of the book. (Matthew E. Kahn Journal of Economic Literature)

Jeffrey D. Sachs is a world-renowned economics professor, leader in sustainable development, senior UN advisor, best-selling author, and syndicated columnist. He serves as the director of the Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and professor of health policy and management at Columbia University. He is special advisor to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals, and he held the same position under Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He is director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network as well as cofounder and director of the Millennium Villages Project. He has authored three New York Times best-sellers in the past seven years: *The End of Poverty*; *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet*; and *The Price of Civilization*. His most recent book is *To Move the World: JFK's Quest for Peace*.Ban Ki-moon is the secretary-general of the United Nations, an office he assumed in 2007. He was previously the foreign minister of the Republic of Korea.

Overall I enjoyed reading this book. I concurrently took the MOOC on Coursera and this book

exactly follows the lectures. I understood the basics of development before I read this, so none of the content was completely new to me but neither was I an expert. I appreciated the breadth of the content and felt like it gave me a good overall understanding of the current issues. At times topics seemed oversimplified, but if you're looking for a deep dive into a specific topic, this isn't for you. I did find numerous editorial errors in the book, which I found unprofessional. All in all I would recommend this book if you're looking to gain a broad understanding of sustainable global development.

This is basically a must read for everyone. It outlines the fundamental issues of concern under the most recent global development agenda; the nature of which is related to the lives of everyone, irrespective of geography or wealth. It also outlines the essential transformations the current generation needs to promote in order to avoid various social, economic and environmental disasters in the future. The writing is very engaging, straightforward and clear; although there are sufficient references and notes for the book to provide a gateway to much deeper reading for those with an interest. To get a bit more technical, Sachs misses the opportunity to more explicitly frame the issues as being united by the overriding theme of social justice; which I would argue, is the most powerful way to generate interest in sustainable development as a concept of relevance everyone on the planet.

I had to get this book for a class, and I really like how it uses lay mans terms to explain complex ideas. It is an easy read without cramming a lot into each page and doesn't overwhelm the reader with too much information at once. The book itself is made out of quality materials.

Got it as a gift for my brother's birthday. He's loving it so far. A real must for your book collection if you like the field of sustainable development. Just a side note: even though it was written by an economist (Jeffrey Sachs), the books has a really easy-to-understand narrative with a comprehensive overview of all subjects related. Maybe it is a little bit on the economic side but it does a great job of explaining global aspects, poverty, and the more intrinsic technical details. 120% recommended.

This book is unique in its combination of the core principles of Macro Economics, Sociology, Development and Management; as a definition of the doctrine of Sustainable Development, speaking from the global perspective of both public and private sector management and the need

for political will to urgently preserve the environment. One striking example of the vision of sustainable development is that it seems on the whole to be recommending best practices for human intellectual advancement as part of the process of sustainable development."If we find ways to ensure a big middle class and a decent chance for a child born into a poor family, as the impressive Scandinavian societies have done, that can become the path to social inclusion, a key pillar of sustainable development."A truly refreshing synthesis of thought.

This is the best book by Sachs, after End of Poverty and Common Wealth. There are many things in common with them, but here Sachs presents a more comprehensive view of the issues, and I would also add he speaks here with a more mature voice, incorporating his experience in Africa on the MDGs as well in the Earth Institute with the large and diverse base of scientific knowledge available there. This is also an easy read, with plenty of concrete examples and very clear and useful figures.

Dr. Sachs gets it! We all get caught up in our own day to day issues. But Dr. Sachs sends out the "wake up call" to what's really important, inclusion! Otherwise, our forgetfulness always comes back to bite us! There is a big global world out there, whether we pay attention to it or not. Maybe his influence will help us move from Adam Smith's "self interest" to "mutual interest." One can only dream! Thanks, Dr. Sachs

very clear and excellent presentation. this is very important in this day and age of lots of bad news. hopefully this book will inspire many to take action and help to achieve the goals that all UN nations signed on to in the 17 areas that the UN Sustainable Development Goals came up with to be accomplished by 2030.

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