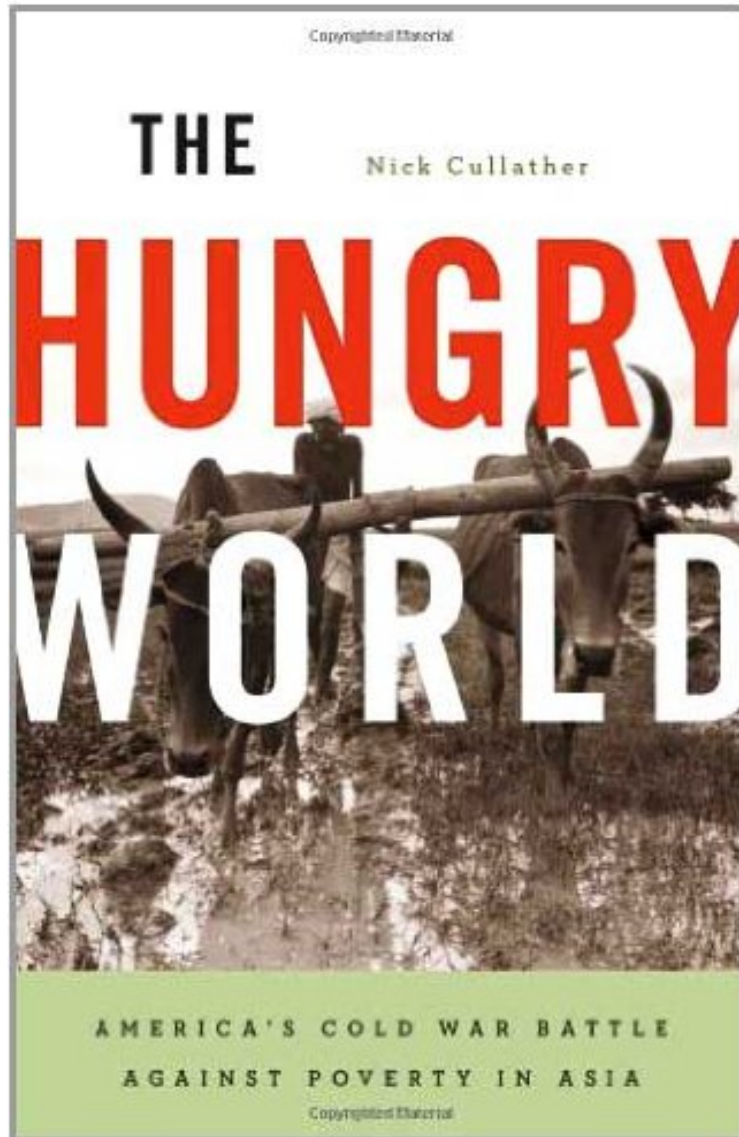


[Free] The Hungry World

## The Hungry World

*Nick Cullather*

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**Nick Cullather : The Hungry World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hungry World:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Informative history of the Green Revolution and beyond in AsiaBy EcomarciCullather's well-researched history of the green revolution in Asia is a breath of fresh air into a polarized debate over food, population, and poverty. He shows how throughout the Cold War, Washington political leaders, diplomats, and private foundations relied on narratives about technological solutions to complex problems, often leaving worse problems in their wake. Borrowing from James C. Scott's "Seeing Like a State," Cullather shows how

socio-political challenges were reduced to only their technical components, such as calories produced or population statistics. Coupled with modernization theory and economic models, this led to the globalization of international aid. The consequences of this system are still apparent, as political leaders and philanthropists continue to rely on simplified narratives and models from the green revolution era, ignoring historical, political, cultural, and local contexts. While it may not be initially apparent, this book would be great for a history of science and technology graduate course. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful History of the Green Revolution and the rise of "development" as an international undertaking By harley Just a really interesting take on the Green Revolution set on the larger stage of the rise of a development ethos in the United States and the international community. Particularly of interest is how Cullather shows how problems were frequently constructed to fit with solutions that science and funders wanted to pursue. This book should be read by everyone engaged in rural development today as a place for reflection on where this work has come from and where we are going. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I'm doing a PhD thesis on international agricultural research and ... By Trey Menefee I'm doing a PhD thesis on international agricultural research and extension. This work has been invaluable. Anyone doing similar research, or just wanting to learn about the political economy of food and agricultural research, should give this a cover-to-cover read.

Cullather has written an engrossing history of how the United States government, along with private philanthropies like the Ford and Rockefeller foundations, aimed to win the hearts and bodies of rural Asia in the post World War II decades by crafting strategies to develop and modernize agriculture and the peasants' way of life. He explains how America used foreign aid, modernization theory, nutrition, statistics, and technology, to try to reconstruct the social and political order of the decolonized and disadvantaged countries in the region. Initially the issue of how best to intervene in Asia's rural countryside was contentious, with clashing visions of development and humanitarian aid being argued throughout the 50's and 60's. Ultimately, one strategy displaced all the others—the "Green Revolution" and the ability to feed millions through the miracle of genetically designed dwarf strains of grain and rice. Cullather provides a detailed explanation of how this policy of feeding Asian peasants became the single strategy of "progress" adopted by the US rather than industrialization or land reform. As current controversy swirls about how best to aid Africa in the crisis of nation-building, famine, and a poverty-stricken peasantry, the story of the U.S. interventions in Asia become starkly relevant.