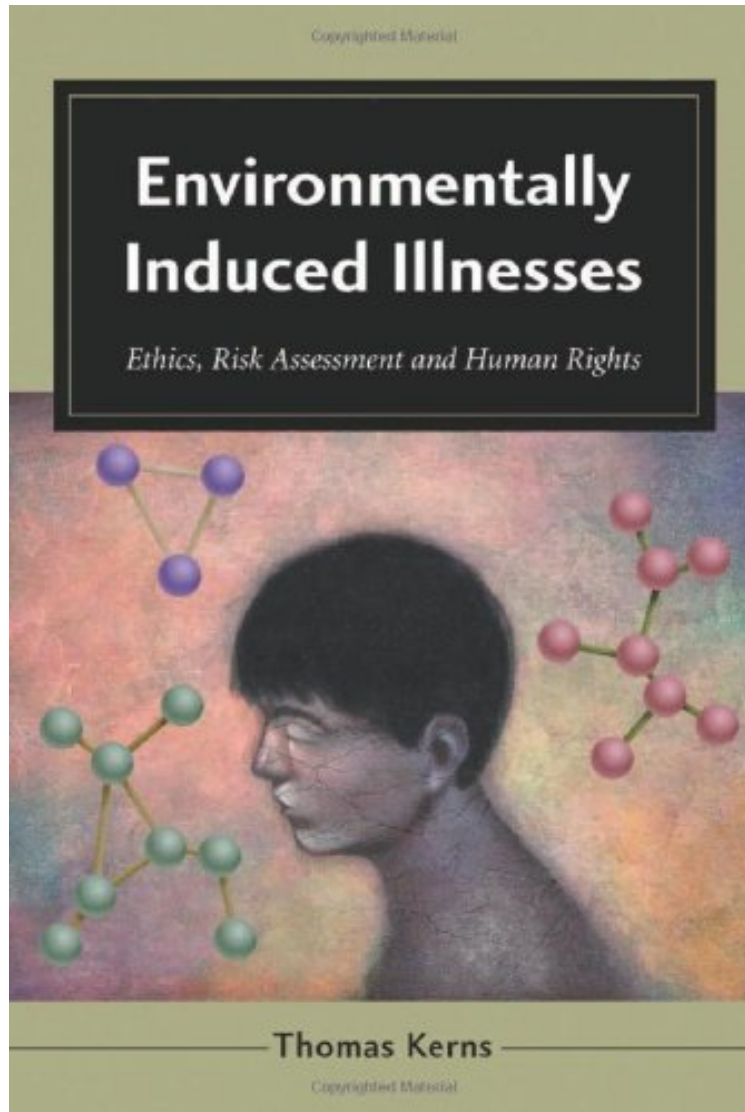


Environmentally Induced Illnesses: Ethics, Risk Assessment and Human Rights

Thomas Kerns

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Thomas Kerns : Environmentally Induced Illnesses: Ethics, Risk Assessment and Human Rights before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Environmentally Induced Illnesses: Ethics, Risk Assessment and Human Rights:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent, easy to read and understand explanation of the ...By John M. LindAn excellent, easy to read and understand explanation of the suffering caused to chemically sensitive

individuals. According to two research projects, 12.6 to about 15% of us are hypersensitive to toxicants in society. From there, up to 50% are said to be moderately sensitive. We need to be informed for our own health and to understand those who must endure the life altering impositions of toxic chemicals. This will accomplish that requirement very well. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Exposure to Chemical Exposure By Gina Miller Environmentally Induced Illnesses is written by teacher of Medical Ethics and Philosophy Professor Thomas Kerns. His background provides the reader with the means and insight to ask important questions, weigh the humanitarian aspects and uncover truths that may be unfamiliar to us. Not only does the author have this applicable knowledge but he has also personally experienced the devastating effects of chemicals within the environment with the onset of his diagnosed multiple chemical sensitivity which occurred in mid life. This book is a shocker. The author lets us in on how massive chemical exposure really is in our every day lives. In the introduction he provides a window for us to see what has been previously invisible to most all of us. Three chemicals are realized, Formaldehyde which is prevalent in our beds, clothes, furniture and carpets. This alone comprises almost every environment we find ourselves in. He goes on to discuss the dangers of fragrances, found in lotions, fabric softeners and various hygiene products. He then introduces Pesticides, which he discloses are not only in homes, offices and schools but many public places one would never consider. Within the first few pages much is discovered and the reader gets a sense that the statistics in the rest of the book will be staggering, and they are. Kerns says that 35 billions lbs. are released yearly. A plethora of chemicals and how they live around and effect us is explained. The problem with these exposures is examined, improper documentation, the human health factors (illnesses) and human rights, policies, ethical dilemmas, the economic role and legal aspects. Kerns provides sound suggestions for ways of dealing with these issues. He believes the public should be informed and that should be applied to and required of corporations, by law. He stresses product safety and avenues of proof before they are released to the market. He underscores the importance of research in the area of toxicants and their effects. After you read how dominating and dangerous they are, you will agree with him. This book is an amazing expose of truth and an eye opener of awareness. You will look at the world around you differently. We are provided with a new understanding and empathy of those who endure the effects, concern for own safety and for what can be done. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Excellent look at human rights and chemical exposures. By Lavatera This is an intelligent, well-crafted book on a subject that merits far greater attention in our society. Beginning with a brief account of the onset of his own illness, Thomas Kerns knowledgeably leads the reader to an awareness of the enormous quantities of synthetic chemicals put into our modern environment. Not only our air and water, but our offices, homes, schools, even our clothing contain toxicants such as formaldehyde, artificial fragrances, and pesticides. Few people are aware of the chronic illnesses and severe life disruption that can result. This book focuses especially on illnesses caused by long-term exposure to low doses of ubiquitous toxicants. How is it the citizens are not given choices, or even informed of the risks? Kerns argues that "given certain facts about toxicant induced illnesses (Chapter One, Data), and given certain ethical principles (Chapter Two, Principles), some definite changes will need to be made (Chapter Three, Modest Proposals), despite some serious obstacles and challenges (Chapter Four, Brick Walls). Writing in a clear and engaging style, the author draws on a wide variety of sources to make his case. By examining the issues from the perspective of ethics and society, this book expands the range of available writing about chemical sensitivity disorders. I recommend it especially to people with toxicant induced illnesses, to activists, public health advocates, policymakers and anyone interested in society's puzzling lack of response to a looming health crisis.

Readers drawn to Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, Laurie Garrett's *The Coming Plague*, or Theo Colburn's *Our Stolen Future* will appreciate this work by Thomas Kerns as well. The growing epidemics of chemically induced illnesses from long-term, low-dose exposure to toxicants in both developed and developing nations are being studied by serious researchers. Questions are being raised as to how societies will deal with these new problems. Kerns's book is the first to directly address the ethical dimension of managing environmental health and ubiquitous toxicants (such as solvents, pesticides, and artificial fragrances). The work includes recent medical literature on chronic health effects from exposure to toxicants and the social costs of these disorders; relevant historic and human rights documents; recommendations for public policy and legislation; and primary obstacles faced by public health advocates. College instructors and students, victims of chemical sensitivity disorders, public health workers, scientists, and policymakers who are interested in the challenge of these emerging epidemics will find Kerns's text highly informative.

From Booklist Kerns noticed a metallic taste in his mouth when he was 51. He consulted various doctors but got no diagnosis until a doctor experienced in environmental medicine identified it as multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS). Kerns, then working on a master's in public health, began the research and reasoning that eventuated in this thoroughly documented, closely argued book on the problems of long-term exposure to low doses of chemicals. Kerns is trying to increase awareness of MCS, which leads to much more than just cancer and which lack of government regulation and labeling, the ubiquity of the substances causing MCS (found in artificial fragrances, furniture, carpeting, pesticides, and many other products), and the political and financial power of chemical companies make a widespread debilitating

condition. Kerns describes the body systems that can be damaged by MCS and relates many aspects of the problem to human rights. Readers who stick with the book or use it as a reference will learn much about a frequently hidden or casually dismissed malady that affects millions. William Beatty Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved "recommended"--Choice; "thoroughly documented"--Booklist; "a very broad view of chemicals in our environment--one that clearly shows the complex nature of the problem--and the truly alarming data"--Townsend Letter; "far-reaching"--Midwest Book ; "warms the soul with wisdom...a recipe for a safer, healthier world, with liberty and justice for all"--MACI Newsletter. About the Author College professor Thomas Kerns teaches medical ethics and philosophy at North Seattle Community College in Seattle, Washington.