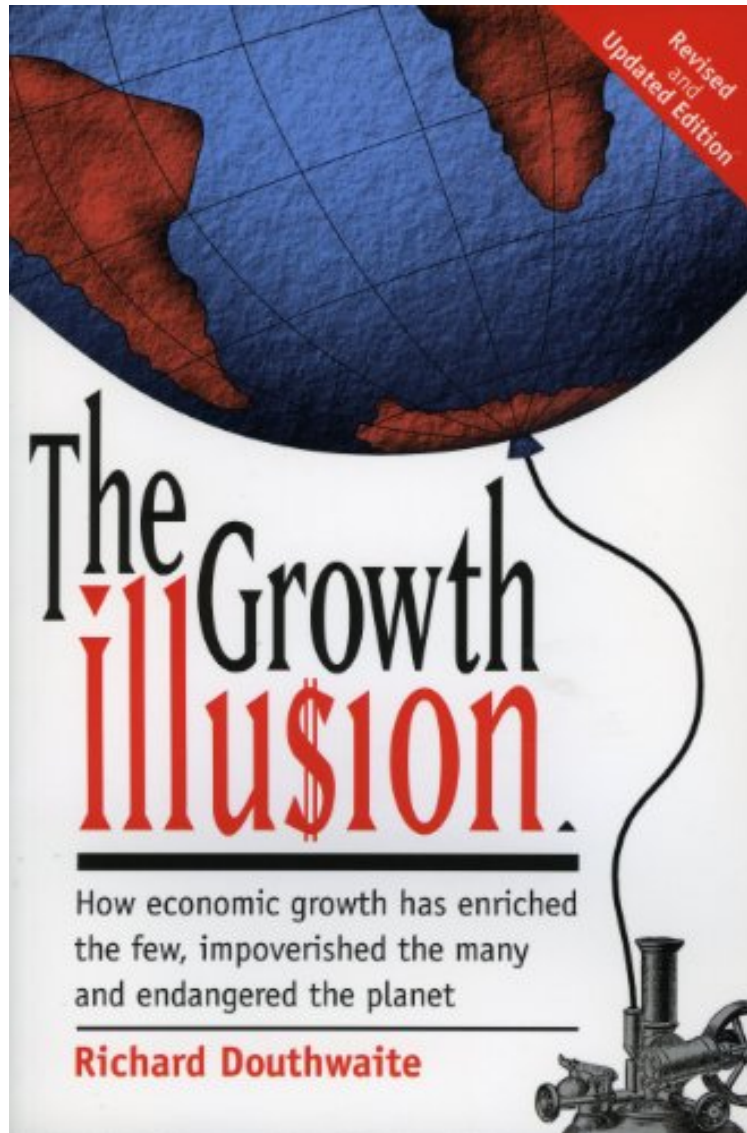


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The Growth Illusion: How economic growth has enriched the few, impoverished the many and endangered the planet.

Richard Douthwaite

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Richard Douthwaite : The Growth Illusion: How economic growth has enriched the few, impoverished the many and endangered the planet. before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Growth Illusion: How economic growth has enriched the few, impoverished the many and endangered the planet.:

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following review helpful. It is a good book, but the passage of time has made ...By Milton L. ErhardtI should have paid more attention to the date published. It is a good book, but the passage of time has made it somewhat dated. It should also be noted, that as an Irishman, Mr. Douthwaite is naturally most concerned with the effects of monetarism style economic growth on Ireland. He also offers various legitimate alternatives to Milty Friedmans religion, although only from an Irish perspective and history.31 of 32 people found the following review helpful. The Growth Delusion ExposedBy Kenneth F MeyercordRichard Douthwaite has written an important book. In this updated version of his 1992 classic of the same name, he brings the evidence he has amassed of growth's downside up to the present. If anyone reading the book does not come to question the unexamined assumption most of us hold that growth is a good thing, then he is indeed delusional. Though other growth heretics, such as Herman Daly, have made many of the same arguments as Douthwaite, I know of no book which covers so many of growth's unfortunate side effects or documents them so well, from the inadequacy of GNP as a measure of well-being through the decline in public health in recent decades to the slap in the face of our growth-oriented society administered by the refugees from Tristan da Cunha. Douthwaite uses the history of Britain over the last 200 years to document growth's ambivalent contribution to human betterment, finding it as instructive a guide as Marx found it to be for analyzing capitalism 150 years earlier. Included in the book are chapters on the consequences of growth in his native Ireland and in contemporary Holland and India, chapters enlivened by his direct personal involvement in these countries. It is regrettable that more of his insights do not come from the American experience, both because of the United States' remarkable history of growth and because of its premiere position in the world today as the foremost proponent and most dogmatic practitioner of the growth doctrine. Apparently, this is not where Douthwaite's life experience led him to direct his attentions. Hopefully, in a future book he will.

Short-listed for 1992 GPA Award. Is economic growth improving our lives? In 1992, when the first edition of *The Growth Illusion* appeared, most people had little doubt that the answer was 'Yes'. Today, however, the climate of opinion has changed and there is widespread acceptance that, while growth might be necessary to generate jobs, the development path we are following isn't making life better for ourselves or our children. This new, revised edition of *The Growth Illusion* explains what has gone wrong. Douthwaite argues that since the 1950s, governments around the world have made economic growth their primary focus in the belief that by baking the biggest national cake, they are creating the resources needed to fulfill their political goals. Recent research in the USA, Britain, Germany and Australia shows that this 'growth first, goals later' strategy isn't working and that in the past fifteen years the growth process has actually destroyed more resources than it has created on a sustainable basis. As these economies run backwards, their citizens become worse off. So why is growth still paramount? Like an aircraft maintaining a minimum airspeed to stay aloft, so an economy must maintain a minimum growth rate if it is not to plunge into a deep depression. If demand fails to increase in any year, less investment will be made the following year, people will be thrown out of work and the economy will begin to unwind. *The Growth Illusion* explores this trap and many other topics along the way, asking fundamental questions about economics and the society in which we live. In this revised and reworked edition, case studies and statistics have been brought up to date and amplified by new research. Douthwaite identifies recent changes in public attitudes to growth as the beginnings of an intellectual revolution as far-reaching in its consequences for human survival as those initiated by Copernicus or Darwin in their re-assessment of man's place in creation. 'Growth has pushed the economic system beyond safe environmental limits,' he writes. 'The present revolution involves our acceptance that Earth is finite and the laws of nature apply to us.' Press comments about *The Growth Illusion*: 'Truly a book for our times: a fierce and unrelenting critique of the failures of laissez-faire capitalism ... I commend *The Growth Illusion* to all.' - *The Sunday Tribune* #150; 'Here's an economist who can entertain, blowing the whistle on consumer idiocies ... After reading Douthwaite's vivid and convincing case studies it becomes impossible to hear a politician promising 'recovery' ... without feeling mingled pity and contempt' - *The Independent* on Sunday #150; "The *Growth Illusion* is simply indispensable for those who wish to empower themselves by getting a grip on an alternative model to the prevailing economics of misery. What is particularly impressive is the quality of the scholarship... The publication of this book is a very significant act in democratizing economics.' - Michael D. Higgins, *Hot Press* 'Douthwaite is no head-banger...The *Growth Illusion* is a big rich book with an old-fashioned resonance: economics as morality - it does something to hasten the day when capitalism is no longer left as the only game in town.' -*The Irish Times* 'A terrific book, splendidly written and meticulously researched. I have no hesitation in calling Richard Douthwaite one of the best environmental journalists in the world.' - James Downey, *The Universe*

After reading Douthwaite's vivid and convincing case studies it becomes impossible to hear a politician promising recovery (and hence a new bout of consuming) without feeling mingled pity and contempt. Rowland Morgan, *The Independent* on Sunday Brilliant and highly documented ... Richard Douthwaite's book is of the greatest importance to us all Edward Goldsmith, founder and co-editor of *The Ecologist* After reading Douthwaite's vivid and convincing case studies it becomes impossible to hear a politician promising recovery (and hence a new bout of consuming)

without feeling mingled pity and contempt. Rowland Morgan, *The Independent* on Sunday Brilliant and highly documented ... Richard Douthwaite's book is of the greatest importance to us all Edward Goldsmith, founder and co-editor of *The Ecologist* About the Author Richard Douthwaite is an economist and writer with a special interest in climate and energy issues and in local economic development. His best-known book, *The Growth Illusion: How Economic Growth Enriched the Few, Impoverished the Many and Endangered the Planet* explores the effects that the pursuit of growth has had on the environment and society. He is a co-founder of Feasta, the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability, the Dublin-based international network of people who believe that the world's sustainability problems are due to the use of dysfunctional systems and are trying to develop better ones. His current projects include the design and introduction of novel financing arrangements for community energy projects and the management of the Carbon Cycles and Sinks Network which explores ways in which land-based greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced.