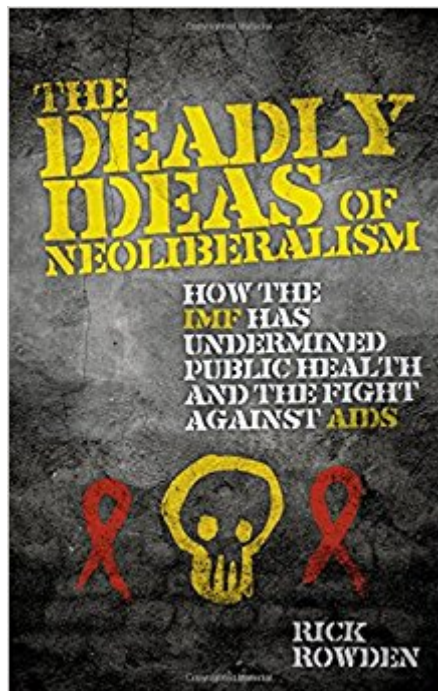


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# The Deadly Ideas Of Neoliberalism: How The IMF Has Undermined Public Health And The Fight Against AIDS



## Synopsis

This book explores the relationship between the spread of HIV/AIDS (among other diseases of poverty) and neoliberal economic ideas. It explains not only how IMF policies have exacerbated public health problems in developing countries, but also how mounting global frustration will ultimately lead to challenges to the dominant neoliberal ideas, as other more effective economic ideas are sought. In stark, powerful terms, Rowden offers a unique and in-depth critique of development economics, global foreign aid and health institutions, and how these seemingly abstract factors play out in the real world -- from the highest levels of global institutions to African finance and health ministries to rural health outposts of developing nations, and back again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is an extraordinary achievement. It includes a careful study of the political economy of HIV/AIDS and a clear explanation of the economic policies associated with neoliberalism and the IMF. Rowden shows that neoliberalism and IMF policies bear a significant responsibility for the limitations of health policies and budgets in the poor countries and, especially, for the insufficiencies of prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS." -- Professor Alfredo Saad Filho, Head of Department of Development Studies SOAS

"This book is a timely "wake-up call" that we must redouble our efforts to develop viable progressive economic alternatives to Neoliberalism. Despite the ideological fallout from the global financial crisis and recession, the main tenets of the Neoliberal economic paradigm retain decisive power to dictate public policies in developing countries and mould the consensus mindset of the international development community. The need to confront Neoliberalism is

nowhere more critical than in the debate on how to expand national budgets and strengthen national capacities to stem the 'deadly' tide of global health crises such as HIV/AIDS." -- Terry McKinley, CDPR, School of Oriental and African Studies

"For far too long, public health activists have allowed development discussions to be dominated by economists. Rick Rowden has written a highly accessible volume that clearly links economic policies to poor health outcomes in developing countries. His clarion call to health activists to get involved in economic debates is an urgent one. His message is clear, neoliberalism kills. Real health improvements will only come by confronting and ultimately changing neoliberal strategies that continue to have far too much influence in international policy circles." --Howard Stein, Professor, University of Michigan

"Rick Rowden's *The Deadly Ideas of Neoliberalism - How the IMF has Undermined Public Health and the Fight Against AIDS* is a masterful account of the little known link between ideologically distorted "mainstream" economic theories, IMF policies, and the deadly impact these can have on developing countries. An activist and an extremely well-read and informed student of economics, Rowden has woven a convincing and powerful tale of the human costs of bad theory and bad policy, especially in the area of public health and AIDs in the developing world. His is also an inspiring tale of how informed and dedicated activism can make a crucial difference to the lives of the least privileged." -- Gerald Epstein Professor of Economics and Co-Director, Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) University of Massachusetts, Amherst

"*The Deadly Ideas of Neoliberalism* provides a powerful, compelling analysis of the little-known impact of international financial institutions on countless people suffering without access to health services around the world. Rowden's passionate interrogation of the controversial macroeconomic policies embraced by the IMF is compelling and accessible, set against the high-stakes struggle for access to HIV treatment in developing countries. This book should be required reading at the IMF." -- Asia Russell, Director of International Policy, Health GAP (Global Access Project)

"The timing of Rowden's superb book couldn't be better. The global financial crisis has diminished support for health programs by wealthy countries and development organizations at the same time as developing countries are facing deep fiscal crises and severe pressure from the IMF to reduce spending. Rowden's masterful work demonstrates the dangers associated with such policies, and provides health advocates with the information, arguments and motivation they need to win the battle against policies that, quite literally, kill." -- Ilene Grabel, Professor, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver

Rick Rowden worked in Washington DC for 9 years with advocacy NGOs engaged on foreign aid

and development issues, including as senior policy analyst for the US office of ActionAid. He has travelled extensively and worked with policy makers, economists and advocacy NGOs across Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe to critically analyze the macroeconomic policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and their impact on health spending in developing countries. With an MA and BA in International Relations from San Francisco State University, he is an expert in North-South relations and how the global foreign aid, trade and finance systems impact economic development. Previously, he taught Global Studies at California State University, Monterey Bay and Political Science at Golden Gate University in San Francisco. He is currently an Inter-Regional Advisor with the Globalization and Development Strategies Division of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva, Switzerland.

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