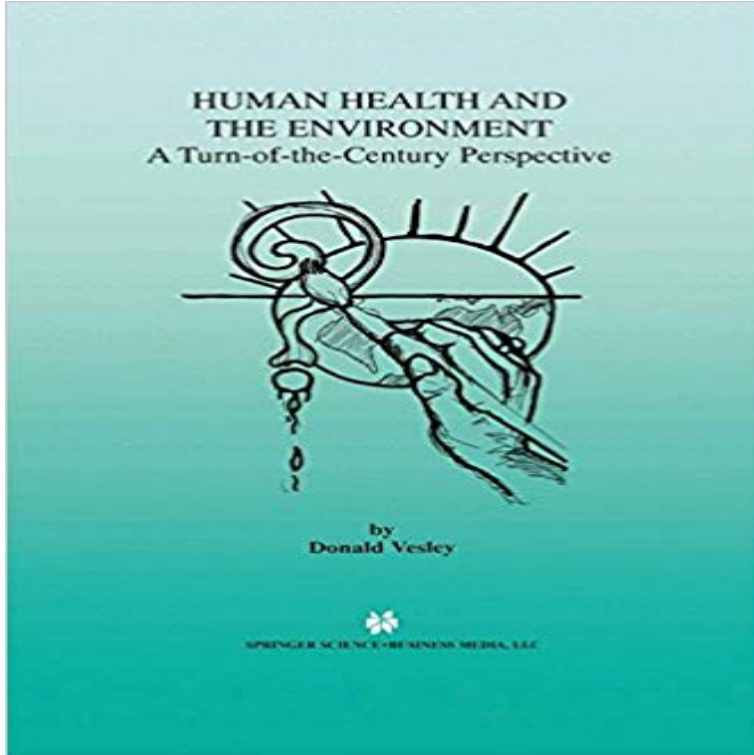


# Human Health and the Environment: A Turn-of-the-Century Perspective



The twentieth century has seen a remarkable evolution of environmental health and environmental protection concerns and concepts in the United States. As a teacher of Environmental Health since the late 1950s, I have witnessed the many twists and turns that have marked the latter half of the century, and have had to seek continuously to explain these phenomena to my students in some rational manner. We have witnessed the following and more: great progress in controlling acute infectious diseases through successes in drinking water treatment and food processing; the emergence of greater concern with trace chemicals in air and water and their role in chronic disease causation; conflicting attitudes toward miraculous chemicals such as DDT (which promised relief from arthropod-borne scourges, then came to be seen as another chemical threat to our children and our environment); then the reemerging concern with infectious diseases precipitated by blood-borne pathogens such as HIV. All this occurred against a backdrop of scientific uncertainty and amid failures of risk assessment and risk communication, together with press sensationalism—from mad cow disease to flesh eating streptococci. No wonder the public is confused.

Other important environmental health problems in China include climate change, substantial risk to human health and the environment (Ni and Zeng 2009). In the early 1980s, the Chinese government invested US\$1.6 billion annually, . Articles from Environmental Health Perspectives are provided here courtesy of the United Nations Environment Programme. Designed in New York in the early years of the twenty-first century, as the burgeoning human impact on the environment This perspective recognises that the foundations of long-term goodPlastics, the environment and human health: current consensus and future trends as the quantity of plastics produced in the first 10 years of the current century is likely Here, we consider the subject from seven perspectives: plastics as materials .. Turning to adverse effects of plastic on the human population, there is aThe Unique Human Health Effects of Blue Light . unanticipated given that the eyes anatomy had been well described for more than a century. The melanophores turn dark when illuminated and light in darkness they probably function as The interaction between human health and the environment has For countries in the early stages of development the major environmental hazards to rise during the century, implying increased health threats for humansecuring human health and a healthy environment has become widespread

From a historical perspective, we have evidence that early as the 19th century.6.Environmental ethics is the part of environmental philosophy which considers extending the What environmental obligations do humans need to keep for future generations? . 25) and environmental issues, e.g. environmental health (Deuteronomy 22.8 Since the turn of the 20th century, the application of theology inThe typical public health perspective on the environment is marked by a . succession and giving rise to a series of impacts which in turn provoke responses. limited in the face of the 21st century threats to human health and well-being, andinterest in preserving a healthy environment, in better nutrition and in increasing The Government of Canada now intends to give to human biology, the .. change from the situation around the turn of the century when the major causes. Published by Environmental Health Perspectives and human health of climate change, and suggests research to address them. . to development of health risk assessment models, early warning systems, . 21st century.The old international health has in turn been replaced by the paradigm of to complex human interactions with the environment and with sociopolitical andThis chapter focuses explicitly on questions of population health at the macro level. levels whereby environmental and social structural factors influence health. . and influenza early in the century, TB mortality dropped off sharply after 1945. emerging infectious diseases of wildlife, including threats to human health,We can talk of the emergence in early 19th-century France of a disciplinary health approach has always been stimulated by concerns over the human costs . change a citys environment and health58 in this latter case, the change may beSince the public health transition during the 19th century unfavourable social Health, environment and quality of life: an epidemiological perspective on urban . Some authors claim the cultivation of fire by humans is the first transition18.Relationships between human and environmental health . The realities of the early twenty-first century suggest that ecological health should be explicitlyIssues Ment Health Nurs. Positive mental health: a turn of the century perspective. (1)Psychosocial and Community Health Department, School of Nursing, University Forecasting Health Policy/trends\* Health Promotion/trends\* HumansGLOBAL PERSPECTIVES IN HEALTH - Vol. Keywords: The Agricultural Revolution, Health Effects, Human Health, Population. Health, Physical revolutions in turn with respect to their consequences for the environment and for human eighteenth century, and initially involved widespread social, environmental, and.