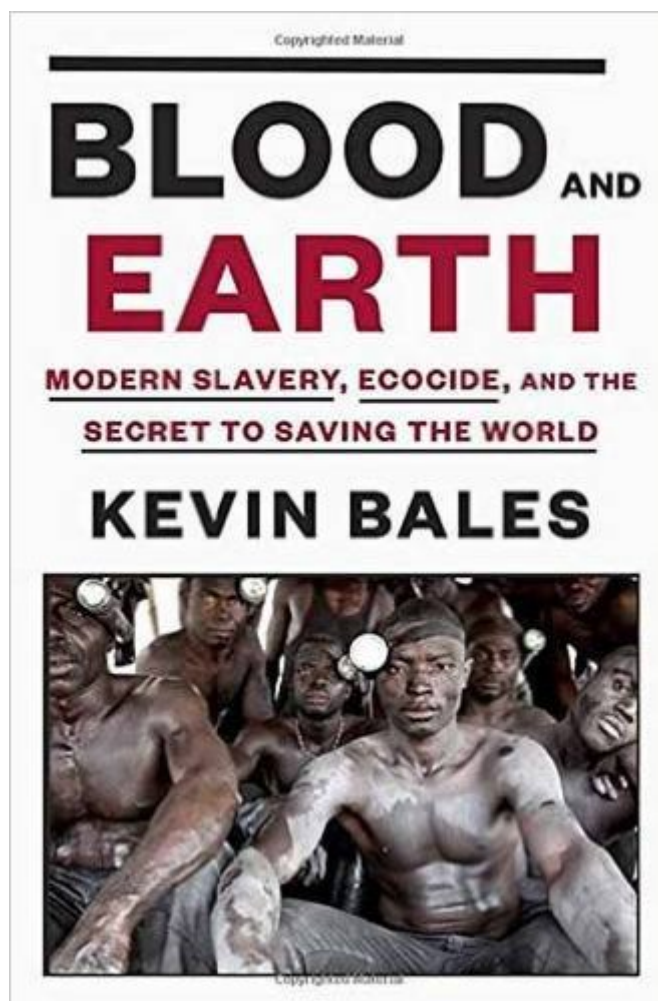


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# Blood And Earth: Modern Slavery, Ecocide, And The Secret To Saving The World



## Synopsis

For readers of such crusading works of nonfiction as Katherine Boo's *Beyond the Beautiful* and Tracy Kidder's *Mountains Beyond Mountains* comes a powerful and captivating examination of two entwined global crises: environmental destruction and human trafficking—and an inspiring, bold plan for how we can solve them. A leading expert on modern-day slavery, Kevin Bales has traveled to some of the world's most dangerous places documenting and battling human trafficking. In the course of his reporting, Bales began to notice a pattern emerging: Where slavery existed, so did massive, unchecked environmental destruction. But why? Bales set off to find the answer in a fascinating and moving journey that took him into the lives of modern-day slaves and along a supply chain that leads directly to the cellphones in our pockets. What he discovered is that even as it destroys individuals, families, and communities, new forms of slavery that proliferate in the world's lawless zones also pose a grave threat to the environment. Simply put, modern-day slavery is destroying the planet. The product of seven years of travel and research, *Blood and Earth* brings us dramatic stories from the world's most beautiful and tragic places, the environmental and human-rights hotspots where this crisis is concentrated. But it also tells the stories of some of the most common products we all consume—from computers to shrimp to jewelry—whose origins are found in these same places. *Blood and Earth* calls on us to recognize the grievous harm we have done to one another, put an end to it, and recommit to repairing the world. This is a clear-eyed and inspiring book that suggests how we can begin the work of healing humanity and the planet we share.

**Praise for *Blood and Earth***

“A heart-wrenching narrative . . . Weaving together interviews, history, and statistics, the author shines a light on how the poverty, chaos, wars, and government corruption create the perfect storm where slavery flourishes and environmental destruction follows. . . . A clear-eyed account of man's inhumanity to man and Earth. Read it to get informed, and then take action.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“[An] exposé of the global economy's deadly dance between slavery and environmental disaster . . . Based on extensive travels through eastern Congo's mineral mines, Bangladeshi fisheries, Ghanaian gold mines, and Brazilian forests, Bales reveals the appalling truth in graphic detail. . . . Readers will be deeply disturbed to learn how the links connecting slavery, environmental issues, and modern convenience are forged.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“This well-researched and vivid book studies the connection between slavery and environmental destruction, and what it will take to end both.” —*Shelf Awareness* (starred review)

“This is a remarkable book, demonstrating once more the deep links between the ongoing degradation of the planet and the ongoing degradation of its most vulnerable people.”

It's a bracing reminder that a mentality that allows throwaway people also allows a throwaway earth. — Bill McKibben, author of *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've been incorporating the work of Dr. Kevin Bales into my human rights courses for the past several years. His first book, *Disposable People*, helped establish the conversation that slavery is not just a thing of the past, but rather a present day threat to global human security. In this new book, *Blood and Earth*, Dr. Bales identifies an important linkage between the environmental and human rights movements. Dr. Bales's thesis is that contemporary slavery is not just an egregious human rights problem, but also a significant environmental concern. Modern slaves are forced to contribute to the deforestation of the , the mining of the earth in Africa, and (among other injustices), the pollution of the air via brick kilns in India. Dr. Bales presents a moving and convincing argument that we can dramatically reduce CO2 emissions by working to end modern slavery. A great read and inspiring work.

Kevin Bales has peeled off the layers and exposed the links between two major world problems -- environmental destruction and human trafficking. What he found in his travels and research surprised, saddened and sometimes shocked me. This book is a must read for its courage and honesty and its call to action for every consumer.

Kevin Bales is a modern day abolitionist and has written several books on modern slavery. What I found compelling was the co-dependency he demonstrates between slavery and environmental destruction. His sobering depiction of communities devastated by climate change and other sources of environmental ruin, further victimized by corrupt systems of debt and judicial malfeasance, forced into bondage for generations. It's well written and heart felt, and a wake up call to all of us.

I would highly recommend this book, it's a great look into the lives of slaves around the world, and the fact that most of us are unconscious supporters of slavery.

Great! Bales is one of the world experts on modern day human trafficking. The book is very informative. Everyone should read it as part of one's education.

A must read..to understand what a price the third world nations pay for our comforts and conveniences..

An excellent hard-hitting expose of an ongoing moral outrage that not only depicts the exploitation and suffering of people in all parts of the world whose enslavement impacts all of us. It shows how the crime of slavery not only causes serious social problems but has also grave environmental consequences.

I learned so much-- everyone should read this! Fascinating, intelligently written, engaging.... and makes you reflect on the disturbing consequences of our "first world" actions.

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