The two of us came to the study of scarcity and conflict from different disciplines and from different sides of the Atlantic Ocean. That we could produce this joint effort is a tribute to the centrality of the issue, to the respect we have for each other, both personally and professionally, and to our commitment to multidisciplinary work and interchange.

We have spent more than a decade studying genocide, fascism, and other forms of human cruelty. Those of us who study mass death do so in the hope that it will preserve life. We don't want our subject to become commonplace and even familiar; we want to bring it to the forefront of public discourse.

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The Coming Age of Scarcity