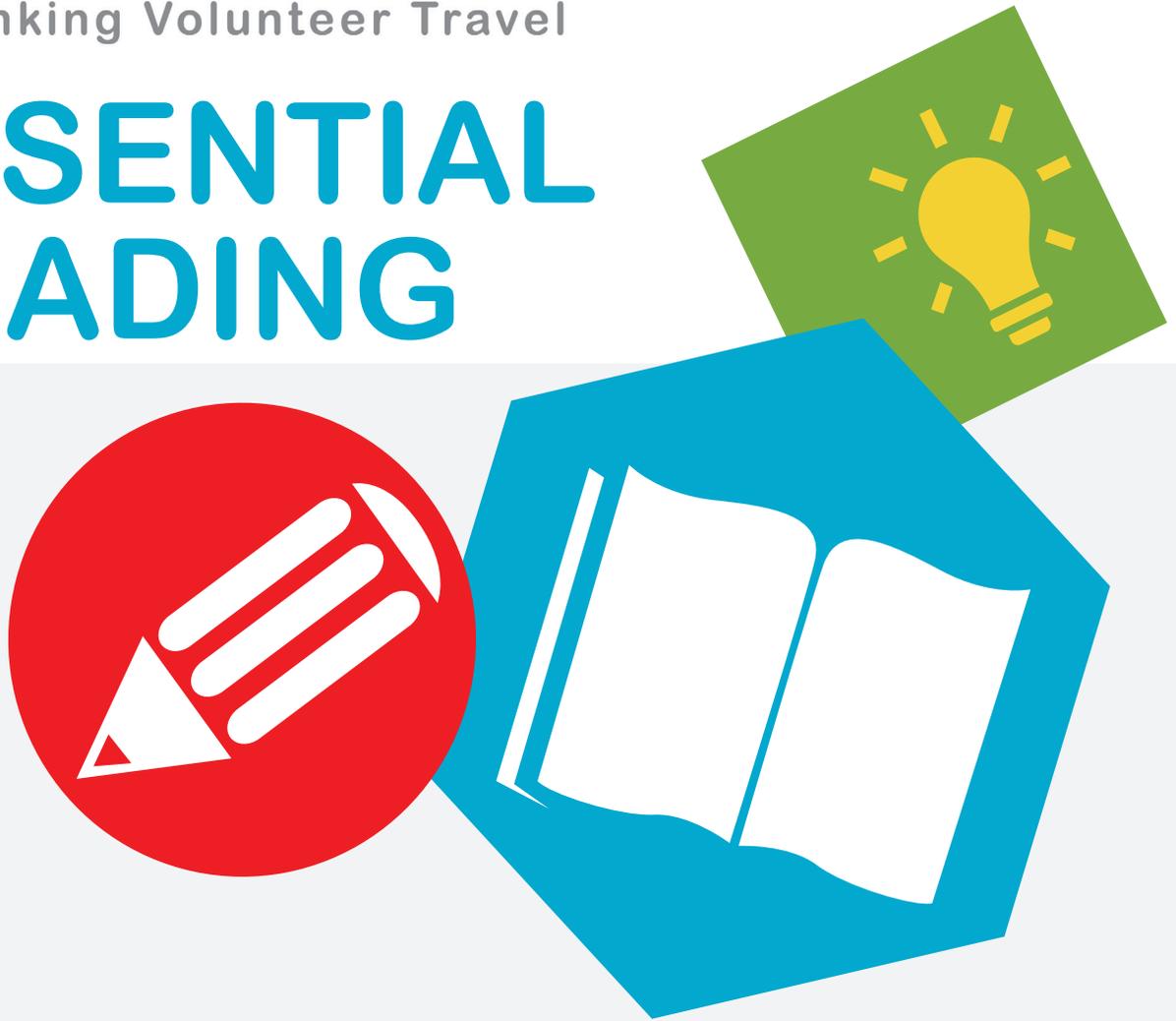




Rethinking Volunteer Travel

# ESSENTIAL READING



Dive into development with this introductory reader! We've collected a list of books, films, and TED Talks to help you better understand the complexities of development and related topics such as tourism, poverty, sustainability, and more!



Although often not considered in this context, volunteering with not-for-profit organizations means engaging in development work. By definition international development is full of complexities, and we encourage you to start informing yourself about some these before you head off on a volunteer placement. Doing a little homework will put you in a better position to understand the needs of the organization you are working with, and the issues they endeavor to address. In turn, this is likely to make your volunteering time more impactful.

To get you started, we have put together the following 'essentials' list of books, films, and TED Talks. There are some resources which offer a general overview of development and aid work, and others which address more specific areas that you may be interested in contributing to.

*Interested but only have time to read one book or watch a couple of videos? The ones in bold are our ultimate 'musts'! If you really only have time for just one video, make sure it's this one.*

All of these articles, films, books, and TED Talks (and more!) are available in our Learning Service Library.

## Development Overview

Read:

**Chang, H.-J. (2008). *Bad Samaritans: The Guilty Secrets of Rich Nations and the Threat to Global Prosperity*, Random House.**

Chang, H. J. (2011). *23 Things they don't tell you about Capitalism*, Penguin.

McMichael, P. (2012). *Development and Social Change*, Sage.

Escobar, A. (2009). *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*, Princeton University Press.

Watch:

Hans Rosling: The Best Stats You've ever Seen

TED's description of this talk: 'You've never seen data presented like this. With the drama and urgency of a sportscaster, statistics guru Hans Rosling debunks myths about the so-called "developing world."'

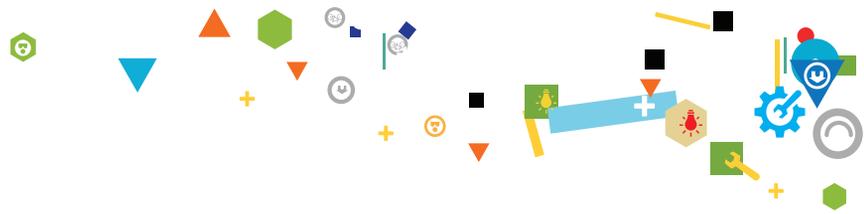
## NGOs, Aid

Read:

**Easterly, W. (2007). *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*, Oxford University Press.**

Sachs, J. (2005) *The End of Poverty*. Penguin Books





Moyo, D. (2010). *Dead Aid: Why Aid is NOT working and how there is another way for Africa*, Penguin.

Bebbington, A., S. Hickey, et al., Eds. (2008). *Can NGOs Make a Difference? The Challenge of Development Alternatives*, Zed Books.

Bolton, G. (2008). *Aid and Other Dirty Business: How Good Intentions Have Failed the World's Poor*, Ebuary Press

Riddell, R. C. (2008). *Does Foreign Aid Really Work?*, Oxford University Press

Collier, P. (2007). *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*, Oxford University Press

#### Watch:

Ester Duflo: *Social Experiments to Fight Poverty*

TED's description of this talk: 'Alleviating poverty is more guesswork than science, and lack of data on aid's impact raises questions about how to provide it. But Clark Medal-winner Esther Duflo says it's possible to know which development efforts help and which hurt -- by testing solutions with randomized trials.'

Jacqueline Novogratz: *A Third Way to Think About Aid*

TED's description of this talk: The debate over foreign aid often pits those who mistrust "charity" against those who mistrust reliance on the markets. Jacqueline Novogratz proposes a middle way she calls patient capital, with promising examples of entrepreneurial innovation driving social change.

## Tourism

#### Read:

**Becker, E (2013) *Overbooked*, Simon & Schuster**

Lovelock, B (2013) *The Ethics of Tourism: Critical and Applied Perspectives*, Routledge

#### Watch:

Papi, Daniela: *What's Wrong with Volunteer Tourism?*

In this video Daniela Papi reflects on her experiences working in both development and the volunteer travel sector, and in doing so highlights some of the perhaps surprising issues with traditional approaches to volunteering on vacation.





## Sustainability and the Environment

### Read:

**Leonard, A. (2010). The Story of Stuff: How our obsession with stuff is trashing the planet, our communities, and our health---And a vision for change, Constable.**

Sachs, W. (1999). Planet Dialectics: Explorations in Environment and Development, Zed Books.

Berners-Lee, M. and D. Clark (2013). The Burning Question: We can't burn half the world's oil, coal and gas. So how do we quit? Profile Books.

Berners-Lee, M. (2010). How Bad are Bananas? The Carbon footprint of everything, Profile Books.

Braungart, M. (2009). Cradle to Cradle. Remaking the Way We Make Things, Vintage.

### Watch:

Irena Salina: Flow: For Love of Water

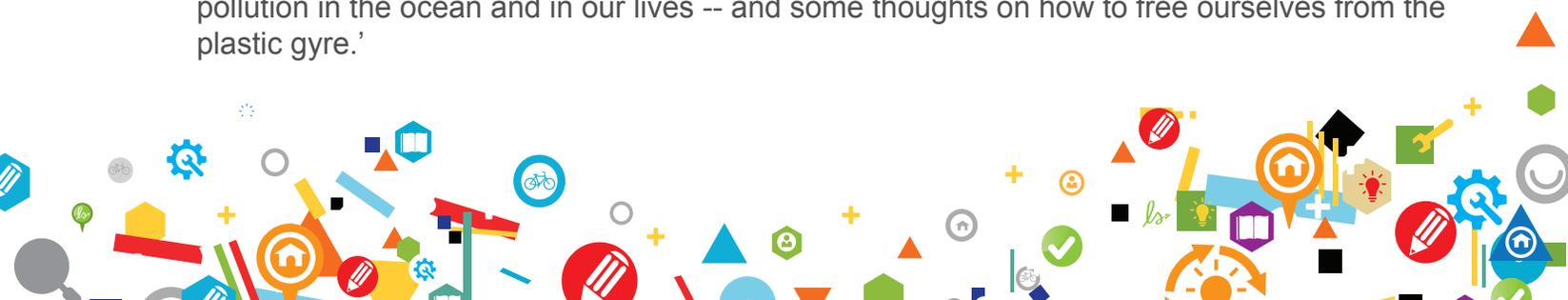
The description of this movie on [www.flowthefilm.com](http://www.flowthefilm.com): 'Irena Salina's award-winning documentary investigation into what experts label the most important political and environmental issue of the 21st Century - The World Water Crisis. Salina builds a case against the growing privatization of the world's dwindling fresh water supply with an unflinching focus on politics, pollution, human rights, and the emergence of a domineering world water cartel. Interviews with scientists and activists intelligently reveal the rapidly building crisis, at both the global and human scale, and the film introduces many of the governmental and corporate culprits behind the water grab, while begging the question "CAN ANYONE REALLY OWN WATER?" Beyond identifying the problem, FLOW also gives viewers a look at the people and institutions providing practical solutions to the water crisis and those developing new technologies, which are fast becoming blueprints for a successful global and economic turnaround.'

### **Al Gore: Averting Climate Change**

**TED's description of this talk: With the same humor and humanity he exuded in An Inconvenient Truth, Al Gore spells out 15 ways that individuals can address climate change immediately, from buying a hybrid to inventing a new, hotter "brand name" for global warming.**

Dianna Cohen: Tough Truths about Plastic Pollution

TED's description of this talk: 'Artist Dianna Cohen shares some tough truths about plastic pollution in the ocean and in our lives -- and some thoughts on how to free ourselves from the plastic gyre.'





James Balog: Time Lapse Proof of Extreme Ice Loss

TED's description of this talk: 'Photographer James Balog shares new image sequences from the Extreme Ice Survey, a network of time-lapse cameras recording glaciers receding at an alarming rate, some of the most vivid evidence yet of climate change.'

James Hansen: Why I must speak out about Climate Change

TED's description of this talk: 'Top climate scientist James Hansen tells the story of his involvement in the science of and debate over global climate change. In doing so he outlines the overwhelming evidence that change is happening and why that makes him deeply worried about the future.'

William McDonough: Cradle to Cradle Design

TED's description of this talk: 'Green-minded architect and designer William McDonough asks what our buildings and products would look like if designers took into account "all children, all species, for all time."'

Alex Steffen: The Route to a Sustainable Future

TED's description of this talk: 'Worldchanging.com founder Alex Steffen argues that reducing humanity's ecological footprint is incredibly vital now, as the western consumer lifestyle spreads to developing countries.'

## Food, Land, Livelihoods

Read:

**Brown, L. (2012). Full Planet, Empty Plates: The New Geopolitics of Food Scarcity, W.W. Norton and Co.**

Pearce, F. (2013). The Landgrabbers: The New Fight Over Who Owns the Earth, Eden Project Books.

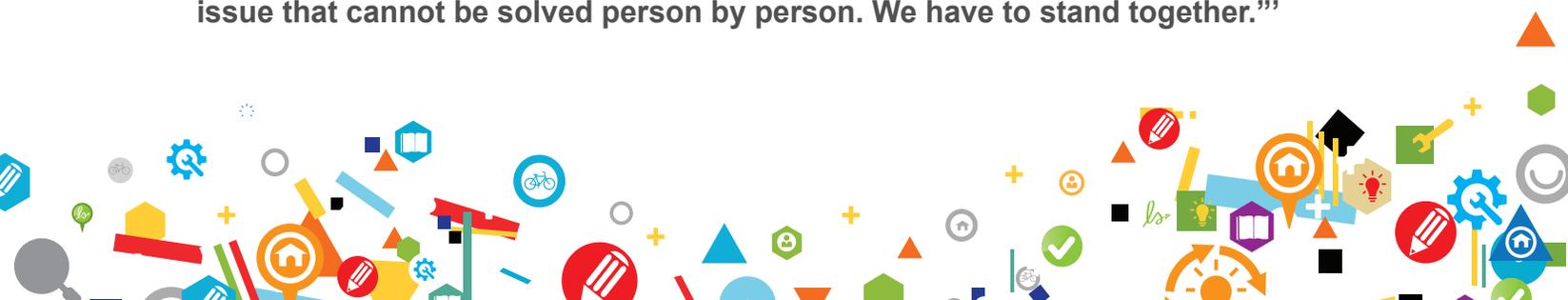
Patel, R. (2013). Stuffed and Starved. From Farm to Fork the Hidden Battle for the World Food System. Portobello Books.

Stuart, T. (2009). Waste: Uncovering the Global Food Scandal, Penguin.

Watch:

**Josette Sheeran: Ending Hunger Now**

**TED's description of this talk: 'Josette Sheeran, the head of the UN's World Food Program, talks about why, in a world with enough food for everyone, people still go hungry, still die of starvation, still use food as a weapon of war. Her vision: "Food is one issue that cannot be solved person by person. We have to stand together."'**







**Richard Wilkinson: How Economic Inequality Harms Societies**

TED's description of this talk: 'We feel instinctively that societies with huge income gaps are somehow going wrong. Richard Wilkinson charts the hard data on economic inequality, and shows what gets worse when rich and poor are too far apart: real effects on health, lifespan, even such basic values as trust.'

**Jacqueline Novogratz: Investing in Ending Poverty**

TED's description of this talk: 'Jacqueline Novogratz applauds the world's heightened interest in Africa and poverty, but argues persuasively for a new approach.'

**Hans Rosling: New Insights on Poverty**

**TED's description of this talk: 'Researcher Hans Rosling uses his cool data tools to show how countries are pulling themselves out of poverty. He demos Dollar Street, comparing households of varying income levels worldwide. Then he does something really amazing.'**

## Gender

Read:

Visvanathan, N., L. Duggan, et al., Eds. (2011). *The Women, Gender, and Development Reader*, Zed Books.

Kabeer, N. (1994). *Reversed Realities: Gender Hierarchies in Development Thought*, Verso.

Ehrenreich, B. and A. R. Hochschild (2002). *Global Women: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy*, Metropolitan Books.

Watch:

**Manal Al Sharif: A Saudi Woman who Dared to Drive**

TED's description of this talk: 'There's no actual law against women driving in Saudi Arabia. But it's forbidden. Two years ago, Manal al-Sharif decided to encourage women to drive by doing so -- and filming herself for YouTube. Hear her story of what happened next.'

**Shabana Basij Rasikh: Dare to Educate Afghan Girls**

**TED's description of this talk: 'Imagine a country where girls must sneak out to go to school, with deadly consequences if they get caught learning. This was Afghanistan under the Taliban, and traces of that danger remain today. 22-year-old Shabana Basij-Rasikh runs a school for girls in Afghanistan. She celebrates the power of a family's decision to believe in their daughters -- and tells the story of one brave father who stood up to local threats.'**





## Inequality

Read:

Stiglitz, J. (2013). *The Price of Inequality*, Penguin.

**Wilkinson, R. and K. Pickett (2010). *The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone*, Penguin.**

Crow, B. and S. K. Lodha (2011). *The Atlas of Global Inequalities*. University of California Press.

Green, D. (2008). *From Poverty to Power*, Oxfam Publishing

Sen, A. (2000). *Development as Freedom*. Oxford University Press

## Labor and International Institutions

Read:

**Goldman, M. (2006). *Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice in the Age of Globalization*, Yale University Press.**

Toussaint, E. and D. Millet (2010). *Debt, the IMF and the World Bank: Sixty Questions, Sixty Answers*, Monthly Review Press.

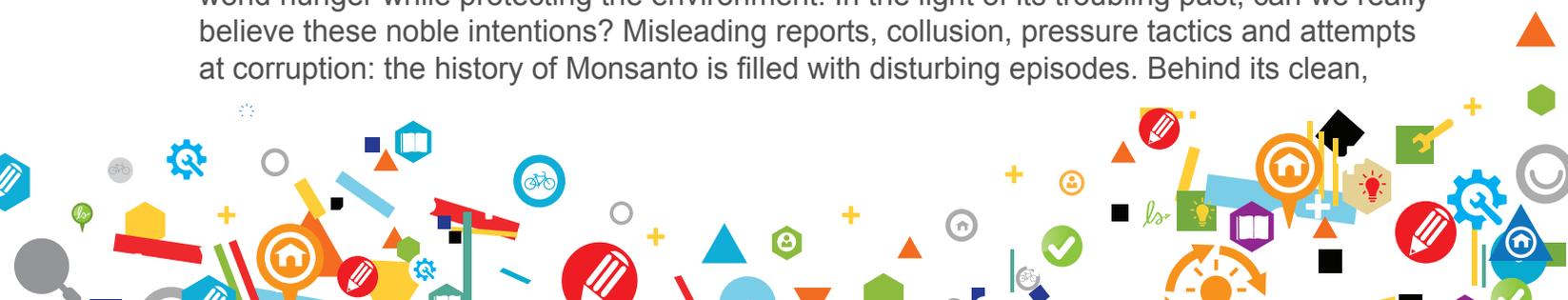
Boyce, J. and L. Ndikumana (2011). *Africa's Odious Debts: How Foreign Loans and Capital Flight Bled a Continent - African Arguments*, Zed Books.

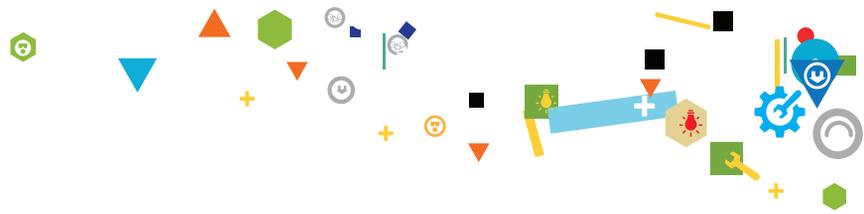
Peet, R. (2009) *Unholy Trinity: the IMF, World Bank and WTO*, Zed Books.

Watch:

The World According to Monsanto

The description of this movie on [www.freedocumentaries.org](http://www.freedocumentaries.org): 'Monsanto is the world leader in genetically modified organisms (GMOs), as well as one of the most controversial corporations in industrial history. This century-old empire has created some of the most toxic products ever sold, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and the herbicide Agent Orange. Based on a painstaking investigation, *The World According to Monsanto* puts together the pieces of the company's history, calling on hitherto unpublished documents and numerous first-hand accounts. Today, Monsanto likes to style itself as a "life sciences" company. The leader in genetically modified seeds, engineered to resist its herbicide Roundup, claims it wants to solve world hunger while protecting the environment. In the light of its troubling past, can we really believe these noble intentions? Misleading reports, collusion, pressure tactics and attempts at corruption: the history of Monsanto is filled with disturbing episodes. Behind its clean,





green image, Monsanto is tightening its grasp on the world seed market, striving for market supremacy to the detriment of food security and the global environment.'

#### The Corporation

The description of this movie on [www.thecorporation.com](http://www.thecorporation.com): 'Provoking, witty, stylish and sweepingly informative, THE CORPORATION explores the nature and spectacular rise of the dominant institution of our time. Part film and part movement, The Corporation is transforming audiences and dazzling critics with its insightful and compelling analysis. Taking its status as a legal "person" to the logical conclusion, the film puts the corporation on the psychiatrist's couch to ask "What kind of person is it?" The Corporation includes interviews with 40 corporate insiders and critics - including Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, Milton Friedman, Howard Zinn, Vandana Shiva and Michael Moore - plus true confessions, case studies and strategies for change.'

#### Blue Gold: World Water Wars

The description of this movie on [www.bluegold-worldwaterwars.com](http://www.bluegold-worldwaterwars.com): 'In every corner of the globe, we are polluting, diverting, pumping, and wasting our limited supply of fresh water at an expedient level as population and technology grows. The rampant overdevelopment of agriculture, housing and industry increase the demands for fresh water well beyond the finite supply, resulting in the desertification of the earth. Corporate giants force developing countries to privatize their water supply for profit. Wall Street investors target desalination and mass bulk water export schemes. Corrupt governments use water for economic and political gain. Military control of water emerges and a new geo-political map and power structure forms, setting the stage for world water wars.'

#### Kevin Bales: How to Combat Modern Slavery

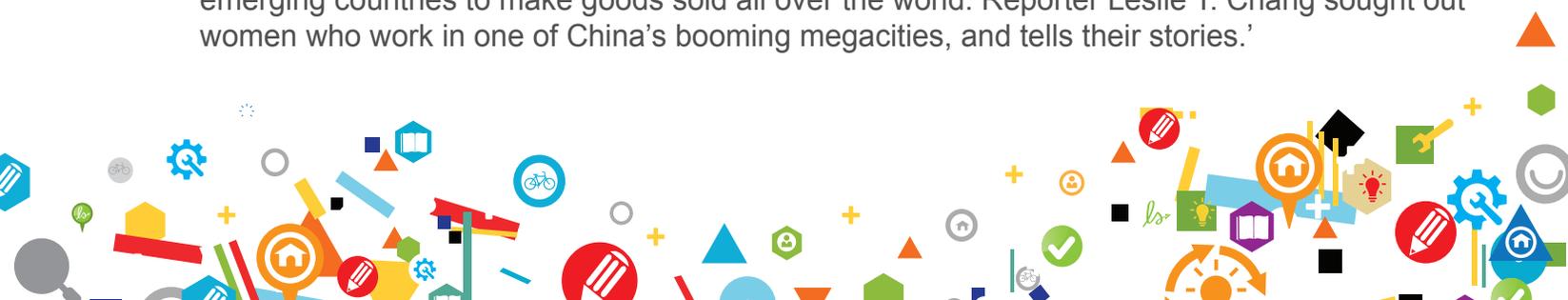
TED's description of this talk: 'In this moving yet pragmatic talk, Kevin Bales explains the business of modern slavery, a multibillion-dollar economy that underpins some of the worst industries on earth. He shares stats and personal stories from his on-the-ground research -- and names the price of freeing every slave on earth right now.'

#### Hans Rosling: On Global Population Growth

TED's description of this talk: 'The world's population will grow to 9 billion over the next 50 years -- and only by raising the living standards of the poorest can we check population growth. This is the paradoxical answer that Hans Rosling unveils at TED@Cannes using colorful new data display technology (you'll see).'

#### Leslie T. Chang: The Voices of China's Workers

TED's description of this talk: 'In the ongoing debate about globalization, what's been missing is the voices of workers -- the millions of people who migrate to factories in China and other emerging countries to make goods sold all over the world. Reporter Leslie T. Chang sought out women who work in one of China's booming megacities, and tells their stories.'





### **Auret Van Heerden: Making Global Labor Fair**

**TED's description of this talk: 'FLA head Auret van Heerden talks about the next frontier of workers' rights -- globalized industries where no single national body can keep workers safe and protected. How can we keep our global supply chains honest? Van Heerden makes the business case for fair labor.'**

## Empathy, Understanding

Watch:

**Ernesto Sirolli : What to Help Someone? Shut up and Listen.**

**TED's description of this talk: 'When most well-intentioned aid workers hear of a problem they think they can fix, they go to work. This, Ernesto Sirolli suggests, is naïve. In this funny and impassioned talk, he proposes that the first step is to listen to the people you're trying to help, and tap into their own entrepreneurial spirit. His advice on what works will help any entrepreneur.'**

**Sam Richards: A Radical Experiment in Empathy**

**TED's description of this talk: 'By leading the Americans in his audience step by step through the thought process, sociologist Sam Richards sets an extraordinary challenge: can they understand -- not approve of, but understand -- the motivations of an Iraqi insurgent? And by extension, can anyone truly understand and empathize with another?'**

**Chimamanda Adichie: The Dangers of a Single Story**

**TED's description of this talk: 'Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories. Novelist Chimamanda Adichie tells the story of how she found her authentic cultural voice -- and warns that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding.'**

