

**Fear spreads as rapidly
as any virus**

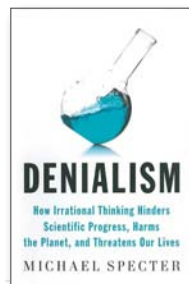


Michael Specter

□ *A refreshing counter-reaction to the growing rejection of the benefits of modern science.* □

Michael Specter's truthful, rigorously researched, and often politically incorrect views are the perfect antidote to the widespread rebellion against scientific thought and the products of scientific inquiry, such as the new wonder drugs, the new vaccines that are being refused by the public, as well as the genetically engineered foods that many are boycotting.

New Yorker Staff Writer Covering Science, Technology, and Public Health Issues; Author.



Ahead of the Curve

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Michael Specter

New Yorker Staff Writer Covering Science, Technology, and Public Health Issues; Author.

Highlights

A skillful writer and a great speaker with a masterful stage presence, Michael brings a dose of rationality and knowledge to all the events in which he participates.

Michael is the author of *Denialism*, a meticulously reported investigation of the growing mistrust among people around the world of science and its byproducts. He argues that irrationality, politically-inspired fear, and misplaced skepticism have undermined public acceptance of the scientific marvels of our age, and the benefits they all provide humankind.

He is the winner of the 2009 Robert P. Balles Annual Prize in Critical Thinking, from *The Committee for Skeptical Inquiry* and the *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine.

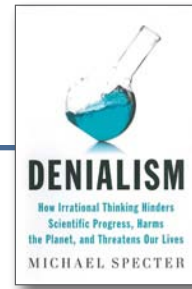
Michael argues that by turning our backs on scientific impartiality, we are abandoning rational thought in favor of hearsay, rumors and vague promises, which he sees manifested in the rush to organic foods, as well as vitamins, dietary supplements and “natural” cures that do no good and sometimes cause harm.

Most importantly, he gives voice to the growing fear that denialism, as he calls the phenomenon, will stifle scientific inquiry and progress, prevent us from solving solvable problems such as famine in third world countries, and create new windows of opportunity for devastating diseases to appear in the world.

The New Yorker

At *The New Yorker*, Michael has written about the global AIDS epidemic, avian influenza, malaria, scientific efforts to resurrect extinct viruses, synthetic biology, genetically modified food, efforts to mine the human genome to fight disease, the world’s diminishing freshwater resources, and the Bush Administration’s war on science.

He has also profiled many fascinating well-known personalities, including Lance Armstrong, Richard Branson, the ethicist Peter Singer, Sean (P. Diddy) Combs, Manolo Blahnik, AIDS activist Larry Kramer, and Ingrid Newkirk, the highly controversial founder of PETA.



“Michael Specter has written a lucid and insightful book about a very frightening and irrational phenomenon – the fear and superstition that threaten human science and progress. A superb and convincing work.”

– Malcolm Gladwell, author of *The Tipping Point, Outliers, Blink.*

• Credentials

- *New Yorker* staff writer since 1998
- 2009 Robert P. Balles Annual Prize in Critical Thinking Award
- Specter has twice received the Global Health Council’s Excellence in Media Award, 2001 and 2004
- Science Journalism Award, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2004
- Correspondent, Moscow Bureau Chief, *New York Times*
- National science reporter, New York Bureau Chief, *Washington Post*

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