

---

## Preface

This book examines decision making that affects end-of-life or “death-related” issues in twelve disparate countries selected from among developed and developing nations. The goal is to offer a broader perspective on this topic than is normally provided in order to study the differences and similarities of ethics and policy making on end-of-life decisions across cultures. To do this, top scholars and/or practitioners in each of these countries were asked to analyze end-of-life decision making in their own country. For many of these countries, the chapters presented here are the first systematic attempt to do this, and some like China, Kenya, and Turkey, are groundbreaking studies. Some of the chapters include original data; all of them summarize existing governmental activities and cases and the current state of dying in their countries. This book should serve as a reference work on the status of death-related policies in these individual countries and a starting point for a more systematic comparative analysis of end-of-life policy making and health policy in general. It also demonstrates the tenuous nature of bioethics across these countries and the wide gap between wealthy and poor nations when it comes to these issues.

The editors would like to thank all the authors who in some cases spent innumerable hours attempting to track down data on dying that did not exist. Each of the chapters stands alone as a unique, authoritative study. The editors especially would like to thank Ole Döring, who was instrumental in arranging and preparing the chapters on China and Taiwan. We would also like to thank Clay Morgan and Art Caplan for their support and encouragement of this project and the reviewers for their invaluable comments.