

this is a useful addition to the literature in this area, and one suspects, is best used in conjunction with the realist literature rather than as an alternative to it.

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Andrew Hurrell and Benedict Kingsbury (eds.), *The International Politics of the Environment: Actors, Interests, and Institutions* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992, 492 pp., US \$72 hbk., \$20 pbk.).

A graduate textbook on international environmental politics has yet to be written, but this collected volume is the best substitute to date. Previous candidates, such as Oran Young's *International Cooperation*, have been strictly theoretical; or atheoretical like Lynton Caldwell's *International Environmental Policy* or superficially theoretical such as Gareth Porter and Janet Welsh Brown's *Global Environmental Politics*. Hurrell and Kingsbury, by contrast, have assembled a comprehensive and well-balanced collection of analytical historical essays written by both academics and practitioners. Chapters on European, American, Japanese and Brazilian environmental policies lend themselves to comparative analysis while others, or portions, cover the major global issues of ozone depletion, global warming and deforestation. Its primary drawbacks are its Northern bias (both in focus and in authorship), the absence of a thorough treatment of the concept of sustainability and an inattention to decentralised approaches to global problems.

In the Introduction, the editors pose the central question not only of the book, but of the field as a whole: 'Can the existing international system, dominated by sovereign states, but powerfully shaped by multinational corporations, international institutions, and non-governmental scientific and political groups, respond adequately to the burgeoning environmental challenges?' (p. 47). With a topic as multi-faceted as international environmental politics, they are appropriately cautious in answering. For example, they note that the universal rhetoric of ecological interdependence does not necessarily translate into effective international coordination, that the successful negotiation of the ozone agreements has limited precedential value, and that the unsustainability of traditional forms of development raises fundamental issues about the distribution of power, wealth and resources. The chapter is superbly written and well-referenced, presenting an overview of the issues as well as a range of theoretical and policy perspectives. Unfortunately, several of the remaining chapters in the volume do not measure up to the standard set by the editors. Moreover, critical issues such as debt, consumption patterns and the role of transnational corporations are not covered.

The chapter on international law provides a useful survey of principles and instruments, but is apolitical as it concludes that, despite the ineffectiveness of nearly all environmental treaties, international law would be adequate if only the states had the political will. Moreover, while the chapter on regime theory develops two useful typologies, it could have benefitted from more attention to Young's work, among others. One of the chapters on the role of NGOs provides a refreshing non-state perspective on the ocean dumping regime, and raises issues of scientific versus political decision-making, and prediction versus precaution as principles in environmental diplomacy. The other chapter on NGOs deals primarily with American groups, but also documents general trends in the global NGO movement during the late 1980s, providing three case studies involving US NGOs and their international alliances.

Although the chapter on negotiation synthesises lessons from recent diplomatic successes, it suffers from an assumption common to the dispute resolution field: namely, that poor negotiating techniques and a failure to rely on objective science accounts for the ineffectuality of environmental agreements. Subsequently, the prescription amounts, not surprisingly, to a wish list for international cooperation. A second chapter by a seasoned diplomat draws on the lessons of other multilateral negotiations, especially the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, to propose practical approaches to negotiating climate change treaties. Three chapters by prominent insiders on the roles of the UN, the World Bank and the European Community are highly informative.

The two analytic chapters on global warming are by economists and are predictably sceptical of the seriousness of the problem itself and optimistic about the technological possibilities for adaptation. The authors prescribe more economic growth to allow for greater environmental protection, more research on climate and geo-engineering, and improved efficiencies. The volume would have been greatly strengthened had one of these chapters were replaced with, say, a non-governmental, Southern perspective on climate change and development.

A fascinating chapter on Japan employs the concept of 'ecological shadow' to argue that Japan's excellent domestic environmental record is probably consistent with its abysmal international record. Finally, two chapters on deforestation, one a case study of Brazil and the other an analysis of the phenomenon from a global perspective, are excellent introductions to this complex subject.

The book is well indexed, referenced and edited. Overall, it will prove highly useful both in the classroom and for this emerging field as a whole.

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