

authors have in this volume done just that. However, with some streamlining and increased continuity, this book could serve as an excellent prototype for other industries that wish to take aggressive efforts in reaching sustainability.

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JoAnn Carmin, Stacy D. VanDeveer (Eds.), *EU Enlargement and the Environment: Institutional Change and Environmental Policy in Central and Eastern Europe*, Routledge, London and New York, 2005, ISBN: 0415351863, 345 pp.

The European Union (EU) has greatly expanded its environmental legislation and strengthened regulatory standards over the past three decades. The EU has done so despite a series of enlargements in membership to its current 25 member states. In their edited volume, JoAnn Carmin and Stacy D. VanDeveer address important issues of EU enlargements and environmental protection and policy, focusing on the latest accession of ten new countries to the EU in 2004. More specifically, the edited volume analyses the accession of the eight Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. In these countries, over four decades of Communism left a legacy of significant environmental degradation.

This volume offers a careful and illuminating analysis of theoretical and practical issues relating to the accession of the CEE countries and EU environmental policy making and implementation. Politically and economically, this is the most challenging enlargement in EU history. The book is divided into four main parts consisting of thirteen chapters. The first part covers broader issues of EU enlargement, institutions and environmental politics. The second part focuses on several specific environmental policy issues in CEE countries. The third part examines the role of civil society in CEE countries and an expanding EU. The fourth part discusses environmental issues and challenges stemming from the new members' transition from state socialism to EU membership.

The individual chapters address several issues of significant importance. Miranda Schreurs, in a useful chapter in the volume's first part, draws lessons from past accessions of

poorer southern European states with low environmental standards. Schreurs argues that these earlier accessions did not halt progressive environmental policy making in the EU, partially because the EU actively worked to raise regulations in the new members, rather than lowering EU standards as a result of accession. The latest enlargement certainly poses a major challenge, but Schreurs credibly shows that active and targeted support from the EU can assist new members in improving their level of environmental protection without hindering EU policy developments.

Petr Jehlička and Andrew Tickle analyse environmental policy developments in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. They convincingly argue that weak institutional structures and a lack of national experts in these countries undermine their ability to participate in EU environmental politics. Yet, they note that these countries' innovative use of market based policy instruments is an area where the EU could learn. In addition, Jehlička and Tickle, together with several other chapter authors, show that the CEE countries have not acted as a bloc or operated to lower EU environmental standards. Similarly, Ingmar von Homeyer argues that it is unlikely that the 2004 enlargement will have a major disruptive effect on EU environmental governance.

There are, of course, national political, economic and cultural differences across the CEE countries that influence their environmental policy making and EU relations. These differences are explored in the four chapters in the second part. These chapters provide detailed examinations of specific environmental issues and draw general conclusions about environmental policy making in CEE countries and EU relations. Cases covered include waste policy in Hungary and nuclear power in the Czech Republic. Analyses show how CEE countries sometimes have faced conflicting messages from the EU where, for example, EU economic policy tends to promote Western style consumption while EU environmental policy supports waste minimization and recycling.

The three chapters in the third part examine possibilities and limitations of civil society in CEE countries. Chapter authors argue that there is a frequent lack of public support for a strengthening of environmental policy in these countries. Domestic non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are facing important challenges in building environmental awareness. In addition, NGOs from the new members are often marginalized in Brussels, remain highly dependent on external support, including from the EU, and face continuing challenges in funding their operations. As a whole, the chapters show that the EU influence on environmental movements and NGOs in the CEE countries appears to have been a mixed bag, producing both positive and negative outcomes.

The three chapters in the fourth part analyse environmental progress in CEE countries and identify political, economic and technical challenges they face in implementing the large body of EU environmental law. The authors also address the fact that a transition to market economies coupled with increasing affluence in CEE countries has resulted in a growing use of natural resources. Similarly, *The European Environment — State and Outlook 2005* report, recently published by the European Environment Agency, notes a shift in the source of European environment problems from production to consumption patterns. In this respect, all 25 EU countries face a significant sustainable development challenge.

This volume addresses timely issues and is diligently compiled and edited. As a result, it is more coherent and consistent than many other edited volumes. The book is highly recommended for those who are interested in European environmental policy as the chapters critically explore multiple, complex relationships between the EU and CEE countries. In addition, most chapters can easily be used in classrooms.

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Ken Conca, *Governing Water: Contentious Transnational Politics and Global Institution Building*, The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 2006, ISBN: 0262532735, 466 pp.

Can we step outside the international regime box of global environmental agreements in order to develop new institutional strategies to protect the planet's places? This is the primary focus of the book, *Governing Water*. Ken Conca, Associate Professor of Government and Politics, and Director of the Harrison Program on the Future of Global Agenda, University of Maryland, posits that in spite of the best efforts by international organizations like the World Water Council, sponsored by the World Bank, water issues, as well as forest issues, cannot be managed globally within the constraints of current institutional regimes that solely grant authority to sovereign governments.

The controversies of water policy throughout the world serve as the vehicle to demonstrate the ineffective international regimes that put forth norms and prescriptions governing water policy. According to Conca, an example of this is the *World Water Vision* and *World Water Security: A Framework for Action*, two reports meant to provide solutions for the global water problems, which were the outcome of the Second World Water Forum held at The Hague in March 2000. The author proposes, these reports hold little hope for solving, what are essentially, local-based environmental issues such as water governance. It was the protests at The Hague that caused Conca to question the existing global management regimes that guide national governments acting on global issues. The protestors brought attention to a controversial dam project in Spain, but more specifically, challenged policies centered on technological fixes and the profit motive of projects that do not include local participation in decision making.

The focus of the two reports from the World Water Forum was centered on lack of supply and increasing demand as well as technology and investment. In contrast, non-governmental organizations are concerned with large projects that affect local people such as dams, over-consumption, waste and pollution. These are different issues that present different

questions and possibly different findings than the conclusions of the World Water Forum.

The central theme of the book is Conca's proposition that existing institutional paradigms that govern global environmental issues are not effectively addressing essentially local issues that cumulatively affect the global environment. Issues such as water and forests are local but the improper management of these resources can impact the entire planet. Conca seeks to address a different institutional approach to managing local ecological systems that are found all over the world. He chooses water as the model; however, this new regime can also apply to forests, deserts and soils to name a few.

He suggests a new framework for institutional reform must examine issues of authority as solely attributed to governments, territory bounded by sovereigns, and the scientific paradigm of knowledge. He acknowledges it is not an easy task to change these paradigms and hope they take root. The challenge is to find a governance structure that resolves pollution beyond borders, and also to find rules and procedures that resolve the human divisions and contentions of what he calls "socioenvironmental conflict"—all this while preserving the planet's places. In fact it is this idea of preserving "place" that is most attractive about Conca's proposition. Many of us identify with the bumper sticker that encourages us to, "think globally, act locally." He cites Lovelock's Gaia hypothesis that the Earth is a living system of interdependent functions. It is not much of a stretch to understand that local ecological systems are linked to the life-sustaining system of the Earth. The author asks, "what if the heart of our global environmental problem is the failure to respond to the system-wide pressures and cumulative effects on the world's myriad forests, deserts, grasslands, meadows, soils, wetlands, lakes, rivers, and watersheds?" He suggests the failure lies in the current regime approach that mainly focuses on obvious transnational environmental issues.

To expand on the central theme, the book is organized into 10 chapters. Chapter 2, "Toward a Social Theory of International Institutions," presents a framework for developing the themes of "metanormative positions toward knowledge, territoriality, and authority." Conca proposes that a change in institutional regimes must follow a change in values. The author presents the ideal scenario whereby this change can occur. First is a situation where the authority of the state to govern is questioned, second is an international environmental issue located within the state's terrain or resources, and third multiple or shifting ecological goals that actors can manipulate. These scenarios present circumstances where alternative forms of international institutional regimes are most likely to emerge.

Chapter 3, "Pushing Rivers Around," explains how human manipulation of fresh water through damming, diversion, and draining has placed stress on the world's rivers. The author explains that the local stresses on the world's rivers have had a substantial cumulative global impact. This chapter explains that rivers are the planet's places. Aside from the ecological importance of rivers, they provide a basis for culture and community as well as economics and transportation. Chapters 4 through 7 examine the various global norms that influence watershed governance as well as their effectiveness in new approaches to water law and policy. For example, Chapter 5, "Expert Networks" explores the effectiveness of the Integrated