

from historiography, the practice of environmental history can be strengthened by resorting to the more systematic testing of causal claims that is the bread and butter of positivist social science. Although historians frequently do just that, in practice the systematic evaluation of causal claims is to history what historical analysis is to political science: optional.

While the theoretical propositions could be further developed, *Insatiable Appetite* represents a significant advance in our understanding of the political economy of the global environment. It offers valuable insights for graduate or advanced undergraduate courses in sustainable development, trade and the environment, political ecology, and environmental history. The book can be assigned in whole or in part, as the individual chapters stand alone quite well. It also provides instructive background reading for those with applied interests in tropical agroecology and conservation biology.

Phoebe N. Okowa. 2000. *State Responsibility for Transboundary Air Pollution in International Law*. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press.

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There currently exists substantial regulation of air pollution problems covered in treaty regimes, however, general international law does not provide a specific regime that deals with transboundary air pollution. In this work, Dr. Okowa examines the extent to which general principles of international law are effectively applied to transboundary air pollution, that is, her focus is on the reservoir of norms, concepts and principles that comprise customary international law to see how far their application encompasses transboundary air pollution. Gaps that require the development of new normative principles receive particular attention. Hence, emerging principles and standards, required by the international community, receive in-depth scrutiny, especially those that impose on states specific duties of a procedural character, such as environmental impact assessment, exchange of information, notification, and consultation.

The scope of the study is confined to air pollution emanating from a state's territory, and does not include areas beyond national jurisdiction unless incidentally relevant to the main issues under consideration. Neither are effects of pollution on global climate and depletion of the ozone within the scope of this study. Three principal sources of pollutants are in focus: firstly, pollution from industrial activities, such as particular acid deposition from sulphur and nitrogen emissions; secondly, atmospheric nuclear testing, although not a major concern in the last decade, did spawn legal issues from those tests that still persist; and thirdly, accidental radioactive contamination from the civil uses of nuclear energy, as in the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. The legal issues flowing from contamination of the aerial environment as a result of underground nuclear testing are also addressed by the author.

The reader first encounters the factual background on which the nature and features of different forms of transboundary air pollutants are based. This section of the book highlights the special characteristics of environmental harms, and why these pose problems for the traditional rules of international law. States contribute unequal amounts of the pollutants based on such factors as geographical location, level of industrialization and economic capability. Against this background, only international cooperation can help to address problems associated with transboundary air pollution. The author then offers a review of the international community's response via treaties and standard-setting rules, and then discusses their effectiveness with respect to meeting the goals of environmental protection. These include the 1979 Economic Commission for Europe Convention and its four Protocols, the treaty arrangements applicable to North America, the 1974 Nordic Convention, the 1994 Convention on Nuclear Safety, as well as rule-setting within the European Community.

Operation of the treaty regimes is shown to be dependent on existing and emerging principles from customary international law, such as state responsibility for damage, e.g. from radioactive contamination due to civil use of nuclear energy. Dr. Okowa provides insight into progressive developments in the law, and critiques some of the emergent principles. Special attention is devoted to radioactive fallout rather than to other instances of transboundary air pollution, given the qualitatively different character of the risks involved, long-term and irreversible somatic and genetic injuries. She reviews the incidence of state practice and liability associated with atmospheric testing before and after the 1963 Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the damage caused to Canada by the Soviet nuclear-powered satellite, Cosmos 954, and the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident.

The focus of the first part of the book is on the substantive obligations of states. Further on, the emphasis switches to obligations of a procedural character that come into play before any harm has occurred, or even before the potentially polluting activity takes place. Here one meets up with obligations to conduct environmental impact assessments, notification of potential victim states of user activities—perhaps best summed up by the principles of consultation and fairness to those potentially affected.

The vicissitudes of state responsibility are undertaken admirably by the author, in the many attendant problems that can arise as impacted by the application of causal principles, determination of what constitutes damage, and apportionment of responsibility when the environmental harm is due to multilateral sources. As there is a paucity of international jurisprudence on these issues, suggested solutions are based on *lex ferenda*. An aggrieved state will have to consider the possible judicial remedies when seeking redress. The range of public international law remedies that can be given by an international tribunal, and the conditions for their availability are outlined in detail. There is also a discussion of access to national courts and administrative tribunals when breaches of international obligations occur. Although some treaties direct aggrieved states and individuals to municipal tribunals, long-range pollution or the Chernobyl

type of accident cases should be brought at the international level. The author also reviews the various forms that reparations might take.

Aside from the adjudicatory process, the author also analyzes a broad range of institutional frameworks for supervising compliance and monitoring mechanisms in different sectors of the environment. These non-judicial methods of supervision and enforcement provide a form of governmental accountability to a supervisory organ. Okowa goes beyond simply documenting existing frameworks and mechanisms for enforcing compliance, suggesting other approaches to encourage adherence to international treaties.

This comprehensive work of excellent scholarship contains a detailed index, a rich bibliography, most useful tables of treaties, conventions, protocols, agreements, national and international cases, and statutes. The book will appeal to all who are interested in environmental law problems, though the price is somewhat prohibitive.

John Barry, and E. Gene Frankland, eds. 2002. *International Encyclopedia of Environmental Politics*. London: Routledge.

Reviewed by Steve Charnovitz

This encyclopedia of environmental politics fills a gap in reference material. Newly published in 2002, it presents 502 entries in alphabetical order. The editors have aspired to provide “a map” of environmental politics that can be a “first place” to start one’s research. To a large extent, they succeed.

Encyclopedias like this are large endeavors. This volume had a team of 12 editors who solicited individual entries from analysts around the world. As published, it is drawn from 165 contributors. The overall length is 530 pages, including the “thematic entry list” at the beginning and the index at the end. A book like this should be judged for its value to the occasional user. Does it contain the right topics? Are the essays informative and balanced? Is it readable? Is it user-friendly for finding answers quickly?

The editors present entries of four lengths: approximately 150, 750, 1500, or 3000 words. The 150-word items are definitional (e.g. coral reefs). These short entries are often about important topics, but such shortness is not itself a flaw as many of these definitions can be easily searched on the Internet. Perhaps the greatest value of the encyclopedia is its longer entries that attempt to synthesize multifaceted issues.

The encyclopedia has a number of presentational strengths. In general, the entries are clear and to the point. Jargon is kept to a minimum, and this will help readers new to a field. The book is surprisingly free of international relations jargon, which is a strong plus. The editors intended the pieces to be interdisciplinary, which required a good deal of integration to achieve. The index is also well done.

Substantively, let me highlight some of the best attributes. The editors have included many entries about the environmental policy and politics of par-