

views approach the political economy of the global environment, Clapp and Dauvergne have helped us take a step in this direction.

References

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Goldman, Michael. 2005. *Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice in the Age of Globalization*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

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Pity the World Bank. The academic and policy literature on the Bank in general, and on its environmental behavior in particular, is dominated by critics who see every attempt by the Bank to reform itself and improve its behavior as ineffective at best, and harmful at worst. There are a brave, hardy few who believe the Bank has made significant positive changes in improving its performance. In between, where shades of grey lurk and the Bank's efforts at reform may be seen as an uneven mix of successes and failures, there is a virtual vacuum.

Sociologist Michael Goldman makes an eloquent contribution to the critical side of the spectrum by focusing on how the Bank produces knowledge, and why its knowledge is so influential. He journeys "through the intestines of one of the world's most powerful institutions" to conduct a critical ethnographic study of how the Bank's hegemony is constituted, resulting in a Bank that plays a key role in perpetuating a "highly inequitable global economy" (pp. xiii, 20). He writes, ". . . I learned that one of the Bank's greatest accomplishments has been to make *its* worldview, *its* development framework, and *its* data sets the ones that people around the world choose above others. This is one reason why the Bank's influence continues to grow, even with mounting pressure from critics" (p. xv).

Goldman is specifically interested in the rise of the Bank's "green hegemony." He argues that the Bank responded to widespread criticism of its environmental behavior by reinventing itself through the expansion of its neoliberal economic agenda to include environmental dimensions, and that this reinvention gave the Bank the means to expand the tentacles of its knowledge and

power even more deeply throughout the world. This green hegemony, he writes, has “fundamentally altered the defining features of the Bank’s neoliberal agenda by adding as a goal the restructuring and capitalization of nature-society relations that exist as uncommodified or underutilized by capital markets” (p. 7). The Bank’s influence, he argues, may not be as well documented as some of the disastrous projects it has funded, but it is a “more mundane” type of “violence perpetrated in the name of development” (p. 12).

Goldman builds his case by analyzing how the Bank collects and produces “green” data; how it implemented its environmental reforms in designing one particular project, the Nam Theun 2 (NT2) hydroelectric dam project in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Laos); its activities in the Mekong region; and its role in promoting the global policy of water privatization. The volume concludes by musing about the possibility of the Bank’s demise.

The picture Goldman paints of the Bank is one of unrelenting arrogance and negative outcomes. For example, according to Goldman, Bank research is rarely rooted in serious scholarship and “all roads of inquiry happen to lead back to the bank’s latest policy stance” (p. 130). Even more problematic, he writes, is that the Bank’s findings are legitimated and treated as “truth” by outside actors throughout the world. Goldman focuses on NT2 as a project representing “the global flagship of the Bank’s green incarnation” (p. 157). He traces the flawed production of knowledge for the project by looking at how some consultants for the projects were hired, and how some of the impact studies for the project were carried out. He interviewed consultants who complained that they lacked time to do necessary research and others who saw their findings suppressed, not only by the Bank, but also by the Asian Development Bank and an international NGO. Goldman does not describe whether and how the project was actually implemented, but he does illuminate some of the pathologies involved in the process of knowledge production.

Goldman’s arguments will be of interest to constructivists and others who focus on the power of international organizations’ bureaucracies and how this power and expertise can lead to dysfunctional behavior. He adds to this literature by moving beyond the bureaucracy itself and showing how it requires and empowers a broader network of NGOs, scientists, and others to help produce and disseminate its views. Goldman’s view of how some NGOs may be co-opted by the Bank will contribute to the debates about the nature of the relationship between the Bank and NGOs. For example, his perspective is the antithesis of arguments by writers such as Sebastian Mallaby, who views NGOs as more plague than partner, as Lilliputians who are tying up the World Bank-as-Gulliver and hurting its performance through their constant offensives against the Bank.

Bank-watchers will notice parts of the book are dated, relying on research done in 1995. The Bank undertook a number of reforms around and after that time, in part to respond to many of the types of criticisms Goldman raises. These include the creation of a number of entities within the Bank: the Inspec-

tion Panel (1993), which investigates claims by private citizens that Bank projects did not follow proper policies; the Quality Assurance Group (1996), to assess the quality of projects, supervision, and analytical work during implementation; and the Quality Assurance and Compliance Unit (2000) to oversee compliance with safeguard policies. Goldman might be dismissive of these reforms, but since they represent more than a decade of reform that may impact the Bank's "green behavior," they deserve analysis.

Goldman's book will be music to Bank critics' ears, but those outside that audience will notice the book is peppered with impassioned opinions that are not always supported by evidence, and overlooks evidence that undermines the image of the Bank as hegemon. There is plenty of evidence of the Bank's research being ignored, and examples of countries not committed to reforms suggested by the Bank. There are also "green" projects and policies that clearly have made important inroads in addressing environmental issues and improving the ability of governments to respond to global or regional environmental problems. The underlying assumption running through the book is that there is always something wrong with the knowledge produced by the Bank. It is notable that the book contains many interviews with disgruntled Bank staff and consultants. In other words, some of the best critics of the Bank's work may be found inside the Bank itself. Indeed, some of the most astute critiques of the Bank's work come from its own Independent Evaluation Group (formerly the Operations Evaluation Department). The kvetching inside the bank is loud at times, and even if some of it is stifled, its extent belies an image of a monolithic body of experts all pushing for the same goals.

Carmin, JoAnn, and Stacy D. VanDeveer, eds. 2005. *EU Enlargement and the Environment: Institutional Change and Environmental Policy in Central and Eastern Europe*. London, UK: Routledge Press.

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This volume is a valuable contribution to the literature on EU enlargement and the environment. JoAnn Carmin and Stacy VanDeveer bring together a collection of articles focusing on the impact of the EU enlargement process, policies and pressures on environmental initiatives in Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. The book analyzes the impact of international pressures, domestic constraints and opportunities, and civil society, on CEE countries joining the EU. By posing challenging questions to guide the inquiry, and by highlighting up front the main factors influencing outcomes, the editors structure the discussion in a useful way.

Between introductory and concluding chapters, the book is divided into four sections. Part I, "EU Enlargement, Institutions, and Environmental Politics," focuses on the lessons from past accessions and the impact of enlargement endeavors on the EU itself. Miranda Schreuers argues that the EU has had