

In addition, the carefully thought-through recommendations make this book critical reading for policy-makers. No political candidate for office can hide from the urgency of climate change any longer. Yet few politicians understand that scientific consensus does exist and that action is contingent upon the political sphere alone. This book makes the case for action in an objective and compelling manner, and should be mandatory reading for any policy-maker considering action on the issue.

Pirages, Dennis, and Ken Cousins, eds. 2005. *From Resource Scarcity to Ecological Security: Exploring New Limits to Growth*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Reviewed by Richard L. Wallace
Ursinus College

It is rare that an opportunity comes along to move environmental theory forward in ways that can influence governance and behavior. The study of ecological security provides one such opportunity. Dennis Pirages and others have developed this concept in many forums. Unfortunately, Pirages and Ken Cousins have missed the opportunity to develop our understanding of this important field in this edited volume.

The book begins promisingly enough, with a strong opening chapter by Pirages that explains the concept of ecological security and connects it to the most pressing current issues in environmental and resource management. This chapter explains the need for both an updated analysis of the challenges to ecological security and the application of this concept to critical resource management issues. These issues, which are addressed in the subsequent chapters, include population, food and water, energy, climate change, and the loss of biological diversity. Pirages also points us to the nexus of globalization and ecological security as a consideration that has ripple effects throughout every resource management arena. Finally, he challenges us to consider that “it is the persistence of values, institutions, and patterns of behavior that evolved during an era of resource abundance into a new era of much changed opportunities that is largely responsible for growing ecological insecurity” (p. 18).

Teachers and practitioners in the field of global environmental politics must realize that we cannot operate in our professional niches, whether they are related to governance, economics, ethics, or science, without understanding the broader social processes in which they are embedded. Implicit in Pirages’ challenge is that we must be able to ask the probing questions that will help disentangle the complexity of the problems we face. Most of the topical chapters of the book, however, fail to accomplish this untangling, and as a packaged unit of scholarship they provide no cohesive approach to better understanding, much less addressing, the problems at hand.

Many of these chapters review technical trends and conditions, and some of this information is well presented. In almost every case, however, deficiencies

undermine the usefulness of the book. In some cases the authors are bogged down in technical minutiae (Gary Cook and Eldon Boes on renewable energy technologies). In other cases the information provided is so rudimentary that it seems the authors misperceived the level of sophistication of the book's likely audience (Jacob Park on climate change policy; David Inouye's optimism about biodiversity conservation; Cook and Boes' conclusions). In still other cases, the authors take too narrow a view of the problems they address (Marc Cohen's failure to address global trade or the U.S. industrial food system in the chapter on food policy; Heather Conley and Warren Phillips' focus on the political economy of fossil fuel production in their chapter on energy, security, and cooperation).

Some chapters are more successful. Ken Conca's approach to global water prospects and Matthias Ruth's chapter on the socioeconomic and political challenges of climate change both balance technical and social considerations. Patricia Marchak's chapter on forest degradation and the timber trade is perhaps the best-structured chapter of the topical section of the book. She begins by explaining the relevance of her chosen topic to the challenge of achieving ecological security and then addresses the relevant social and technical issues in doing so.

The inconsistency of the topical chapters serves to weaken the book by robbing it of the ability to provide a cohesive statement on ecological security. The closing chapter by Cousins reviews the topics that form the foundation of the concept of ecological security introduced by Pirages in the first chapter: ecosystem functionality, complexity and uncertainty, values and environmental policy, institutions and change, and global concerns and local contexts. Although Cousins discusses each of these topics compellingly and with valuable insight, he barely mentions ecological security, leaving the reader confused about the point of the volume. The apparent hands-off approach of the editors results in a missed opportunity to contribute an important work to a field of practice and scholarship that is already of great relevance to resource management in the 21st century.

Princen, Thomas. 2005. *The Logic of Sufficiency*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Reviewed by J. Samuel Barkin
University of Florida

Thomas Princen's *The Logic of Sufficiency* argues for a radical change in the way we think about the relationships among resource use, production, and consumption. It is a hugely ambitious book, offering a comprehensive indictment of the logic of efficiency, a detailed discussion of the logic of sufficiency that he argues should replace it, and three case studies of the latter logic in action. The book is a must-read for those scholars who look at the relationship between human society and the natural environment at the macro scale. Whether or not it