

tative field research, of most of the chapters. By shedding light on the interplay of extractive resources, authoritarian states, transnational corporations, and grassroots actors in a little-known region of the former “Second World,” this book will be of interest to students of environmental justice, environmental mobilization, and political ecology.

References

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Henry, Laura A. 2010. *Red to Green: Environmental Activism in Post-Soviet Russia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

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In *Red to Green: Environmental Activism in Post-Soviet Russia*, Laura A. Henry has made a fine contribution to studies of the reciprocal influence of environmentalism and civil society. A number of previous studies have used environmental organizations and social movements as case studies for the formation of civil society and its influence on the political process. This approach is complemented by the widely held view among left-environmentalists that participatory democracy is an essential component of, or even a necessary condition for, a truly “green” society.

This interconnection is especially prevalent in accounts of environmentalism and the collapse of communism. The now-familiar narrative shows how the widespread environmental damage wrought by Soviet-style Communism helped mobilize mass protests and participation once Gorbachev’s *glasnost* had permitted such things. Calls for improved environmental conditions quickly merged with calls for transforming the system that had created such damage, ultimately leading to the collapse of communism across Europe. In the immediate aftermath of this collapse, environmental organizations received large amounts of western aid, both to battle environmental damage and to further strengthen civil society. Unfortunately, the subsequent economic collapse lessened both environmental concern and citizens’ political mobilization. Finally, a number of re-consolidating post-Communist states (especially Russia under Putin) increasingly viewed environmentalism as a threat to their economic policies and civil society as a challenge to their authority and made efforts to restrict both.

Henry does a good job of summarizing these events for those unfamiliar with them, while retaining the interest of those already aware.

Red to Green both updates the picture of environmentalism in Russia through the first decade of the 21st century and zooms in to provide much more detail. Rather than focusing on numerical measures of activism (number of organizations, members and protests; size of budgets, etc.), Henry distinguishes three types of environmental organizations and examines how their distinctive patterns of membership and resources produce corresponding differences in their strategies and activities. These different strategies, in turn, affect the organizations' success at maintaining themselves, achieving substantive results (*i.e.* improved environmental conditions), and transforming the political system in the direction of greater participation and democracy.

Professionalized organizations, composed mostly of scientists and academics, tend to focus on particular environmental issues (*e.g.* biodiversity, toxic waste, urban green space). They see themselves as members of an international community and are financed largely through foreign grants. Their emphasis on scientific expertise and academic independence often puts them in an adversarial relationship to the government, while not exactly encouraging close ties with ordinary citizens.

Grassroots organizations are made up of non-specialists, often with ties to schools, libraries, or other educational institutes and focus on local problems, small-scale direct actions (such as park clean-up days), and environmental education. They rely on volunteer efforts, donated supplies, and the use of available public (or members' private) spaces for their activities. Sometimes they enlist the support of local governments for specific projects and are careful not to mount overt political challenges.

Government-affiliated organizations are remnants of the Party-sponsored mass organizations of the Soviet era. They receive financial and logistical support from the government, often having offices in Ministry or other official buildings. Their focus is on supporting and helping enforce existing policies, and they often cooperate with government agencies. They also tend to share the government's suspicion of professionalized organizations and its criticism of them as representing foreign interests.

While Henry's three-fold classification of Russian environmental organizations does draw our attention to some important differences, it seems under-conceptualized. She presents each type as a sort of "syndrome" of characteristics (membership, resources, strategies, results) that co-vary, without making it clear which are the defining characteristics of each type, and which are incidental to the definition, although they may result from it. Moreover, since she gives only a few examples of each type, we cannot be sure that the different characteristics correlate as strongly as her descriptions suggest. Are there empirical examples that do not fit neatly into a single category? Could an organization combine a professionalized membership with grassroots activities? If so, which category should it be placed in? Are these categories unique to Russia, or would we ex-

pect to find similar types in other countries? If so, which types, and which countries?

Nevertheless, *Red to Green* has much to offer. It takes us beyond the “rise and fall” narrative of Russian environmentalism to an assessment of current activities. The distinction between different types of “activism,” and the enumeration of different strategies, could provide valuable models for environmentalists in other imperfect democracies. Henry reminds us that the simple survival of so many environmental organizations in a generally unfriendly environment is itself no small achievement, and the educational efforts of grassroots groups may lead to greater substantive or transformational results in the future. The next political “opening” could allow existing groups to use their resources more effectively, rather than having to (re)build from the ground up.

Richerzhagen, Carmen. 2010. *Protecting Biological Diversity: The Effectiveness of Access and Benefit-sharing Regimes*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Reviewed by Samuel Snyder
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Over the last few decades, as global populations and associated development have increased, the world has witnessed increasing threats to biodiversity. While the term *biodiversity* has its origins in biology, or more specifically conservation biology, the importance of biodiversity is recognized widely “as the foundation on which the ecosystem functions” (p. 11). Beyond ecosystem functions, however, biodiversity hotspots (i.e. centers of diverse ecosystems) are prized as locales for genetic materials central to research and development within commercial industries of agribusiness, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals. Demand has increased trade in natural resources for genetic material, increasing threats to global biological diversity, particularly in developing nations. Efforts to address the need for these resources and the peril of overexploitation led to what would, in 1992, become the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

In *Protecting Biological Diversity: The Effectiveness of Access and Benefit-sharing Regimes*, Carmen Richerzhagen offers an analytical framework for measuring the effectiveness of the CBD, through programs of access and benefit-sharing (ABS) in Costa Rica, the Philippines, Ethiopia, and the EU. In each case study, Richerzhagen builds upon primary and secondary literature, empirical data collected by the host countries, NGOs, and researchers, and information collected through qualitative research that included interviews of stakeholders, experts, and key informants.

Richerzhagen provides an extensive literature review of discussions surrounding the evolving history of ABS under the CBD. She suggests that while assessments of ABS are not new, most do not provide comprehensive review. Assessments working from largely legal and policy perspectives neglect economic questions, and vice versa. Most assessment approaches work from the