

CLIMATE/ENVIRONMENT

Climate change is widely acknowledged as the most significant long-term global problem at present. And many books urge extensive and short-term action at global, national, and local levels. **The Global Deal: Climate Change and the Creation of a New Era of Progress and Prosperity** by Sir Nicholas Stern of the London School of Economics (Public Affairs, April 2009, 400p), is a popularized version of **The Economics of Climate Change: The Stern Review** (Cambridge UP, Jan 2007, 712p), a thorough independent review reporting to the UK Prime Minister, viewing climate change as “the greatest market failure the world has ever seen” and calling for action by all countries—the earlier the less costly. A similar argument is made by OECD in **Costs of Inaction on Key Environmental Challenges** (OECD, Sept 2008, 213p), and in **The Economics of Climate Change Mitigation: Policies and Options for Global Action** (OECD, Sept 2009, 305p). **Economic Choices in a Warming World** by Christian de Perthuis of U Paris-Dauphine (Cambridge UP, April 2011, 260p) explains the difficulties of reaching a global agreement, risks of inaction, and how a post-Kyoto climate regime could emerge.

Global Commons, Domestic Decisions edited by Kathryn Harrison and Lisa Sundstrom of UBC (MIT Press, Aug 2010, 320p) describes climate change as a “tragedy of the commons” on a global scale, requiring cooperation of nations that do not necessarily put Earth’s well-being above national interests. **Beyond Resource Wars: Scarcity, Environmental Degradation, and International Cooperation** edited by Shlomi Dinar of Florida International U (MIT Press, March 2011, 336p) optimistically argues that scarcity and degradation may help to foster inter-state cooperation and coordination on issues such as climate, oil, water, biodiversity, and ocean pollution. **Managing Institutional Complexity: Regime Interplay and Global Environmental Change** edited by Sebastian Oberthur of the Institute for European Studies in Brussels and Oclav Schram Stokke of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway (MIT Press, Oct 2011, 376p), the product of the International Dimensions of Global Environmental Change research project, offers perspectives on managing institutional interaction to improve synergy and avoid disruption. **Institutional Dynamics: Emergent Patterns in International Environmental Governance** by Oran R. Young of UC-Santa Barbara (MIT Press, Sept 2010, 232p) offers five case studies of environmental regimes that exemplify emerging patterns. **Governing Climate Change** by Peter Newell of U of East Anglia and Harriet A. Bulkeley of U of Durham (Routledge Global Institutions Series, Feb 2010, 160p) explains how climate change is governed by an increasingly diverse range of actors. **Plundered Planet: How We Can Manage Nature for Global Prosperity** by Paul Collier of Oxford U (Nation Books, May 2010, 224p) proposes a series of international standards to help poor countries rich in natural assets to better manage their resources.

Discontent with any progress that is being made is reflected in **Global Warming Gridlock: Creating More Effective Strategies for Protecting the Planet** by David G. Victor of UC-San Diego (Cambridge UP, April 2011, 392p), who argues that, rather than engaging the whole world at once, a much better approach would be small groups of “climate clubs” where countries band together and entice the less willing. Similarly, **Fast Forward: Ethics and Politics in the Age of Global Warming** by Brookings managing director William Antholis and Brookings president Strobe Talbott (Brookings Institution Press, revised edition, Sept 2011, 144p) states that the world cannot wait for a binding global treaty, and that the “Big Four” (US, EU, China, India) must lead the way forward. **Adaptive Governance and Climate Change** by Ronald D. Brunner and Amanda H. Lynch of Monash U (American Meteorological Society/U of Chicago Press, March 2010, 344p) refutes reliance on centralized top-down approaches, and calls for a more flexible multi-level approach of “adaptive governance” that would encourage diversity and innovation.

Two updated textbooks supply an introductory overview. **Global Environmental Politics** by Pamela S. Chasek of Manhattan College, David L. Downie of Fairfield U, and Janet Welsh Brown of the Environmental Defense Fund (Westview Press, 5th edition, Jan 2010, 384p) describes environmental regimes and their effectiveness, linkages between environmental politics and development, and the growing role of environment in global security. **Green Planet Blues: Four Decades of Global Environmental Politics** edited by Ken Conca of U of Maryland Harrison Program on the Future Global Agenda and Geoffrey D. Dabelko of the Woodrow Wilson Center (Westview Press, 4th edition, Jan 2010, 384p) collects essays on the structure of the international system, environmental governance institutions, transnational activist networks, and ecological

justice. A broad overview is also provided in **Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions** by Katherine Richardson of U of Copenhagen, Will Steffen of Australian National U, and Diana Liverman of U of Arizona (Cambridge UP, March 2011, 524p), on climate change impacts, sea level rise, equity issues, low-carbon technologies, geopolitics, governance, and mobilizing the population.

Two important dimensions involve environmental law and finance. **The Future of International Environmental Law** edited by David Leary of U of New South Wales and Balakrishna Pisupati of UNEP (UNU Press, Nov 2010, 340p) examines successes and failures of environmental law in the context of an ever-worsening crisis, and argues that future responses will be more about good environmental governance than just more treaties and laws. **The Art and Craft of International Environmental Law** by Daniel Bodansky of U of Georgia (Harvard UP, Jan 2010, 330p) describes how environmental problems get on the international agenda, how environmental law develops and is put into practice, and how law can address obstacles to international cooperation. **Climate Finance: Regulatory and Funding Strategies for Climate Change and Global Development** edited by Richard B. Stewart *et al.* of NYU (New York UP, March 2010, 352p) points to the enormous amounts of public and private investment needed to limit emissions, which requires national and global regulation of cap-and-trade and offset markets, forest and energy policy, international development funding and trade, and coordinated tax policy. Similarly, with an even stronger voice, **Global Corruption Report: Climate Change** by Transparency International (Earthscan, May 2011, 360p; www.transparency.org/publications) warns that efforts to address climate change will have an enormous price tag of hundreds of billions of dollars flowing through new and relatively uncoordinated channels; “a dramatic strengthening of governance mechanisms can reduce corruption risk and make climate change policy more effective.”