Pamela S. Chasek, David L. Downie, and Janet Welsh Brown



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

SIXTH EDITION



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Global Environmental Politics



PAMELA S. CHASEK





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Global Environmental Politics

Dilemmas in World Politics

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Why is it difficult to achieve the universal protection of human rights? How can democratization be achieved so that it is equitable and lasting? Why does agreement on global environmental protection seem so elusive? How does the concept of gender play a role in the shocking inequalities of women throughout the globe? Why do horrific events such genocide or ethnic conflicts recur or persist? These are the sorts of questions that confront policy makers and students of contemporary international politics alike. They are dilemmas because they are enduring problems in world affairs that are difficult to resolve.

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Acronyms

Alliance of Small Island States AOSIS APEC Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Convention on Biological Diversity CBD Clean Development Mechanism CDM chlorofluorocarbons **CFCs** CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora carbon dioxide CO, Committee on Fisheries (FAO) COFI Conference of the Parties COP **CSD** Commission on Sustainable Development CTE Committee on Trade and Environment (WTO) E.C. **European Community EEZs** exclusive economic zones **ETMs** environmental trade measures EU European Union Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations FAO **FSC** Forest Stewardship Council financial and technical assistance FTA G-77 Group of 77 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade GATT **GDP** gross domestic product Global Environment Facility **GEF**

xviii Acronyms

GHGs greenhouse gases GM Global Mechanism GNI gross national income GNP gross national product hydrochlorofluorocarbons **HCFCs HFCs** hydrofluorocarbons HIPC heavily indebted poor countries **IFCS** Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety **IFF** Intergovernmental Forum on Forests **IGOs** intergovernmental organizations IISD International Institute for Sustainable Development IMF International Monetary Fund INC Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee IOMC Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change **IPEN** International POPs Elimination Network IPF Intergovernmental Panel on Forests **IPR** intellectual property rights **IUCN** International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources/World Conservation Union IUU illegal, unreported, and unregulated **IWC International Whaling Commission**

LMOs living modified organisms

MARPOL International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from

Ships

MDGs Millennium Development Goals

MEAs multilateral environmental agreements

MMPA Marine Mammal Protection Act

MOP Meeting of the Parties

MSC Marine Stewardship Council

NAFO Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

NEPAD New Partnership for Africa's Development

NGOs nongovernmental organizations

NIEO New International Economic Order

OAS Organization of American States

ODA official development assistance

ODS ozone-depleting substance(s)

OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

PFOS perfluorooctane sulfonate

PIC prior informed consent

POPRC Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

POPs persistent organic pollutants

SAICM Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

TEDs turtle excluder devices

TRAFFIC Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce

UNCCD United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNCED United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

UNCSD United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNFF United Nations Forum on Forests

UNGA United Nations General Assembly

WHO World Health Organization

WMO World Meteorological Organization

WSSD World Summit on Sustainable Development

WTO World Trade Organization

WWF World Wildlife Fund/Worldwide Fund for Nature

Chronology

- 1800 Atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane concentrations in the atmosphere hover around 270 to 290 parts per million (ppm) and 700 parts per billion (ppb), respectively. Most scientists today use these numbers as a pre–Industrial Revolution baseline for comparison.
- Jean-Baptiste Joseph Fourier, a French mathematician and physicist, publishes perhaps the first paper speculating on the existence of what we now call the *natural greenhouse effect*.
- John Tyndall, an Irish physicist, publishes results of laboratory experiments detailing the relative radiative forcing (greenhouse effect) of different gases in the atmosphere, including CO₂.
- 1872 Yellowstone National Park, the first national park in the United States, is created.
- 1896 Svante Arrhenius, a Swedish scientist, publishes an article that concludes that doubling the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere would raise temperatures by 5 to 6 degrees Celsius.
- 1900 CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere reaches 295 ppm.
- 1902 The Convention for the Protection of Birds Useful to Agriculture is signed.
- 1903 The first international conservation NGO is formed: the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire.
- 1909 US president Theodore Roosevelt convenes the North American Conservation Conference in Washington, DC.
- 1911 The Treaty for the Preservation and Protection of Fur Seals is signed.
- 1913 The Commission for the International Protection of Nature is founded.
- 1933 The London Convention on the Preservation of Fauna and Flora in Their Natural State is signed.
- 1938 G. S. Callendar revisits Arrhenius's 1896 publication and argues that increases in CO₂ concentration could explain recent warming trends.

- 1940 The Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere is signed.
- 1945 The United Nations is established.
- 1946 The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling is signed; the International Whaling Commission (IWC) is created.
- 1947 The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is established, becoming the first international nongovernmental organization with a global outlook on environmental problems.
- 1949 The International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries is signed.
- 1950 The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is created.
 - The International Convention for the Protection of Birds is signed.
- 1952 A toxic mix of dense fog and sooty, black coal smoke kills at least four thousand people, and perhaps as many as twelve thousand, in the worst of London's "killer fogs."
- 1954 The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil is signed.
- 1956 The European Economic Community is established.
 - Roger Revelle and Charles David Keeling publish a paper on CO₂, showing the trend of increasing atmospheric concentrations over the past century.
- 1962 Rachel Carson publishes Silent Spring.
- 1963 The Agreement for the Protection of the Rhine Against Pollution is signed.
- 1967 The supertanker *Torrey Canyon* runs aground in the English Channel, causing a massive oil spill.
- 1969 The US Congress passes the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- 1971 The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance is signed.
- 1972 The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment is convened in Stockholm.
 - The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is created.
 - The Limits to Growth report is published.