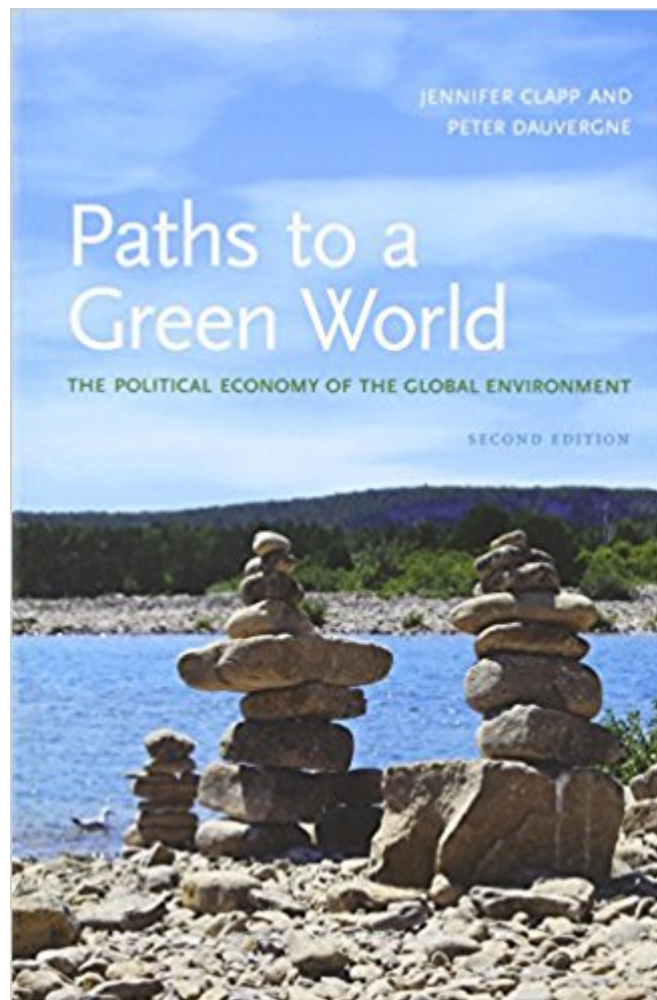


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Paths To A Green World: The Political Economy Of The Global Environment, 2nd Edition (MIT Press)



Synopsis

This comprehensive and accessible book fills the need for a political economy view of global environmental politics, focusing on the ways international economic processes affect environmental outcomes. It examines the main actors and forces shaping global environmental management, particularly in the developing world. Moving beyond the usual emphasis on international agreements and institutions, it strives to capture not only academic theoretical debates but also views on politics, economics, and the environment within the halls of global conferences, on the streets during antiglobalization protests, and in the boardrooms of international agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and industry associations. The book maps out an original typology of four contrasting worldviews of environmental change -- those of market liberals, institutionalists, bioenvironmentalists, and social greens -- and uses them as a framework to examine the links between the global political economy and ecological change. This typology provides a common language for students, instructors, and scholars to discuss the issues across the classical social science divisions. The second edition of this popular text has been thoroughly revised and updated to reflect recent events, including the food crisis of 2007-2008, the financial meltdown of 2008, and the Copenhagen Climate Conference of 2009. Topics covered include the environmental implications of globalization; wealth, poverty, and consumption; global trade; transnational corporations; and multilateral and private finance.

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Customer Reviews

...an excellent primer for political, non-profit and commercial leaders. (Amy E. Harth Electronic Green Journal)An extraordinarily important book that hits a grand slam for its conceptual, theoretical, pedagogical, and practical breakthroughs. Paths to a Green World should be on the required reading list for any serious course on international environmental policy. I have used it in my course ever since the first edition, and will continue to do so until the day I retire. (Benjamin Cashore, Professor of Environmental Governance and Political Science, Yale University)There is much to admire about the second edition of Paths to a Green World. The book provides an authoritative yet concise introduction to the political economy of the global environment; it is written in an accessible and engaging style; and it offers a nuanced interpretation of the scholarly literature and political debate on the environmental impact of globalization, trade, finance, and production. Essential for students and teachers alike. (Robert Falkner, London School of Economics and Political Science)

Peter Dauvergne is Professor of Political Science and Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Politics at the University of British Columbia.

I did not enjoy this book. It was hard to follow and it was not entertaining. Informative but not easily understood.

This potentially powerful book exhibits several weaknesses that will probably prevent it from realizing its potential influence. Fundamentally, the breakthrough of this study is the application of political economy theory to environmentalism. (Political economy focuses on the power relations that influence the production and consumption of resources, while striving to determine the role of control - thus combining the strengths of economics and political science while avoiding the inherent reductionism of both.) This leads to very informative results for the layperson who is interested in how environmental policy works, with in-depth coverage of a great many different aspects of economic theory and how they influence the politics of environmental policy formation. Another bonus of this book is its global coverage of influential environmental leaders and organizations on the international stage.Unfortunately, there is a severe structural problem with this book's overall argument, as the authors parse knowledgeable environmentalists into four arbitrary categories - market liberals, institutionalists, bioenvironmentalists, and social greens - though there is deficient empirical support for the definitions of these four categories, or reasonable evidence that any

concerned person would fit neatly into any one (or several) of the definitions. The authors actually admit to this limitation freely and state that the categorization is only meant for discussion purposes. Fair enough, but the entire book is structured strictly on the unproven existence of those four categories anyway, with each chapter introducing an issue and applying it to the supposed belief systems of each category. Another major structural problem with this book is its descriptive objectivity, making it almost entirely a compilation of existing information (though informatively presented, it should be noted), missing many opportunities for strong arguments. Thus, the book becomes an increasingly unreadable list of definitions, statistics, and acronyms with no compelling conclusions. Most fundamentally, the thinking environmental activist would find it difficult to make use of this book's information, except as background knowledge for understanding the motivations of differently-thinking allies. Environmental policy makers on the international stage could make more use of the theoretical information here, but whether the book was truly written for them, and how they could be inspired to make use of it, remain unclear. [~doomsdayer520~]

Many people are working diligently on environmental issues, but they often disagree because they don't see the world the same way. The authors classify those who are serious about building sustainability into four worldviews -- market liberals, institutionalists, bioenvironmentalists, and social greens. The classification may be somewhat arbitrary, but by clarifying the values and positions of each group, the authors make a major contribution to improving dialogue among those who think that environmental cures will come from different directions.

The book was exactly as it was mentioned on and most importantly, it arrived on time. The condition of the book was good.

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