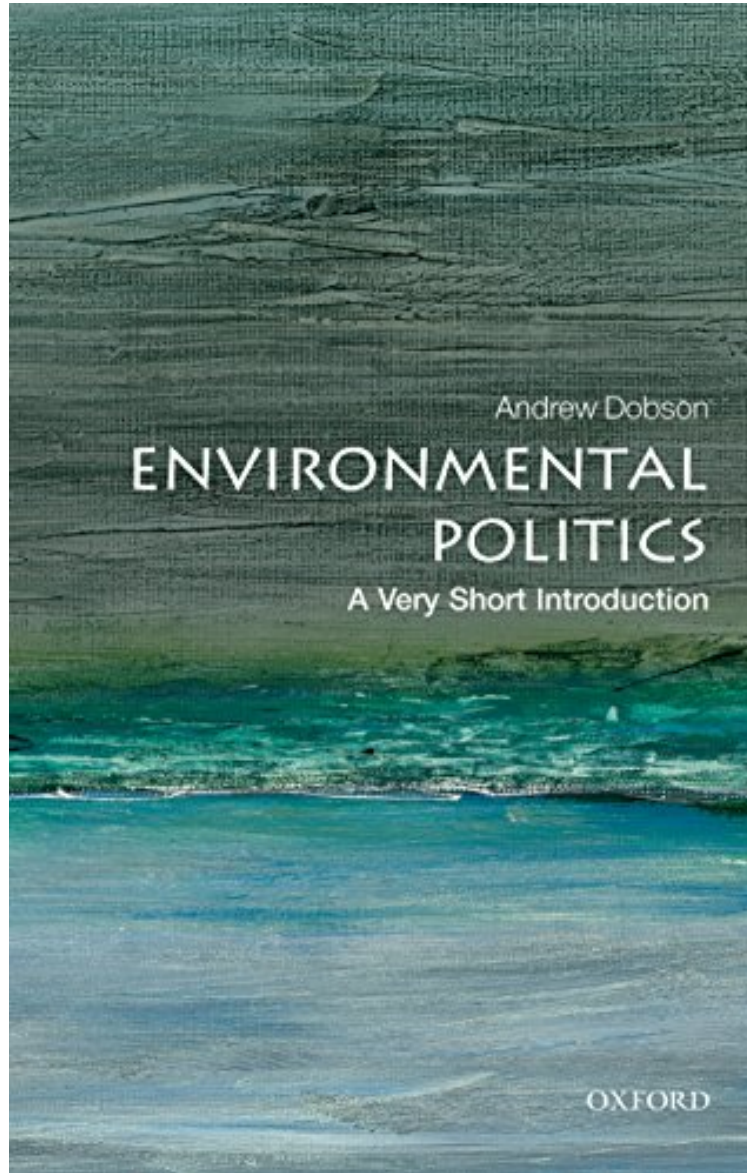


(Download) Environmental Politics: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

Environmental Politics: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

Andrew Dobson

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Andrew Dobson : Environmental Politics: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Environmental Politics: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Thomas MorelliInformative guide to a topic of growing importance.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GOOD BUT DOUBTFUL PERSPECTIVEBy

Yehezkel DrorMy interests in reading this book focus on the risks posed to humanity by anthropogenic climate changes, as one item in a set of global catastrophic dangers. I think this is the most important perspective because the future of the human species as a whole is at stake. If so, a book on environmental politics should focus on global politics rather than local activities; and on assuring the existence of humanity, rather than equity and the UN Millennium Goals, however important. Furthermore, ways to cope with climate change and other environmental damages should be considered within what I call "humanity-craft" as a whole, all the more so as climate change is not the most dangerous of all the risks facing humanity. In short, environmental politics and its discussion should focus on "thinking globally and acting globally," and not "thinking globally, acting locally" as emphasized in the book. The fate of the 100,000 inhabitants of the Maldivian islands (p.102), however deserving help, is not a main consideration for global policies when millions are killed, maimed and exiled in Syria and other conflicts without any regard for the duty to prevent and protect as stipulated by the United Nations. As sense of proportion is essential for coping with the fateful challenges facing our species — and this I miss in the book. Thus, global environmental politics depends largely on the peak greenhouse gas producers great powers, especially the USA and China; and also on countries endangering the largest forests, namely Indonesia and Brazil. But the book pays much more attention to green politics in Europe with special attention to the UK, which are minor actors in global anthropogenic climate change, while China is ignored and the USA treated very inadequately. Still, parts of the book are relevant for global perspectives. Thus, important is the comparison between the relative success of the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the failure (in my assessment full, not "relative" failure) of the (very inadequate) Kyoto Protocol and its follow-ups (pp.87ff.). But much more attention should be paid to the critical significance of President George Bush (senior) renouncing the Kyoto Protocol as "a threat to the American way of life" (p.97). An author is entitled to choose his point of view, but it has to be justified. Regrettably, this book does not do so. No reasons are provided for paying more attention to local actors than to shapers of global policies. Also, it takes for granted putting equity and helping the poor into one package with protecting the environment, which is partly justified locally but not on the level of future-shaping global "great politics." Still, the descriptions and discussions in this well-written book permit at least one conclusion salient to the human species perspective which, I think, should have received priority: There is little hope that political processes similar to those associated with environmental issues can cope with the much more acute, and more complex by order of magnitude, dangers posed to humankind by likely misuses or unanticipated consequences of bio- and nano-technologies, general artificial intelligence equipped "machines," deep enhancement and more. Ergo, a new kind of politics and a novel genre of political leaders are essential for saving humanity from itself. Professor Yehezkel DrorThe Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Environmental politics has many faces and operates at multiple scales: it preoccupies individuals as well as governments, drives local agreements as well as international treaties, results in minor business changes as well as wholesale business decisions, and fluctuates between a politics of protest and one of accommodation. In this Very Short Introduction Andrew Dobson offers a lively and comprehensive commentary on the many facets of environmental politics today. Looking towards the future, he asks whether environmental politics will be comfortably accommodated by mainstream politics, or whether the advent of the Anthropocene - a whole new geological epoch driven by human impact on the environment - will herald a break with the politics of growth that has dominated social life since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

"...packs a punch and fulfils its purpose by providing a very firm grounding in the area of environmental politics." -- Environmental Values About the Author Professor Andrew Dobson taught politics, political theory, and environmental politics at Keele University and the Open University. He is an internationally-recognised authority on environmental politics, and his work has been translated into Spanish, Greek, Korean, Mandarin Chinese and Japanese. Previous books include *Citizenship and the Environment* (OUP, 2003) and *Listening for Democracy: recognition, representation, reconciliation* (OUP, 2014).