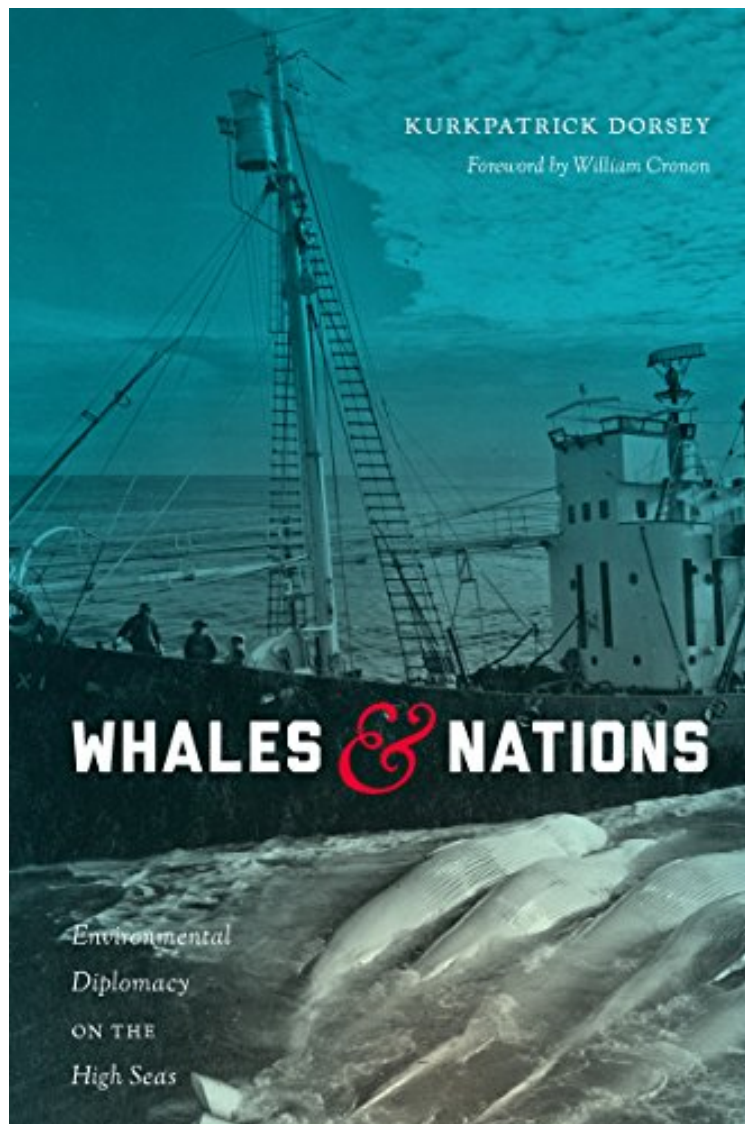


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## Whales and Nations: Environmental Diplomacy on the High Seas (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books)

*Kurkpatrick Dorsey*

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**Kurkpatrick Dorsey : Whales and Nations: Environmental Diplomacy on the High Seas (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whales and Nations: Environmental Diplomacy on the High Seas (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interested in the whaling controversy?By T. KrepitchIf you are interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the controversy surrounding modern whaling programs, this is the

book for you. As the title suggests, the book provides a great deal of information about how the whaling industry developed and how countries that oppose(d) whaling interact(ed) with those that support(ed) it. The awkward phrasing of that last sentence is due to the incredible complexity of the issue and changes over time. There is no such awkwardness in the book, though. It is one of the most well-written, engaging books I have read and I recommend it highly. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. not for me. By Julie If you want to read a geopolitical book using whale hunting to show progression this is for you, but I felt I like the author was paid per legislation article mentioned and that there was a contest to see how much information he could cram into one book and still call it a whale book.

Before commercial whaling was outlawed in the 1980s, diplomats, scientists, bureaucrats, environmentalists, and sometimes even whalers themselves had attempted to create an international regulatory framework that would allow for a sustainable whaling industry. In *Whales and Nations*, Kurkpatrick Dorsey tells the story of the international negotiation, scientific research, and industrial development behind these efforts and their ultimate failure. *Whales and Nations* begins in the early twentieth century, when new technology revived the fading whaling industry and made whale hunting possible on an unprecedented scale. By the 1920s, declining whale populations prompted efforts to develop rational what today would be called sustainable whaling practices. But even though almost everyone involved with commercial whaling knew that the industry was on an unsustainable path, Dorsey argues, powerful economic, political, and scientific forces made failure nearly inevitable. Based on a deep engagement with diplomatic history, *Whales and Nations* provides a unique perspective on the challenges facing international conservation projects. This history has profound implications for today's pressing questions of global environmental cooperation and sustainability. Watch the trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QsLIM5KTx0>

"Written with elegant prose and a wry wit, the book illuminates the many twists and turns of global whaling regulation. . . This title is an excellent resource for those desiring detailed insight." Choice "This interesting and well researched [book] . . . sheds new light on how the International Whaling Commission developed, and on how it struggled." Bjorn Basberg, *International Journal of Maritime History* "I am delighted that a book like *Whales and Nations* exists and that Kurkpatrick Dorsey has written it. He offers us a detailed history of the regulation of whaling from the pre-World War I era up to the present; he is certainly one of the best writers of diplomatic history around." Karen Oslund, *Environmental History* "This important book is essential for understanding the formation of the first global environmental agreements. It is valuable both as an argument about the failures of sustainability and as an authoritative guide to the people and issues behind the rise of global environmental awareness in the twentieth century." Jacob Darwin Hamblin, author of *Arming Mother Nature* "Whales and Nations offers a fresh and timely look at the intersection of the twentieth-century whaling industry, international diplomacy, and science and is an important contribution to a topic that loomed very large in the environmental movement at a critical point in its development. It's also a great read." Helen M. Rozwadowski, University of Connecticut, Avery Point "The international politics of whaling underwent seismic shifts over the course of the twentieth century, reflecting complex changes in attitudes toward marine mammals and environmental protection worldwide. This important story has never been better told than in Kurkpatrick Dorsey's new book, which is likely to be the standard work on this subject for a long time to come." William Cronon About the Author Kurkpatrick Dorsey is associate professor of history at the University of New Hampshire.