

Treshow's contribution on interactions with plant diseases is a concise review which identifies the potential hazards to vegetation from such interactions.

The book concludes with Rich's overview of interactions with agricultural practices. The author has seized the opportunity to include reference to less commonly recognized forms of air pollution, e.g. from burning and the use of pesticides, and from fertilizers and feedlots.

Many of the chapters end with a section of conclusions—an admirable feature. On the other hand, certain topics are notable by their absence. For example, there are few references to genetic effects, to effects on plant-insect interactions, to ecological effects other than those related to forest ecosystems, and to the differentiation between chronic and acute responses. Remedy of such oversights would have added considerably to the value of the book.

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The Protection of the Environment and International Law, Edited by ALEXANDRE-CHARLES KISS. (Hague Academy of International Law Colloquium, 1973.) A. W. Sijthoff International Publishing Company, Leiden, Holland: 650 pp., 23.5 × 15.5 × 5.2 cm, Dfl. 70, 1975.

'There ought to be a law!' This is the anguished cry of the layman who thus expresses his frustration at finding an absence of law where he instinctively feels that law there should be. Yet that cry, if insistent, is of prime importance to the law itself: for it represents human experience which is the foundation of law, and which ultimately sets in motion the legal institutions whereby law is produced.

This is notably true in the field of *environment*, which is relatively new in the sense that it has developed rapidly as a basic social issue with its own imprint on public consciousness as is manifested by its having become a household word. The science of ecology, dealing with the relationship of organisms with their surroundings and with one another, is by no means a newcomer. But it seems at most a decade since this field emerged from a largely academic setting and took on new dimensions, popularized under the name of the environment, and rapidly became a matter of primary public concern, with widespread organizational and political activity devoted to it. The ill wind of pollution, abetted by burgeoning human population, has served further to open peoples' eyes and other senses.

With unusual dispatch and urgent insistence the propositions and problems asserted by environmental scientists, sociologists, and others, thus entered the political arena and evoked responses from the law, which undertook initiatives to provide the necessary legal framework for this hitherto widely neglected area of social concern. Baptized with its present nomenclature, this developing legal field has also had a vigorous international component. To present the essence of this environmental law in its international aspects is the task undertaken by the above book, which was issued by the distinguished Hague Academy of International Law.

This volume, in the regular series of publications by the Hague Academy, is the product of a colloquium held by it in 1973. The quality of the presentation is in keeping with the unquestioned reputation of the Academy for profes-

sional excellence. Environmental law, like some other nascent fields of law, has engendered enthusiasms which have given rise to rhetoric of a political and even Messianic nature. However satisfying that may be to some not unworthy emotions, the law cannot flourish in such an atmosphere.

This colloquium accordingly was prepared and conducted in a meticulous way, so as to provide the necessary detachment and deliberation whereby objective legal analysis could operate. The four principal rapporteurs, selected after much deliberation, were required to submit their written reports or observations a year in advance of the colloquium, and then met among themselves for the three weeks immediately prior to it in order to exchange views and organize the proceedings themselves. The other participants were invited on the basis of careful selection from a worldwide consideration of experts, in numbers limited to a total of 35, whereby there was ample opportunity for interventions by all at the sessions. The Academy is bilingual, and the texts are presented in their original languages, whether English or French, without translation.

The substance of the text may be described as juxtaposing environmental law with traditional concepts of international law, and exploring the development of international environmental law into certain broad particular subjects, notably the sea, the air, and rivers. The analysis of concepts of environmental law and their relationship to established international legal concepts are perhaps the most significant contributions. This approach provides a safeguard against the danger that legal issues, newly presented to public consciousness and surrounded by popular clamour, will be treated in a superficial manner and that such pressures will subordinate the indispensable regard for the underlying conceptual fundamentals. Thus, for example, there is discussion of the concept of sovereignty in terms of problems of how it relates to commonly-shared values concerned with the environment and also to the creation of environmental law that is imposable internationally. Analogies are made with the experiences of other such values and their legal components—for example, those associated with human rights. Also discussed are the antecedents of contemporary environmental law and its development from them, such as the traditional law of nuisance.

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in 1972 at Stockholm, is extensively treated. Its 26 principles are analyzed as to their nature as being partly of actual existing law and partly of *lex ferenda* or exhortation to the establishment of law. They are suggested in any event as a synthesis of international legal matters on environment as evolved to that date and as indicators of probable future developments. The text also helps the reader to sort out the welter of international organizations and activities of legal interest that have been precociously created by the vigorous growth of concern for the ecology of Man.

The volume has more sophistication than is usually implied by the designation 'introduction'. Nevertheless, for those with an internationally-oriented legal background, it is an effective first comprehensive acquaintance with the contemporary notion of international environmental law.

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