

GLOBAL ENERGY PERSPECTIVES

edited by Nebojša Nakićenović, Arnulf Grübler, and Alan McDonald; Cambridge University Press, New York, 1998; 299 pp., \$69.95 cloth (ISBN 0-521-64200-0), \$27.95 paper (ISBN 0-521-64569-7)

This is a valuable, if somewhat flawed, reference source for those anxious to deepen their understanding of plausible energy trends and choices for the medium (2020) and longer (2050) terms. (Selected series are presented to the year 2100, but the core of the efforts centers on the middle of the 21st century.) The analysis revolves around alternative scenarios, world regions, major consuming sectors, primary energy sources, and "final" energy carriers. The alternative scenarios vary, depending on such factors as economic growth rates, technological progress, and ecological imperatives. The methodological underpinnings—described rather skeletally—involved an amalgam of formal modeling and expert judgment, the latter provided by numerous specialist reviewers brought into the undertaking. A readable text accompanies clear and informative figures and tables.

Probably the most telling (if perhaps unsurprising) message here is the reminder that, while the world may be essentially locked into traditional energy systems over the next couple of decades, resources and technological options thereafter (and policy initiatives in their support) are quite diverse. But new methods require substantial lead-times: Major energy infrastructural investments often are designed for a 30-year-or-longer lifetime. Therefore, public and private decisions made during the next 20 years may significantly shape the energy and environmental state of things around mid-century.

Inevitably, an ambitious effort of this scope faces tradeoffs such as aggregation versus detail and simplifying versus more complex assumptions. For example, population assumptions are constant across the six scenarios. For a report that doesn't hesitate to speculate on major changes in the world economy 50 or more years from now, it might have been better not to sidestep this challenging issue in economic development.

Also, some of the regional groupings are really too heterogeneous for anything more than stylized characterization. One must consider how totals comprising virtually an entire continent

may conceal intraregional differences whose recognition might provide improved understanding of the economic development process and its implications for energy.

In what seems a curious inconsistency, the report observes that in all alternative cases "economic development over the next century will not be constrained by geological resources." Yet scenario A2 is predicated on "dwindling resources of conventional oil and gas, which are assumed to be limited to currently known reserves and resources" that must be massively replaced by coal. Massive or not, the analysis shows no effect of that shift on economic activity, though it does preclude a 50 year reduction in the overall carbon/primary energy ratio. Here again, the message is a bit confused because the report states that all the scenarios result in technologically-driven progress toward a cleaner environment. Perhaps the authors meant "cleaner" in relation to an assumed baseline condition.

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THE STRUGGLE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY: THE WORLD BANK, NGOS, AND GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS

edited by Jonathan A. Fox and L. David Brown; The MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1998; 570 pp., \$60.00 cloth (ISBN 0-262-06199), \$30.00 paper (ISBN 0-262-56117-4)

In the 1980s, NGO advocacy groups began to focus critical attention on World Bank projects that had negative impacts on the environment and indigenous communities. A major landmark in this effort was the preparation by the bank of an in-depth review of the Narmada River development project in India (the Morse Report). The report was particularly critical of the failure, or complete absence, of efforts to resettle and rehabilitate villagers displaced by the inundation area and the irrigation canal system. The report, combined with external pressure generated by the NGO community and by internal efforts, led to substantial policy reform. However, the problem of assuring that bank practice is consistent with bank policy remains a major issue of contention between the bank and the NGOs. The purpose of this book is to assess the impact of NGO advoca-

cy campaigns on World Bank environmental projects and policies.

Fox and Brown include an important set of case studies designed to test the bank's practice against its social and environmental policies. The authors also attempt to test whether NGO grassroots advocacy has influenced specific policies or projects and to what degree grassroots communities were represented in NGO grassroots campaigns. The NGOs belatedly discovered what knowledgeable observers of the bank already knew: The bank's operating divisions, rather than the central research and policy units, are where project planning, implementation, and monitoring actually occur, and the relationship between World Bank policy and project development is often rather tenuous.

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THE PROMISE AND PERIL OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
by Christopher H. Foreman Jr.; Brookings Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 1998; 201 pp., \$22.95 cloth (ISBN 0-8157-2878-6)

Environmental justice, once trivialized as mere political and social agenda setting, has now emerged as a major public policy initiative at the federal level. Christopher H. Foreman Jr.'s book provides a reasonably balanced essay on the challenges facing federal agencies as they try to institutionalize environmental justice concerns. For example, Foreman states that the multifaceted nature of environmental justice (including racialized environmental populism, public health anxiety, and social justice advocacy) has led to rhetorical success in garnering attention for the issue, but he questions whether any significant policy changes have occurred that materially benefit disenfranchised communities.

Six short chapters—entitled Challenges, Foundations, Involvement, Health, Opportunity, and Prospects—along with two appendices and extensive notes constitute the volume. The text is well written and easy to read. There are, however, a number of oversights in the book that stem from Foreman's failure to look at the recent social science and health literature—most references in the notes are for 1996 or earlier sources—and the empirical contributions of geographers, planners, and sociologists to environmental justice. His section on the empirical evidence for environmental justice claims is especially weak and dated.

Despite these shortcomings, there is much in this volume that readers can agree with and, more importantly, disagree with. While we can all share in his goal of healthy and livable communities, environmental justice advocates, among others, may strongly oppose Foreman's prescription—differentiating between important and trivial concerns, distinguishing between the deserving and the undeserving, and separating

what is empirically defensible from what is not. As he concludes, "The pursuit of justice requires the making of distinctions, not just the pursuit of rights and the flexing of advocacy muscle."

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POLLUTION CONTROL IN THE UNITED STATES: EVALUATING THE SYSTEM

by J. Clarence Davies and Jan Mazurek; Resources for the Future, Washington, D.C., 1998; 336 pp., \$48.00 cloth (ISBN 0-915707-87-X), \$29.95 paper (ISBN 0-915707-88-8)

The pollution control process in the United States is flawed. J. Clarence Davies and Jan Mazurek have made a landmark contribution by describing and evaluating both the successes and failures of the environmental laws and regulations that have been put in place over the past four decades. This volume is a comprehensive evaluation of the pollution control system that deserves to be read by everyone interested in the future of America's environment. It is divided into two parts: The first describes the major processes and institutions that provide the framework for controlling pollution, while the second evaluates the performance of the system in terms of setting priorities, reducing pollution levels, keeping pace with other countries, and addressing future problems. The authors provide an excellent and concise concluding chapter that highlights the accomplishments made under the current system and the weaknesses that still plague it. Perhaps the most important conclusion is that institutions lack the data and scientific understanding necessary to implement many crucial improvements in pollution control. Studies that look toward redesigning the United States's approach to pollution control are urgently needed. Our reaction to this important effort should be a call for action. Transition to a more sustainable nation will require an efficient and effective pollution control system. Davies and Mazurek have mapped the past and provided a course for the future.

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DILEMMAS OF TRANSITION: THE ENVIRONMENT, DEMOCRACY, AND ECONOMIC REFORM IN EAST CENTRAL EUROPE

edited by Susan Baker and Peter Jehlička; Frank Cass, Portland, Oreg., 1998; 214 pp., \$19.50 paper (ISBN 0-7146-4310-6)

In 1989, a great political storm swept East-Central Europe clean of its Communist regimes, substituting fledgling western-oriented democrat-