

situation, and does that jibe with the value of participation and of local interests? Is a strong state necessary in order to guarantee the rights of all, or is a strong state to be feared of because it can also do the opposite?

It should be noted that, in principle, a book on gender should deal with both genders, women and men. In practice, there is almost no literature on men and planning. The argument of feminists is that the environment as we know it has been planned by men for men. I am not sure that the environment necessarily meets the needs of all men, since they too are a varied lot. But I have no problem with women (and men) choosing to study women and their environmental needs. When someone, man or woman, writes a book or chapter specifically on men and the environment, and not on the generic 'man' that supposedly represents everyone, I will be happy to read it and review it.

This is a book that should be read by people interested in planning issues, and by planners and decision-makers. It will give them many new insights into the lives of women and the issues that affect them.

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THE POLITICS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THEORY, POLICY, AND PRACTICE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION edited by Susan Baker, Maria Kousis, Dick Richardson, and Stephen Young. London: Routledge Publishers, 1997.

This text is no doubt one of the best discussions of sustainable development as a political, not just economic construct. The editors have compiled a text successful on two distinct levels: 1) As a thorough introduction for the student or bureaucrat to the growing debate over sustainable development; and 2) As a forum for the conversation on sustainable development as it applies to developed economies in general, and to the KU, in particular.

The book is divided into two parts by the author, though I would argue that it could be read in four parts. The introduction, co-written by the editors, is very valuable in its presentation of the history of the idea of sustainable development. The editors' part one is entitled 'The concept of sustainable development'. It is comprised of three chapters: Dick Richardson's 'The Politics of Sustainable Development', which will be reviewed later, Arne Naess' 'Sustainable Development and the Deep Ecology Movement', and Allan Scheinberg's 'Sustainable Development and the treadmill of production'. These three essays introduce the debates surrounding sustainable development as an applicable theory.

Part II of the book is, logically, 'The Practice of Sustainable Development'. Eight of the text's twelve chapters are devoted to the application of sustainable development policies with specific cases presented. Rather than summarily review each chapter, special attention will be given to Baker's essay called 'The evolution of EU environmental policy: from growth to sustainable development?', among others.

Lastly, chapter twelve can be read as a separate part of the book entirely. This is because of its treatment of a new topic in the discussion—the future. Thus, Michael Redclift's 'Postscript: Sustainable development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: the beginning of history?' deserves special focus.

In the introduction, the editors present the most recognized and contested definitions of sustainable development, found in the Brundtland Report. The definition reads, "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs". The editors agreed that while the definition was vague, its existence at all signaled the recognition of the issue as salient. The next step in inserting sustainable development to the forefront of economic debate was to take it out of the economic arena.

If attention is focused on sustainable development as a social and political concept, attention can be turned away from sterile debates about the precise meaning of the term, and focused instead on the contemporary process of implementing sustainable development policies and the alternative conceptions that are developing concerning how sustainable development should be interpreted in practice. [sic]  
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Foreshadowing a three-chapter discussion on the topic, the authors briefly introduce the issue of 'bottom-up' involvement. Simply put, 'bottom up' or grassroots promotion of sustainable development policies 'could help in attaining more successful sustainable development agendas'.

After a mild introduction, Dick Richardson's chapter on the politics of sustainable development comes as an abrupt about-face. The author states that the definition of sustainable development found in the Brundtland Report "is not only a political fudge; it is a sham". Richardson begins by illuminating the debate between anthropocentric or environmental, versus big-centric, or ecological sustainable development. Basically, the former approach requires no major alterations in current political and economic practices. The latter, contrarily, is built upon fundamental shifts in the relationship between nature and humankind, affecting socio-political and economic consequences. Richardson traces the dominance of anthropocentricity to the success of the industrial revolution. He writes that "by mid-twentieth century, the industrial worldview, based on the conquest of nature, materialism and consumption, had achieved almost universal acceptance". Richardson identifies the rift of differing definitions of the word 'development'. Anthropocentrists see it as a physical growth while big-centrists see it as a measurement of well-being in terms other than consumption. The author concludes by acknowledging the Brundtland report as an initial step towards new policy-making. Still, he sees no continuity but rather radical changes needed to bring about dominance of biocentricity.

Just as Richardson's chapter herald Part one's discussion of theory, Susan Baker's chapter introduces Part Two's treatment of practice. Baker traces environmental

policy-making in the EU starting from the First Action Programme (1973–76) which “defined the basic principles of community environmental policy” and through the Fifth Action Programme (1996–7.) The chapter details each programme’s successes and failures, and comes to this conclusion. The EU will have to be more proactive in effecting policy, overriding its tendency to allow market forces to determine policy.

As mentioned above, this book includes some case examples of the difficulties of implementing environmental policy. A case-in-point (no pun intended) is Pridham and Konstadakopulos’ essay, ‘Sustainable development in Mediterranean Europe? Interactions between European, national and sub-national levels’. The authors firstly attribute the southern European countries’ slowness to adopting reforms to their late entrance into the EC. But this superficial excuse is quickly surpassed by other, larger problems. The low priority of the environment is certainly a large cause for slowness to act.

The value of this chapter is partly in its treatment of sub-national authorities. While a large degree of regionalism frequently causes slowness at the national level, the authors cite positive examples of regionalism. They write the Autonomous Region of Madrid was the first region in Spain to adopt the concept of sustainable development and begin feasibility studies. The authors conclude by saying that more pressure from the EU is integral to forcing through policy change at the national levels.

This book is a valuable read for academics and professionals alike. While many chapters have some overlap, it just serves to reinforce the importance of basic documents and conferences. Not unrealistically optimistic or harshly pessimistic, *Politics of Sustainable Development* is a fair look at the growing relevance of the environment in economic planning.

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES: CONNECTING THEORY, PRACTICE, AND POSSIBILITIES by William A. Galston and Karen J. Baehler. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1995.

The literature about rural development in the U.S.A. is characterized, according to the authors, by two main features: fragmentation and isolation. The book by Galston and Baehler is offered as a first step to overcome these problems by assembling the best of individual research contributions and placing them in a comprehensive theoretical, historical and geographical context. For that purpose, the book is divided into two parts. The first section is designed as a theoretical, conceptual and historical framework, opening with an introductory chapter on rural America in the 1990s. Subsequent chapters deal with different aspects of development: as a conceptual framework, as an economic process, and as a political strategy. The second part of the book presents a survey of both research and practice in key sectors of rural