

***European Union and Environmental Governance* by Henrik Selin and Stacy D. VanDeveer. Abingdon: Routledge, 2015. 192pp., £19.99 (p/b), ISBN 978-0415628822**

The authors of this work focus on the European Union and environmental governance in particular, which to them is ‘one of the organization’s most impactful policy areas’ (p. 4). Intended for people with ‘varying degrees of understanding’ of EU politics, the book, which is part of Routledge’s ‘Global Institutions’ series, is written in an accessible manner.

It is structured in a classical way, introducing the EU’s motto ‘Unity and diversity’ (pp.4-6), as well as outlining concepts such as ‘sustainability’ (p.7) whilst giving a broad overview of EU environmental policy-making to date. The introductory remarks are followed by seven chapters. Chapter 1 provides information on theoretical approaches in the context of the EU, while the next sections draw attention to the history (ch. 2) main actors and policy instruments (ch. 3) of the EU. Chapters 4-6 build the cornerstone of the book, analysing the EU’s external governance as well as aspects of environmental decision-making, whilst shedding light on ten specific cases such as air policy (pp.90-92) and biodiversity protection (pp.108-110) in particular. Chapter 7 points out deficits of implementation (p.147) and policy integration, which are predominately visible in the field of climate change (p.150), challenging the notion of how to ‘engender... greater global environmental protection and sustainability’ (p.153) in the future.

The book is well written and the fact that each chapter is divided into sub-sections facilitates the flow of reading immensely. At times, the text is enriched with figures and tables or designated ‘boxes’ highlighting specific aspects. However, they are relatively few and short in size (only 3) and thus could easily have been integrated into the continuous text. They purport to give the book a textbook-like style while not following through with it. Additionally, some tables are redundant and predominately mirror what is written in the text (see for example Table 2.1).

Some aspects in the first part, especially the historical overview, could have been shortened, leaving more space for the analytical sections. Overall, the book would have benefitted from a closer interlocking of the ‘European Union’ and ‘Environmental Governance’ aspects – which until chapter 4 are both treated rather separately. Additionally, the analytical part lags behind in incorporating the theoretical approaches outlined in chapter 2.

As the book is not necessarily innovative in its approach or method, and largely rather descriptive in nature, it should be regarded an overly well-written introductory compendium with a concise analysis which is recommended reading for anybody interested in EU environmental governance.

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