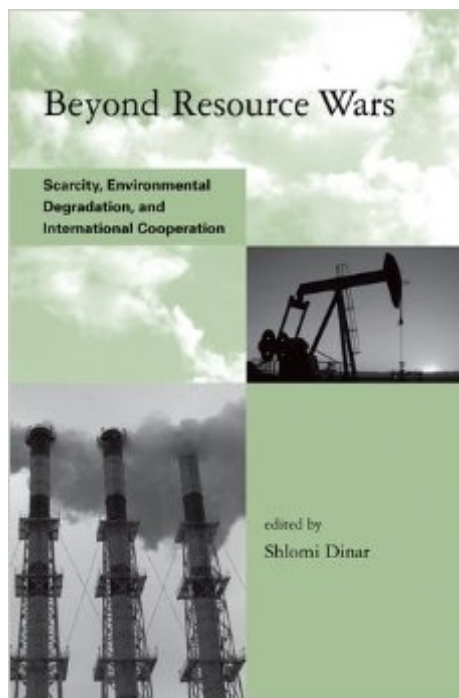


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Beyond Resource Wars: Scarcity, Environmental Degradation, And International Cooperation (Global Environmental Accord: Strategies For Sustainability And Institutional Innovation)



Synopsis

Common wisdom holds that the earth's dwindling natural resources and increasing environmental degradation will inevitably lead to inter-state conflict, and possibly even set off "resource wars." Many scholars and policymakers have considered the environmental roots of violent conflict and instability, but little attention has been paid to the idea that scarcity and degradation may actually play a role in fostering inter-state cooperation. *Beyond Resource Wars* fills this gap, offering a different perspective on the links between environmental problems and inter-state conflict. Although the contributors do not deny that resource scarcity and environmental degradation may become sources of contention, they argue that these conditions also provide the impetus for cooperation, coordination, and negotiation between states. The book examines aspects of environmental conflict and cooperation in detail, across a number of natural resources and issues including oil, water, climate change, ocean pollution, and biodiversity conservation. The contributors argue that increasing scarcity and degradation generally induce cooperation across states, but when conditions worsen (and a problem becomes too costly or a resource becomes too scarce), cooperation becomes more difficult. Similarly, low levels of scarcity may discourage cooperation because problems seem less urgent. With contributions from scholars in international relations, economics, and political science, *Beyond Resource Wars* offers a comprehensive and robust investigation of the links among scarcity, environmental degradation, cooperation, and conflict.

Book Information

Series: Global Environmental Accord: Strategies for Sustainability and Institutional Innovation

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: The MIT Press (March 18, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0262014971

ISBN-13: 978-0262014977

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,718,551 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #519 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Environmental > Pollution #1668

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