

Table of Contents

List of Figures	page xi
List of Tables	xii
List of Maps	xiii
List of Boxes	xiv
Preface	xv
List of Abbreviations	xviii
1 Global Politics and the Environment	1
Summary of Key Points	1
Introduction	2
State of the Planet	3
The Politics of Environmental Change	7
Outline of this Book	10
Discussion Questions	16
PART 1: WHY DO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OCCUR?	17
2 The Tragedy of the Commons	19
Summary of Key Points	19
Introduction	19
Core Assumptions Underpinning the 'Tragedy'	22
Human Beings are Self-regarding and Short-sighted	22
'The Commons' are Unmanaged and Freely Accessible	22
Privatisation and Socialism are the Only Possible Solutions to Avoid Degradation	23
Critiques and Corrections	25
Human Nature and the Commons	25
Historical Inaccuracies	26
Alternative Governance Options	27
The Global Commons	30
What are the Global Commons?	30
Managing the Global Commons	31

	Conclusion	35
	Discussion Questions	35
3	Population and Poverty	37
	Summary of Key Points	37
	Introduction	38
	The Malthusian Renaissance	39
	Solving the Population Problem	40
	Trends in Population Growth	41
	Is Population Control the Answer?	45
	Is Poverty the Main Driver of Environmental Degradation?	46
	The Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC)	48
	Questioning the Validity of the EKC	50
	Outsourcing Production and Pollution	52
	Do Wealthier People Care More About the Environment?	53
	Conclusion	56
	Discussion Questions	57
4	Capitalism	58
	Summary of Key Points	58
	Introduction	58
	The Contradictions of Capitalism	60
	The Traditional Contradiction	60
	The Ecological Contradiction	61
	Capitalism's Rifts	63
	Alienation from Nature	64
	Metabolic Rift	64
	Ecological Rift	65
	Ecological Imperialism	66
	Over-consumption	68
	Is Sustainable Capitalism the Solution?	70
	Eco-socialism	72
	Steady-state Economy and Degrowth	74
	Conclusion	75
	Discussion Questions	77
	PART 2: RESPONDING TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS	79
5	Conflict and Securitisation <i>Water Scarcity</i>	81
	Summary of Key Points	81

Introduction	82
Conflict and the Natural Environment	83
Conflicts Over Natural Resources	84
Water and Conflict	88
State of the World's Water	88
Water Wars: Theory and Evidence	92
Weaknesses in International Cooperation	99
Securitising the Environment	102
Conclusion	105
Discussion Questions	106
6 Multilateral Diplomacy <i>Sustainable Development</i>	107
Summary of Key Points	107
Introduction	108
Multilateral Diplomacy	109
Environmental Multilateralism	112
The Environmental Movement	112
The Birth of Environmental Multilateralism	112
North–South Tensions Emerge	114
The Golden Age of Environmental Multilateralism	116
Environmental Multilateralism in the Twenty-first Century	117
Legal and Political Status of MEAs	119
Sustainable Development	120
The Concept of Sustainable Development	120
Institutionalising Sustainable Development:	
Earth Summit, 1992	122
Reality Check: World Summit on Sustainable	
Development, 2002	127
Facing Up to Unmet Promises: Rio+20 and Beyond	129
Conclusion	137
Discussion Questions	138
7 Transnational Governance Experiments <i>Climate Change</i>	140
Summary of Key Points	140
Introduction	141
Transnational Governance	142
Climate Change	145
The Science of Climate Change	146
A 'Wicked' Policy Problem	147
Multilateral Cooperation on Climate Change	149
Transnational Climate Change Governance	156
Governance Experiments	156

Virtues of Transnational Climate Governance	162
Limitations of Transnational Climate Governance	163
Coordinating Governance Experiments: NAZCA	164
Conclusion	165
Discussion Questions	166
8 Aid and Finance Deforestation	167
Summary of Key Points	167
Introduction	168
Aid and Financial Assistance	169
Multilateral Environmental Agreements	169
The Environmental Impact of ODA	171
Debt-for-Nature Swaps	176
Payment for Ecosystem Services	179
Finance and Deforestation	183
The Nature of the Problem	183
Drivers of Deforestation	185
Global Forestry Governance	187
Deforestation and the Global Climate Regime	189
REDD+	191
Conclusion	195
Discussion Questions	196
9 Individualising Responsibility Unsustainable Consumption	197
Summary of Key Points	197
Introduction	198
Consumption and Its Environmental Impact	199
Mobile Phones	202
Fashion	204
Sustainable Consumption: Intergovernmental Initiatives	206
Private Sector and Civil Society Initiatives: Individualising	209
Responsibility	209
Voluntary Simplicity	210
Ecological Footprint	211
Carbon Neutrality	213
Eco-labelling	214
The Limits of Individualising Responsibility	215
Over-stating Consumer Sovereignty	216
'Greenwash'	217
Attitude-Behaviour Gap	218
Depoliticising Unsustainability	219

	Defending Individual Responsibility	220
	Conclusion	222
	Discussion Questions	223
10	Problem Displacement <i>Hazardous Substances</i>	224
	Summary of Key Points	224
	Introduction	225
	Toxic Elements	226
	Mercury	228
	Lead	229
	Cadmium	231
	Dioxins and Dioxin-like Substances	232
	Global Governance of Chemicals and Hazardous Waste	233
	Fragmented Global Chemical Governance: Overlaps and Gaps	240
	Displacing the Problem	242
	The <i>Khian Sea</i>	243
	Environmental Injustice	244
	Understanding Environmental Injustice	245
	The Basel Convention: Weaknesses and Limitations	248
	E-waste Dumping or Much Needed Trade?	251
	Conclusion	253
	Discussion Questions	254
11	Resistance and Localisation <i>Unsustainable Agriculture</i>	256
	Summary of Key Points	256
	Introduction	257
	Social Movements and Resistance	258
	Globalisation and the Environment	260
	Agriculture and the Environment	261
	The Rise of Modern Agriculture	262
	The Relationship Between the Environment and Agriculture	267
	Resisting Unsustainable Agriculture	272
	Demanding Sustainable Agriculture	273
	Practising Sustainable Agriculture	275
	Brazil and the Landless Rural Workers Movement	276
	Campesino a Campesino, Central America	277
	Cuba and Organic Agriculture	278
	Questioning Agroecology	279
	Conclusion	280
	Discussion Questions	281

12 Appraising Global Environmental Governance	282
Summary of Key Points	282
Introduction	282
The Nature of Environmental Problems	283
Evaluating Policy and Practice	286
Distributing Environmental Harm	290
Temporal Inequality	290
Social Inequality	290
Geographic Inequality	292
Towards Effective and Equitable Governance	292
Discussion Questions	293
Glossary	295
References	313
Index	343
Drivers of Deforestation	385
Global Forestry Governance	387
Understanding Environmental Injustice	388
The Basel Convention: Weakly Enforced and Limited	391
E-waste Dumping or Much Needed Trade?	391
Conclusion	391
Discussion Questions	391
Resistance and Localisation	397
Summary of Key Points	397
Introduction	397
Social Movements and Resistance	399
Mobile Phones	402
Fashion	402
Agriculture and the Environment	402
The Rise of Modern Agriculture	402
The Relationship Between the Environment and Agriculture	402
Private Security	402
Resisting Unustainable Agriculture	402
Voluntary Simplicity	402
Ecological Footprint	402
Carbon Neutrality	402
Brazil and the Landless Rural Workers Movement	402
Campesino a Campesino, Central America	402
Cuba and Organic Agriculture	402
The Limits of Individualising Responses	402
Over-stating Consumer Sovereignty	402
Questioning Agroecology	402
Greenwash	402
Conclusion	402
Attitude-behaviour Gap	402
Discussion Questions	402
Depoliticising Unsustainability	402