

Our Earth Matters

On 21 May 2019, it was officially recognized that we are now living in the Anthropocene, our earth's latest geological epoch, named for the 'unmistakable imprint of human activities'. This announcement came almost 60 years after the publication of Rachel Carson's landmark work of environmental writing, 'Silent Spring', and next year (2022) it will be 50 years since the first UN Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in June 1972.

This book, *Our Earth Matters: Pathways to a Better Common Environmental Future*, is a special issue of the journal 'Environmental Policy and Law', which was first published in 1975. It presents 21 invited contributions by outstanding scholars from around the world, which examine existing global regulatory approaches, processes, instruments and institutions for the protection of the global environment. The articles are grouped under 4 headings: Prognoses, Processes, Problematique and Prospects, and in them the authors have sought to explore answers to the existential environmental crisis. They urge us to ponder our reckless destruction of natural spaces, endangering of plant and animal species, poisoning of the environment, and general disturbance of our essential ecological processes.

The primary objective of the book is to raise the awareness of the global audience by inspiring scholars and decision-makers to re-examine current global approaches to environmental issues and explore the future trajectory with new ideas and frameworks for international environmental governance in the 21st century and beyond. The book will be of interest to all those working to secure the sustainable future of the human race on our only abode, planet earth.

Bharat H. Desai is Professor of International Law and Jawaharlal Nehru Chair in International Environmental Law, Centre for International Legal Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Environmental Policy & Law* (Amsterdam: IOS Press) and of the *Yearbook of International Environmental Law* (Oxford: OUP).

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B.H. Desai (Ed.)

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ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE

Edited by:

Bharat H. Desai



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