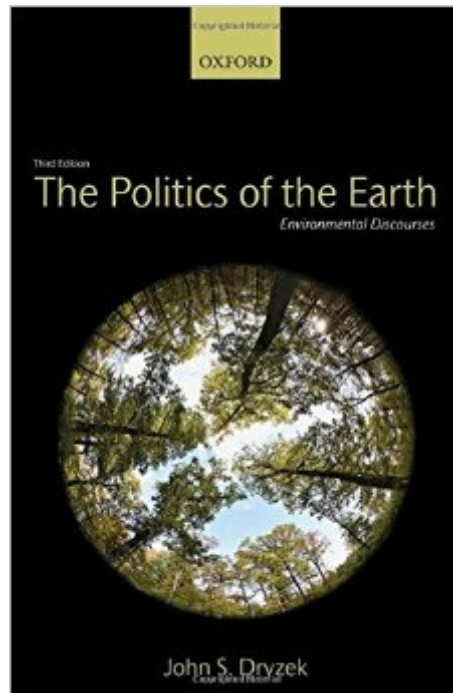


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The Politics Of The Earth: Environmental Discourses



Synopsis

The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses, Third Edition, provides an accessible introduction to environmental politics by examining the ways in which people use language to discuss environmental issues. Leading scholar John S. Dryzek analyzes the various approaches that have dominated the field over the last three decades--approaches that are also likely to be influential in the future--including survivalism, environmental problem-solving, sustainability, and green radicalism. Dryzek examines and assesses the history, interplay, and impact of these perspectives, concluding with a plea for ecological democracy. An engaging writing style and helpful boxed material make this complex subject more understandable to students.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This well-organized book, in cataloguing the different ways in which people think about the environment, shows why so many environmentalists talk at cross-purposes. I was drawn to this book because I was hoping to find something akin to the dialectical analysis of ideas performed by Mortimer J. Adler's Institute for Philosophical Research in the 1950s and 60s, which resulted in such books as *The Idea of Freedom: A Dialectical Examination of the Conceptions of Freedom* and *The Idea of Justice*. The aim of these books was to elucidate, using a rigorous, impartial methodology, the discussion of the ideas in the history of Western thought. In order to expunge bias, these works were team efforts, and all the terminology adopted in them was carefully chosen so as not to favor any one strand of thought over any other. I was excited by the notion of finding

something comparable which treated the idea of environmentalism as its subject. While *The Politics of the Earth* is not a dialectical analysis in that sense, it does organize the discussion of environmentalism by showing the various ways that the environment and environmentalism have been talked and written about. It turns out that the subject can be resolved into 9 separate discourses. The author defines discourse as "a shared way of apprehending the world" that "enables those who subscribe to it to interpret bits of information and put them together into coherent stories or accounts. Each discourse rests on assumptions, judgments, and contentions that provide the basic terms for analysis, debates, agreements, and disagreements. . . . The way a discourse views the world is not always easily comprehended by those who subscribe to other discourses.

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