

Abstracts

War and Natural Resources in History: Introduction **Simo Laakkonen, Richard Tucker**

Natural resources are rarely alone a sufficient reason for declaring war. Nevertheless, through human history natural resources have been an important motive, target, and resource for warfare. Until recently armies lived off the land; their logistical support systems were so rudimentary that nothing else was possible. This process provides the key to much of the damage caused by wars, from pre-historic tribal wars onwards. Colonial states initiated an era of systematic global looting of natural resources that affected above all indigenous people. Industrial warfare multiplied both qualitatively and quantitatively the consumption of strategic raw materials and energy sources. Today they are targets of a global power play that cover all continents, oceans and seabed.

Big Science and the Enchantment of Growth in Latin America **Nicolás Cuví**

The central theme of this article is the mirage of growth that spread in Latin American countries under the influence of the United States, during and after World War II, that is, the persuasion that well-being could be achieved through growth, that building and making everything bigger would grant the people of these countries a lifestyle similar to that of the United States. Contrary to this belief, the author argues that what has grown is not the projected well-being of the people, but poverty, exclusion, external debt and ecological damage.

The author's investigation of the subject begins from the long shadows cast by WWII on the environment. This historical period not only had significant material consequences on world landscapes, but also had a symbolic impact, at least in Latin America, through the rise of the ideal of Big Science, which actually aggravated the material environmental impacts.

The article concludes with a reflection on the need for a paradigm shift towards ways of achieving development without relying exclusively on growth. Environmental studies could point out ways to defuse or possibly even eradicate the enchantment of growth.

The Vulnerability of Nations: Food Security in the Aftermath of World War II

Jacob Darwin Hamblin

The present essay focuses on the scientific approaches emerging from the war that attempted to identify key risks to food security. It shows how a number of scientists in the United States and Britain addressed the problem of human vulnerability in the immediate postwar years, prior to the implementation of the Marshall Plan. The goal of the essay is to highlight how wartime experiences informed notions of food security within international organizations for many decades to come. It encourages scholars to look beyond the East-West and to look in addition to the ways in which American attitudes stood in conflict with European (particularly British) ones in the immediate postwar years. Attitudes in the long-lived organization, FAO, were deeply influenced by European attitudes, which in turn were fundamentally shaped by wartime experience, in ways that often stood in stark contrast with American views. We can see these differences in sharp relief when experts debated diet, crops, and the overall approach to managing global food insecurity in the long term.

World War II and the “Great Acceleration” of North Atlantic Fisheries

Poul Holm

World War II impacted both the marine and the terrestrial environment of the North Atlantic, triggered major political and economic decisions with profound cultural implications, and eventually induced a change in ocean management. The War helped develop technologies and state responses to immediate post-war market problems and impacted the Great Acceleration of fisheries between 1945 and 1975.

During the war, fisheries were closed completely only in certain parts of the most fished waters, such as the central North Sea and the English Channel. Even in the most affected Northern European waters some fishing continued throughout the war. Fishing was carried on in the waters off Iceland and the Arctic, but extractions were much reduced. Previously unfished stocks in the Baltic were targeted for the first time ever. The effect of the closure of certain fisheries was an overall increase of survival rates of marine animals.

Technological advances made during the War increased the fishing efficiency of vessels when the technology was put to commercial use soon after the War. The immediate benefit of better catch-per-unit effort after the War was concealed by the slump in the international fish market. The wartime ‘dividend’ of marine resources was largely spent by the mid-1950s in the North Sea and by 1960 in the wider North Atlantic.

The war disrupted market allegiances, effectively ended old fishing patterns and introduced a forced modernisation in the High North. Among North Sea

countries, Denmark in particular responded to the disruption of the market for fresh fish by introducing reduction fishery, which led to severe environmental stress and eventually a collapse of the North Sea herring stock.

Before WWII, the oceans had largely been regulated according to the international law of open access to all ocean resources. North Sea countries resumed negotiations over fishing rights after 1945, expecting to revert to old principles. However, U.S. President Harry Truman's declaration against Japan came to impact fishing negotiations in the North Atlantic and changed post-war fishing management forever.

The Environmental Impacts of Japan's Occupation of West Malaysia (1942-45) and its Socio-Economic Implications

Jeyamalar Kathirithamby-Wells

The Japanese occupation of Malaysia highlights the interrelation between war and the natural environment as forming an integral part of the national narrative and global environmentalism. By disrupting the economy and emasculating the forestry service, the Japanese military administration removed the restraints on forest invasion by the hungry and landless and simultaneously privileged Japanese co-operate business, which engaged in indiscriminate exploitation, ostensibly for the war effort. Despite the best efforts of the Japanese scientific wing, the breakdown of forest management wrought havoc on environment and health. Ironically, post-war restitution of forestry was based on two by-products of the war: the Malayan Uniform System of silviculture and new technologies of harvesting and transportation, which set independent Malaysia on the trajectory of unsustainable harvesting. But equally, the retreat to the forest of the hungry, the landless and the disaffected bred a new awareness of human interdependence, irrespective of ethnic differences, within a shared natural environment. The collective experience and memory contributed to the emergence of the nation's first environmental advocates.

Survival Strategies and the Environment: The Siwalik Forest Commons, 19th and 20th Centuries

Minoti Chakravarty-Kaul

The history of the Siwalik forest commons counters the notion of a 'tragedy of the commons' as is commonly understood. It also corroborates their support as buffers and safety niches for pastoral peoples from uncertain political and harsh landscape of seven rivers and mountain chains of the Hindu Kush - Himalayas.

Here we document those features of such traditional systems of *shamilat van* or forest commons in the Siwalik forests of the Punjab and analyse their contribution to the agro-ecosystems of both local agriculturalists and pastoralists to the

north and south and the reciprocal system of rights, rules, and responsibilities devised by the users to ensure the survival of the forests. These resource-use systems also enabled communities to bear uncertainty and share risks. Indigenous management systems assumed a diversity of forms, reflecting the flexibility required to adapt to the dynamic environments in which these communities lived. It appears that this institutional flexibility allowed local management systems to endure through political upheavals and natural disasters. Thus it is that the collaborative management of the Siwalik forests successfully supported fragile ecosystems of the Upper Himalayas and relieved resource pressures on the plains below in the *doabs* or land lying between the rivers of Punjab.

Urbanists and the Environment Between Technique and Politics: The Case of Italy from the Sixties to the Present

Gabriella Corona

Beginning in the Sixties, a trend in town-planning studies known as “reformist” developed in Italy, largely revolving around the Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica (national institute for town-planning studies). This trend marked a deep change in land management concepts. Its adherents sought to “reform” – rather than merely rationalize – the economic growth to limit its negative social and environment impact. This was to be achieved by controlling the real estate market and the regulation of land rent processes. Thanks to the strong ties they formed with public administrations and left-wing parties, many exponents of this trend became leading figures in the public debate on cities of the Seventies and early Eighties, and were responsible for many institutional decisions adopted in this period at the national as well as the local level (e.g. the land law of 1977 and the ten-year housing plan of 1978). In the Eighties and Nineties, in spite of the spread of a private conception of urban planning - the so-called “contrattata” (negotiated) urban planning – the exponents of this trend were still able to carry out programs and plans – e.g. in Bologna, Roma, and Naples – aimed at safeguarding the physical integrity of the land. This was achieved through a juridical and legislative evolution (as in the case of the Galasso law of 1986 and subsequent measures) that provided public administrations with new instruments for the protection of natural resources and the landscape, even within urban areas.

“Rather Active Today than Radioactive Tomorrow!” Environmental Justice and the Anti-Nuclear Movement in 1970s Wyhl, West Germany

Martin Kalb

This article applies new understandings of environmental justice theory to a specific local case study. More precisely, it uses a broader conception of environmental

justice theory to further our understanding of the rise of the German anti-nuclear movement. After briefly introducing new trends within environmental justice theory that move beyond equity, the article applies this framework to the German context. It thereby helps define *Umweltgerechtigkeit* or environmental justice in Germany, and then applies this nuanced framework to the events in Wyhl, a small community on the forefront against nuclear power in the early 1970s. The article ultimately argues that environmental justice needs to move beyond focusing on the unequal distribution of environmental goods and bads. It also indicates that environmental justice is an excellent historical lens and a powerful interdisciplinary framework that can provide unique avenues for revisiting existing scholarship.

Some Reflections on the Causes and Effects of the Global Food Crisis

Desirée A.L. Quagliarotti

After the global food crisis occurred in 1972-74, prices of food commodities in real terms have declined rapidly and, for about thirty years, the demand of food was met by an available supply at reasonable prices. Since 2006, prices of food commodities have begun to grow, reaching a first peak in 2008 and a second in early 2011. This trend has marked the end of a long period of low level in food prices and opened the era of crisis in the global food system. .

This article aims to disclose the nature and underlying causes of the recent food crises focusing on both conjunctural and structural factors; to analyze the socio-economic and geopolitical impacts of food price increases; to identify the possible strategies to minimize the trade-off between the increase of agricultural production and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Questions about Global Food Security

Idamaria Fusco and Desirée A.L. Quagliarotti

This interview with Olivier De Schutter, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, focuses on the new issues that affect the global food security. Since the beginning of the new millennium, malthusian apprehensions that population growth will eventually exceed food supplies are again alarming food security and nutrition experts. The scare has been triggered by continuous increases and volatility in the prices of agricultural commodities, as a result of a concurrence of different cyclical and structural factors including climate change, land degradation, water shortage, declining oil supplies, erosion of biodiversity, increase of biofuel production, and growing demands for a meat-rich diet from emerging countries.

In this interview Olivier De Schutter, starting from the meaning of the right to food, identifies possible solutions to feed a population of 9 billion by 2050 in a context of climate change and environmental degradation. He argues that con-

ventional farming is no longer the best choice today and what is needed is a shift towards more environmentally friendly agriculture. Agroecology can contribute to the right to food by creating resilient and productive food systems while simultaneously alleviating poverty and boosting rural development.

In order to give his contribution towards the progressive achievement of the full realization of the right to food, De Schutter intends, in the remaining year and a half of his mandate, to conduct further right-to-food country missions in Africa, Asia and other parts of the world and to promote the right to food in global fora including the Committee on World Food Security and the G20.