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John M. Whiteley, Helen Ingram, and Richard Warren Perry eds., *Water, Place, & Equity*

suggests that through the committed work of individuals, exposure by the media, national environmental concern, and the organized work of many governmental and nongovernmental actors, opponents of NRP have seen a steady change in policy.

The final chapter, *A Kinder, Gentler "Fragmented Authoritarianism,"* discusses the continued ability of opponents to change policy through the combined efforts of various affected, and traditionally silenced, actors. Mertha suggests that opponents' recent success in infiltrating the policy-making process and successfully changing policy is testament to the importance of gaining national support and exposure through the media.

This book gives further coverage to the issues surrounding the traditionally silenced subject of hydropower policy-making in China. Mertha exposes the difficulties faced by dam construction opponents and gives a voice to the impoverished individuals most affected by hydro-power policy. *China's Water Warriors* remains objective while illustrating the successes of grassroots actors to oppose the policy formulated by the state and big business through strategic and organized tactics. In an area of growing energy concerns, this book provides the reader with an understanding of China's struggle to achieve energy independence in a society faced with varying interests and concerns.

Drew Eddy

John M. Whiteley, Helen Ingram, and Richard Warren Perry eds., *Water, Place, & Equity*, The MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass. (2008); 318 pp; \$25.00; ISBN 978-0-262-73191-1, soft cover.

In *Water, Place, & Equity*, numerous authors present case studies that address notions of fairness, equity and justice in decisions that effect water. Water issues will dominate natural resource policies over the next century. Although there may be enough water on the planet for societies' needs, there are many issues with water availability, including the lack of water in the proper place, misallocation, waste, and pollution. The discrepancy of the availability of water in the poorest regions of the planet, which hosts over 800 million people, raises issues in political and economic equity that policy makers need to address.

The editors divided the book into two sections. The first section contains six essays presenting case studies on how varying communities address water issues, some of which have been successful through an equitable lens and others that have yet to achieve equitable results. The second section looks at civic engagement and governance of water resources by documenting successes and failures in implementing policies that contain procedural equity. The second section concludes with a look into the impact of climate change on water resources and ways to mitigate conflicts in water by employing equitable principles.

In the introduction, editors Helen Ingram, John M. Whiteley and Richard Warren Perry discuss past water policies, the emergence of equity and justice in water management, and the need for equity to be a part of future governance. The authors talk about the importance of water and its status as a basic human right as well as water policies based on an efficiency framework. Next, they discuss water in an equitable context, looking at the history of equity, considerations of varying uses of water, community perspectives, international boundaries, and equitable principles and remedying the distributional inequalities of water resources. Lastly, the authors discuss a water ethic and looking toward sustainability.

Chapter two is an essay by Thomas Clay Arnold entitled *The San Luis Valley and the Moral Economy of Water*. Arnold defines the moral economy of water as the principles that Westerners use to inform their decisions in water practices, developments, or policies. Arnold argues the moral economy helps clarify social, political, and cultural factors as communities face growing pressures to transfer water resources to urban areas. Arnold weaves the moral economy into the story of the San Luis Valley in Colorado, illustrating the success of smaller commissions and communities in preventing large-scale transfers that would negatively affect the community's stakeholders.

The next essay, by Sheldon Kamieniecki and Amy Below, entitled *Ethical Issues in Storm Water Policy Implementation: Disparities in Financial Burdens and Overall Benefits*, discusses the need to implement equitable policies that address the diffuse nature of storm water and run-off. The essay's authors discuss storm water by studying how the more affluent communities along the Southern California coast benefit from policies upland and inland communities must implement to ensure clean water enters the ocean. The result is inequitable because the lower-income communities must pay for the benefits the coastal communities reap. The authors suggest a collaborative effort and a progressive cost sharing system to ensure there are equitable policies in place to address water quality in storm water and run off.

Equity and Water in Mexico's Changing Institutional Landscape, by Margaret Wilder, scrutinizes the reforms in Mexican water law and the success and failures of the water policies Mexico implemented in 1989. Wilder argues that, although the reforms have benefited communities in terms of political equality, such beneficial gains are discordant with the negative impacts the reforms have on economic equity, especially in the marginalized sections of Mexico. Wilder first discusses the water reform program and background. Next, she dives into the equitable implications of the reforms by evaluating three facets of the reforms: urban areas, river basin councils, and irrigation districts.

In discussing urban areas, Wilder concludes that the recent decentralization of water management in urban areas has provided some gains in political equity; however, she notes that the new water man-

agement strategies have not solved many equitable issues in water due to the lack of capital to manage and operate delivery systems. As such, communities without financial resources have to look to the private sector, which will lead to higher tariffs in poorer communities.

The network of twenty-five river basin councils also brings up both positive and negative aspects of water equity in Mexico. Wilder explains that the presence of the councils presents facets of political equity. Yet, representative members of the councils do not represent the water users in proportion to the amount of water used nor do they represent the poorer communities. Thus, although the councils represent strides in political equity, the participation strategies should be modified to allow for more equitable representation of marginalized groups.

In terms of political equity, Wilder argues the transfer of water management from the federal government to irrigation districts presents the greatest strides in political equity. Still, declines in economic equity due to free trade agreements and water markets decrease economic equity of water users in Mexico, effectively offsetting any gains in political equity.

Next, Stephen P. Mumme evaluates the evolution of equity in managing water along the United States–Mexico Border in his essay *From Equitable Utilization to Sustainable Development: Advancing Equity in U.S.-Mexico Border Water Management*. Mumme argues more equity in border water management is necessary for future binational cooperation as well as sustainable development of the border region. The essay begins by discussing the history behind dividing the Rio Grande and the Colorado River between the two nations. Mumme then looks at the U.S.-Mexico water treaty of 1944, the salinity crisis of the 1960s, and sustainable development theories to illustrate how the nations evolved to include equity and cooperation when managing their shared water resources. Mumme also explores how equitable principles transitioned from utilization and quantity to a more social context, including water quality and sustainable development. However, like the emergence of the salinity crisis, the All-American Canal is demonstrative of a more asymmetrical equity, favoring water users in the U.S. over Mexican water interests.

Part One closes on the opposite side of the U.S., with Paul W. Hirt's essay *Developing a Plentiful Resource: Transboundary Rivers in the Pacific Northwest* exploring the changing social, economical, and political landscape of water management where water is plentiful. Hirt's essay centers on key sources of conflicts in two rivers of the Pacific Northwest, the Columbia and the Fraser Rivers. Evaluating the two rivers allows Hirt to discuss the variations of water management policies as well as the evolution of river development in Canada and the United States. In this essay, Hirt explores equity in terms of competing interests along the rivers, be they Native American rights to traditional fishing grounds, logging, mining, or water used for power generation.

While the two rivers appeared to be on the same path of development, with mining, logging and over-fishing depleting the salmon populations, the two Nations reacted differently to the Great Depression, resulting in varying policies and conflicts on the rivers. Hirt concludes that the river policies and development has resulted in cyclical trends in both social values and ideological perceptions of the rivers. Still, Hirt maintains there must be an equitable balance between those who have benefited from the rivers' development and those who the development has marginalized.

Part Two, *Civic Engagement and Governance*, examines how water governance has fared or is faring in terms of equity. The sections discuss the track record water governance has in procedural equity as well as privatization and rationalization schemes. Additionally, Part Two discusses the transition between traditional and modern era water governance and the impact climate change will have on water policies and equity. The section ends with a look into the equity implications of current challenges in water resources.

In *The Global Water Crisis, Privatization, and the Bolivian Water War*, Madeline Baer discusses the how an inequitable water management policy leads to social unrest and political instability by exploring the water privatization policy in Cochabamba, Bolivia. In essence, the Bolivian government, with support from the World Bank, privatized the public water supply without input from local communities. The lack of public participation and transparency led to a successful revolution by the people due to increased water tariffs without an increase in water quality. Baer explores the dynamics of policy formation, both worldwide and by the World Bank, to argue that inequitable procedures in decision-making result in social unrest.

Ismael Vaccaro next provides a brief look into how national and international water policies in a nation can shape, directly or indirectly, local communities in *Modernizing Mountain Water: State, Industry, and Territory*. Vaccaro used the Valley of Lillet in the Catalan Pyrenees as a backdrop to explore how traditional communities evolve, from agrarian, to industrial, and now to a natural environment. First, Vaccaro explores the economic transformations to set up how water policies affected the economic and social growth in the Valley of Lillet. Second, Vaccaro discusses the evolution of water policies in Spain to show how modernization of water policies, from the rush to build dams for hydro-power to modern European Union regulations that emphasize sustainability, reflect the existing and past values of water in the Valley. Third, the essay presents the local ramifications of water policies, including the loss of farms and development of local communities advanced by industry. Lastly, the essay ties all of these facets together to discuss how water policies went from privatization to nationalization and, currently, back to a process of re-privatization. Vaccaro links equity into the evolution of water policies and the Valley of Lillet by dis-

cussing how the variations in policy and transformations of the Valley did not include equity in decision-making. Instead, the policies stemmed from concerns about efficiency, productivity and the individual. Vaccaro suggests a more holistic approach in developing policies that study how water policies, economic transformations and local consequences of both shape productivity and demographics.

In *Whose Water Is It Anyway? Water Management, Knowledge, and Equity in Northeast Brazil*, Maria Carmen Lemos raises issues on the availability of technological and scientific information to stakeholders in water management decision-making processes in Brazil. In Brazil, a new system of water management has emerged creating river basin councils that have led to broader societal participation. Even so, Lemos points to issues in equity because non-elite groups still feel excluded from the decision-making process, mainly because they feel the elite groups use technical knowledge as an instrument of authority over the smaller groups. Further, they find the information is not widely available nor easily accessible or understandable. As such, the new councils still do not provide an equitable voice to all groups in the river basin regarding the management of water resources.

The book concludes with *Water and Equity in a Changing Climate* by Helen Ingram, David Feldman, and John M. Whiteley. This essay differs from the rest because it is not a case study. Instead, the authors focus on climate change and alternatives in decision-making that include implementing equitable principles. The authors raise issues in water management in climate change, not just in context of drastic swings in weather patterns, but also water challenges facing new energy technologies on the horizon to combat climate change. Additionally, the authors discuss strategies to incorporate equitable principles in decision-making processes, including (1) covenants, (2) categorical imperatives, and (3) environmental stewardship and ethics. Through these strategies, the authors suggest a means to address the current and future challenges facing water resources to ensure future management policies are equitable.

Water, Place, & Equity brings together a series of case studies that successfully illustrate the need to have equitable principles in place to ensure the future of sustainable water resources. The essays provide a rubric in not only understanding why equity must be a part of the decision-making process, but provides possible ways to bring equity to the table during the process. The case studies provide invaluable lessons for policymakers.

Elizabeth Dawson