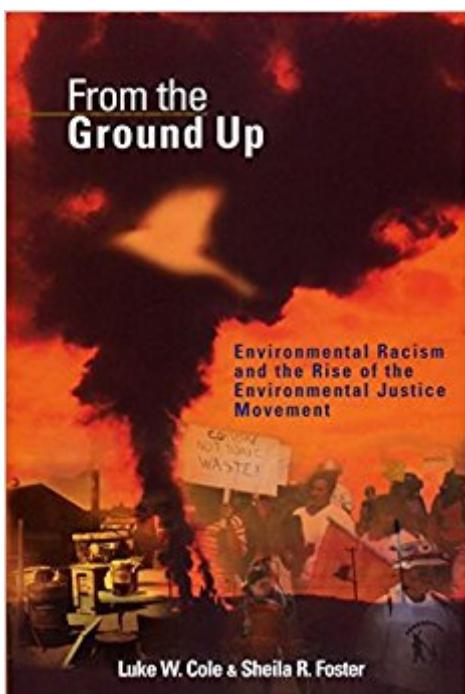


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From The Ground Up: Environmental Racism And The Rise Of The Environmental Justice Movement (Critical America)



Synopsis

When Bill Clinton signed an Executive Order on Environmental Justice in 1994, the phenomenon of environmental racism—the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards, particularly toxic waste dumps and polluting factories, on people of color and low-income communities—gained unprecedented recognition. Behind the President's signature, however, lies a remarkable tale of grassroots activism and political mobilization. Today, thousands of activists in hundreds of locales are fighting for their children, their communities, their quality of life, and their health. From the Ground Up critically examines one of the fastest growing social movements in the United States, the movement for environmental justice. Tracing the movement's roots, Luke Cole and Sheila Foster combine long-time activism with powerful storytelling to provide gripping case studies of communities across the U.S.—towns like Kettleman City, California; Chester, Pennsylvania; and Dilkon, Arizona—and their struggles against corporate polluters. The authors effectively use social, economic and legal analysis to illustrate the historical and contemporary causes for environmental racism. Environmental justice struggles, they demonstrate, transform individuals, communities, institutions and even the nation as a whole.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A fresh and lively treatise on the struggles of ordinary people who are making extraordinary contributions to the environmental and economic justice movement."-Robert D. Bullard, author of

Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality" They assess the effectiveness of the organizing tactics employed, casting particular scrutiny on the courts as agents of social change... The authors have presented concrete examples, all the while making clear that there are no road maps for successful organizing. -New York Law Journal "From the Ground Up presents the history of the environmental justice movement in the best possible way: through the retelling of the individual stories of local communities that have transformed the nation's environmental laws. Both descriptive and reflective, the book is wonderfully evocative of the passions that have maintained the environmental justice movement and that underlie its enormous promise for social change." -Richard Lazarus, Georgetown University Law School "Provides valuable and comprehensive analyses of the driving forces behind environmental injustices. Anyone wanting to know why an environmental justice movement has emerged in this country and what future direction it may take should read this book." -Paul Mohai, author of Black Environmentalism and Environmental Racism: Reviewing the Evidence "A thought-provoking analysis of how grassroots activism from people of color communities is transforming environmental politics. Such activism has brought an important infusion of energy and vision to the pursuit of environmental democracy." -Charles Lee, principal author of Toxic Waste and Race in the United States

Luke Cole is Director of the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation's Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment. Sheila Foster is Associate Professor at Rutgers University School of Law, Camden.

Although over 10 years old, this book is and will remain an important contribution to the field of environmental justice. It captures, with analytic rigor and a sense of being grounded in reality (and not theory), the struggle for healthy environments in many poor and minority communities. There are many books in the field that are quite good but this book will always be a classic.

I read this for an environmental psychology class and was quite glad that I chose this book from the list of options. It was not only informative but also an easy and entertaining read. If you are interested in environmental justice, this is a great introduction to the movement and also a great historical review.

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Unorganized and unclear thinking. The stories are round about and too many assumptions are made with little evidence. I would not recommend this book.

Anyone interested in community organizing, legal advocacy on behalf of community groups, and environmental justice work will benefit from this book's in-depth analysis of the struggles and achievements of neighborhood groups battling environmental injustice, and its valuable insights into community organizing strategies and the role of lawyers and the legal system in promoting social change. Although the authors fully acknowledge the prevalence of racism in our society and the lack of easy fixes to the problems faced by disadvantaged communities, they nevertheless convey an inspiring sense of idealism and optimism about the future possibilities for "the movement".

For those people who want a wide-ranging introduction to the environmental justice movement and its legal arm, this is the place to turn. Written by a movement lawyer activist and a legal academic, this book captures the social and legal evolution of the environmental justice movement in a way that highlights the work of the communities themselves. Vigorously written, the book would be worth the price just for the chapter on transformative politics and its comprehensive annotated bibliography. A must have.

I'm all for getting angry at injustice-- count me in! But when authors do so with such bias and such poor writing skills, I find myself getting angry at the authors, not the real enemy. Further adding to the problem was the issue of the authors writing about themselves in the third person, using such adjectives as "creative," "witty," etc. Save it for the resume, please. I understand that the issue of environmental justice is very heated, and why the authors only chose to tell their sides of the story. However, their language-- almost "he said she said" like, in a way-- turned me off so much that I struggled to read the chapters assigned for my class. I believe at one point they even referred to the other side as "evil." Fantastic, the other side probably is evil. However, writing such in a book that you want people to take seriously is really kind of strange. A few Google searches would do a better job of illuminating the issues behind environmental justice.

I also had to purchase this book for class. It was a very interesting book. I would recommend purchasing it on the Kindle.

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