

only to food production and rural livelihoods but also to conservation. The book is therefore an important read for conservationists who are invited to adopt a landscape matrix perspective and aim for better understanding of the socio-economic and political forces that influence land use. The paradigm proposed also challenges the industrial model of intensified agriculture that is once more being widely advocated as the best way to meet the food crisis. It is therefore also a valuable read for students and teachers of agriculture who are encouraged to show solidarity with the small farmers around the world in their struggle for food sovereignty.

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*Expl Agric.* (2010), volume 46 (3), © Cambridge University Press 2010

doi:10.1017/S0014479710000219

*River Basin Trajectories: Societies, Environments and Development.* Edited by F. Molle and P. Wester. Wallingford, UK: CABI (2009), pp. 311, £ 85.00. ISBN 978-1-84593-538-2.

Interdisciplinary studies at the river basin scale are now widely recognized as an invaluable tool in efforts to advance understanding of the complex interplay between human management of water and its repercussions for the environment and society. This book presents 11 comprehensive case studies focusing on governance and management issues in river basins as diverse as the Yellow River in China and Wadi Merguellil in Tunisia. The case studies cover rivers in five continents, with Europe a conspicuous standout, and it is surprising that most of the rivers selected are not international trans-boundary basins such as the much-studied Rhine, Danube, Nile and Mekong. Nevertheless, those from the USA, China, Mexico, India and Australia consider the complex governance interplay between the central and state or provincial arms of government.

An opening chapter by the editors effectively draws together the various threads, highlighting the effects of overinvestment in dams and diversions, over-allocation of water, the consequential environmental impacts and ultimately the risk of basin closure. While the book uncovers no easy fixes, the case studies review a wide range of governance and political models from which river basin organizations could draw in their efforts to cope with the 'wicked' [sic] water problems confronting them.

The book is generally well written and presented, although several of the figures would have benefited from colour printing. However, as volume 8 in the Series Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture, it maintains the high standard of scholarship set by the International Water Management Institute.

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*Expl Agric.* (2010), volume 46 (3), © Cambridge University Press 2010

doi:10.1017/S0014479710000220

*Climate Change: the Science, Impacts and Solutions.* By A. B. Pittock. London: Earthscan (2009), pp. 350, £19.99 (paperback). ISBN 978-1-84407-648-2.

This book updates a 2005 volume by this Australian author (*Climate Change: Turning up the Heat*), so it covers the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Reports, the Stern Review (2008), recent shifts in the 'greenhouse' policies of the USA, Australia and China, and the global economic downturn (2008–10). In one volume, the author presents a comprehensive and readable analysis of most aspects of climate change.

The first section presents evidence for recent accelerated global warming and its possible causes. The author, a major contributor to all four IPCC reports, has clear views on climate change, but he still addresses the doubts and scepticism of 'contrarians'. The text then turns to forecasting future greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations, temperature and sea-level rises, with an assessment of likely impacts this century. Most climate models show wide ranges in their predicted outcomes, but the text includes a useful discussion of risks, uncertainty and the 'precautionary principle'. The author concludes that action is needed urgently to limit the damaging effects of climate change, whilst recognizing the long time lags before GHG concentrations stabilize or even fall. The final chapters cover the political aspects of mitigation measures in terms of equity, both within and between countries, and the book ends with the author's statement of the targets, policies and actions needed to reduce emissions to 'safe' levels.