

The second problem noted above is a bit more apparent in this volume. It focuses largely on Canada, which is understandable given that all three editors are Canadian (albeit living in different provinces). While this in no way detracts from the quality of the writing or of the message, it would have been useful to include more detailed discussion of experiences in Australia (for example), where demand-side management has been in place for many years.

Who should read this book? Unlike most edited volumes, *Making the Most of the Water We Have* stands as a complete volume with good connections between the chapters. Rather than pick and choose among the chapters that one finds most interesting, it is a book that has a consistent storyline from beginning to end. The potential audience is, I believe, quite wide, from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on water issues, to state, provincial and federal officials, to educators at almost any level. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in more effective approaches to water resource management. In my mind, this includes *everyone*. As I am sure the editors will agree, my hope is that it spawns further work on soft water paths so that this approach will soon be central to the water resource-management planning process in all countries.

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Non-Governmental Organisations and Development

Routledge Perspectives on Development (Series)

David Lewis & Nazneen Kanji

Routledge, New York, NY, 2009

The actors considered in mainstream neoclassical economics are ‘consumers’ and ‘firms’, while policies and regulations are channelled through the ‘state’. Organizations that cannot easily be described as profit-maximizing firms are absent from this model. However, in a modern economy there are many organizations that emphasize various kinds of non-monetary (rather than monetary) performance, for example some of those engaged in development work and ‘development assistance’. The latter category of organization has been described as non-governmental, a term used in the United Nations charter from 1945. In this book by David Lewis and Nazneen Kanji we learn that there are thousands of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) globally and that a considerable part of development assistance is channelled through NGOs. In recent years this way of describing organizations in negative terms as ‘non-governmental’ has been challenged. The ‘civil society organization (CSO)’ has been suggested as an alternative term with more positive connotations. Lewis and Kanji mainly use the term ‘NGO’ and discuss the roles played by NGOs in the development discourse, but they also discuss how the concepts of NGO and CSO relate to each other.

Lewis and Kanji point to the diversity of NGOs and argue that it is not very meaningful to attempt general statements about this category of organizations. Instead, they suggest that each NGO has its specific history and recommend case studies as a way of learning about similarities and differences between NGOs. When compared with business

corporations or firms, it is clear that the mission of an NGO in many cases is primarily of a non-monetary kind.

The authors emphasize three roles for NGOs. One is as an 'implementer' or service provider. Development assistance efforts by national governments can be more successful if some funds are channelled through NGOs. A second role is as a 'catalyst', which includes advocacy and lobbying. Actors connected with NGOs are often more sensitive to local needs in developing countries. As producers of relevant information and knowledge, they can influence ideas of progress. A third role is to influence development through 'partnerships' with other actors. A development agency can cooperate with an NGO (or a business corporation with an NGO) with the purpose of attaining development goals.

One way of summarizing this is to argue that for a living democracy reference to firms and consumers (as in neoclassical economics models) is not enough. There is a need also for NGOs and individuals as members of civil society. But also NGOs need to be scrutinized. An NGO may certainly improve its resource positions by cooperating with the state, but this may also lead to co-option and that the NGO loses its critical role, profile and elements of its identity.

Specific NGOs may emphasize one of the roles mentioned or be active in relation to a mixture of roles. For Greenpeace the advocacy role is important as for human rights NGOs. Some organizations are essentially service providers in complex emergency situations, e.g. the Red Cross. Other NGOs may emphasize a role as 'watch dog'. In this book by Lewis and Kanji we learn that many NGOs have their central offices in Western countries, but that there are also cases of headquarters in so-called developing countries, one example being the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) in Dhaka.

In one chapter civil society and CSOs are discussed. Civil society is presented as a 'contested concept', i.e. a concept with more than one interpretation. There is a tendency, however, to see civil society actors (individuals and organizations) in political terms and point to their roles in strengthening democracy. Many NGOs can at the same time be regarded as CSOs, but civil society tends to be seen as a broader concept including individuals as well as collectivities, such as social movements.

The book is written as a many-sided or multifaceted textbook with boxes dealing with specific NGOs in different parts of the world. The existing literature of a theoretical and practical kind is well covered, and the authors point to different perspectives that can be applied. The dominance of neo-liberalism and structural adjustment policies in the 1980s and early 1990s is discussed, as is the more recent questioning of this policy.

The authors present arguments and counter-arguments as part of an ambition to be scientific and they wish, it appears, at least in part, to stand outside politics. Since development issues are necessarily ideological and political, I would have liked to learn a bit more about their political position. Do they think that one perspective or view is as good as another, or are they ready to point in specific directions concerning sustainable development, for example? At one place the authors point to Fukuyama's article on 'The End of History' (1990) as 'famous', suggesting that it should be taken seriously. The article is certainly 'well known', but it has, as I see it, as part of other neo-liberal advocacy, played a destructive role in relation to normal ideas of democracy and sustainable development. Another thing I see as missing is the role of mainstream neoclassical economics in making neo-liberalism legitimate. The monopoly position of neoclassical theory and ideology at university departments of economics in different parts of the world is a problem that we have to deal with since it has a destructive impact on

development theory and practice. Only pluralism in economics education is compatible with democracy.

The textbook nature of this publication is evident from the fact that each chapter is followed by ‘discussion questions’, suggestions for ‘further reading’ and ‘useful websites’. There are 50 boxes informing the reader about specific NGOs or NGO activities. Sometimes one has a feeling that this is a handbook rather than a book that can be read easily from beginning to end. It should also be made clear that the book, although global in scope, in many ways reflects a UK perspective.

Having said this, I am convinced that Lewis and Kanji give an excellent overview of the actual and potential roles of NGOs in relation to development. There are many reasons to continue research and education in this field. One possibility is to focus on NGOs active in specific fields, such as water management. Perhaps even research institutes should then be included among organizations with non-monetary missions. Is it appropriate, for example, to describe the Third World Centre for Water Management as an NGO (or a CSO)? What about universities or scientific journals? Should we understand them as NGOs and firms, respectively? Or should we use some other vocabulary?

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The World Bank Policy for Projects on International Waterways: An Historical and Legal Analysis

Law, Justice and Development (Series) Salman M. A. Salman

Leiden, Martinus Nijhoff and Washington, DC, The World Bank, 2009

In 2009, the Legal Vice-Presidency of The World Bank and Martinus Nijhoff published, under separate hard and soft covers, a book of significant value. Authored by Dr Salman M. A. Salman, a prominent water law expert, this book seeks to facilitate the understanding of the bank’s policy applicable to the development projects it finances on international waterways (rivers, lakes, groundwater shared by more than one country), and to clarify its role and efforts in promoting cooperative arrangements amongst countries for the efficient utilization and management of such waterways.

Indeed, as highlighted in the book itself (on p. xi), about 15% of the bank’s annual lending programme is for water supply, irrigation and hydropower projects, most of which affect waterways that are considered international. And, as such, from the very early years of its operations, the bank had to face a delicate and complex challenge vis-à-vis this type of projects, which actually forced it to think through, and design, a process that would allow it to continue getting involved in the development of its clients, while, in the mean time, ensuring a balance in the interests of all the upper as well as the lower riparian countries. It is a formidable challenge compounded by the dearth, as well as ambiguity, of norms of international law in the field.