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Inequality, Democracy, and the Environment

Liam Downey

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Publication AwardThe world currently faces several severe social and environmental crises, including economic underdevelopment, widespread poverty and hunger, lack of safe drinking water for one-sixth of the worlds population, deforestation, rapidly increasing levels of pollution and waste, dramatic declines in soil fertility and biodiversity, and global warming. Inequality, Democracy, and the Environment sheds light on the structural causes of these and other social and environmental crises, highlighting in particular the key role that elite-controlled organizations, institutions, and networks play in creating these crises.

Downey presents important perspectives about inequality, militarism, and democracy. This important addition to the environment sociology literature should promote serious consideration of the macrostructuralist approach to social problems in general.-CHOICEAbout the AuthorLiam Downey is Associate Professor of Sociology and Faculty Associate for Environmental Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder.