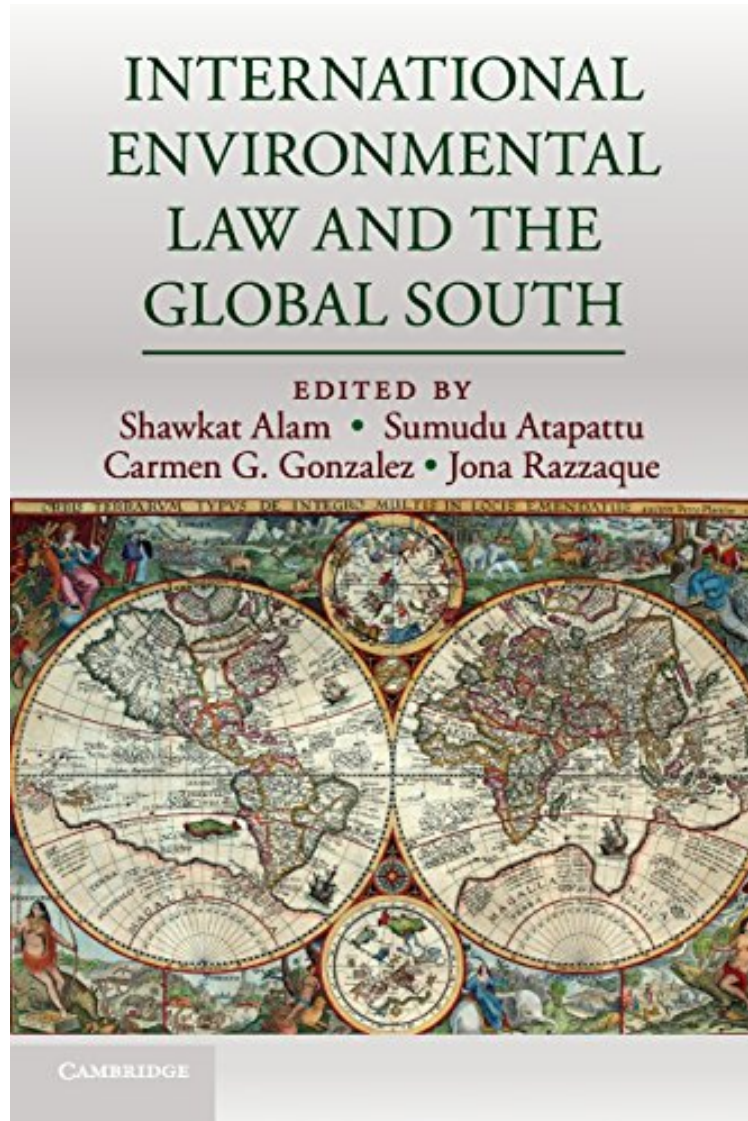


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International Environmental Law and the Global South

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The unprecedented degradation of the planet's vital ecosystems is among the most pressing issues confronting the

international community. Despite the proliferation of legal instruments to combat environmental problems, conflicts between rich and poor nations (the North-South divide) have compromised international environmental law, leading to deadlocks in environmental treaty negotiations and noncompliance with existing agreements. This volume examines both the historical origins of the North-South divide in European colonialism as well as its contemporary manifestations in a range of issues including food justice, energy justice, indigenous rights, trade, investment, extractive industries, human rights, land grabs, hazardous waste, and climate change. Born out of the recognition that global inequality and profligate consumerism present threats to a sustainable planet, this book makes a unique contribution to international environmental law by emphasizing the priorities and perspectives of the global South.

"This is a richly superb book. It is the first systematic exploration of the closely entwined relationship between environmental, economic and human rights issues in a North-South context. It adopts a historical and critical approach and authoritatively moves discussions of international environmental law and policy beyond a state-centric framework. It gives voice to perspectives and issues from the global South including the challenges of accountability of non-state actors and addresses how these challenges could be resolved. In short, it is one of the most important new contributions to international environmental law and policy scholarship in the last few decades." James T. Gathii, Wing-Tat Lee Chair in International Law, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

"International law has historically excluded the perspectives and insights of large segments of humanity. *International Environmental Law and the Global South* breaks new ground by analyzing international environmental law through the lens of North-South politics and groups on the margins. It will give inspiration and courage to those working in international environmental law and related fields to achieve a more just and sustainable society." Hilary Charlesworth, Professor and Director, Centre for International Governance and Justice, Regulatory Institutions Network, Australian National University

"*International Environmental Law and the Global South* offers a rich fare of themes and contributors ... The focus on the global South is extremely important, even as the Anthropocene era affects us all. The phenomenon of 'disappearing states' is poignant for the South as are problems of rehabilitation and compensation being recently addressed by the community of states. So are the links between trade and sustainable development and issues of green governance. The emphasis on environmental justice and vulnerable groups is particularly valuable in this context ... Given the eminence of the editors and contributors, this work will be indispensable for policymakers at all levels, students, scholars and the enlightened publics in the global South particularly but it would be an error to think that it has no messages generally for us all wherever situated." Upendra Baxi, Professor of Law in Development Emeritus, University of Warwick, and Professor of Law Emeritus, University of Delhi

"Conflicts between North and South threaten a permanent derailment of actions necessary to provide for global environmental wellbeing. This path-breaking collection of essays aims to build bridges, by helping us to understand the concerns of the peoples and states of the global South. This vital book should be mandatory reading for international law scholars, students and policy-makers at a time of real challenge." Philippe Sands, Professor of Law and Director, Centre for International Courts and Tribunals, University College London

"The pity is, of course, that this book is needed. But, with wisdom and imagination, editors Alam, Atapattu, Gonzalez, and Razzaque have more than filled the knowledge gap. A much-needed and thought-provoking corrective to the omissions and falsehoods propagated by the global North. A must-read for environmental and human rights scholars, policy-makers, treaty negotiators, and international law and policy enthusiasts generally - North and South." Burns H. Weston, Bessie Dutton Murray Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus, and Founder/Senior Scholar, Center for Human Rights, University of Iowa

"This book will be of great value for all interested in international environmental law, both scholars and practitioners. This comprehensive study of South-North relationships fills a significant gap in the existing literature by reconceptualizing international environmental law from developing countries' perspectives." Maglosia Fitzmaurice, Queen Mary University of London

"What is perhaps most powerful about the book is that its problematization of the contentions and divide between the North and the South, the analysis of its contemporary manifestations, and the proposals for addressing the gaps, are achieved, not at some high level of abstraction, but through practical and real-life accounts that recognize the day-to-day realities of international law-making." *Leiden Journal of International Law*

About the Author
Shawkat Alam is an Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for Environmental Law at Macquarie University, Sydney. An expert on international environmental law, he is the author of *Sustainable Development and Free Trade* (2008).
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