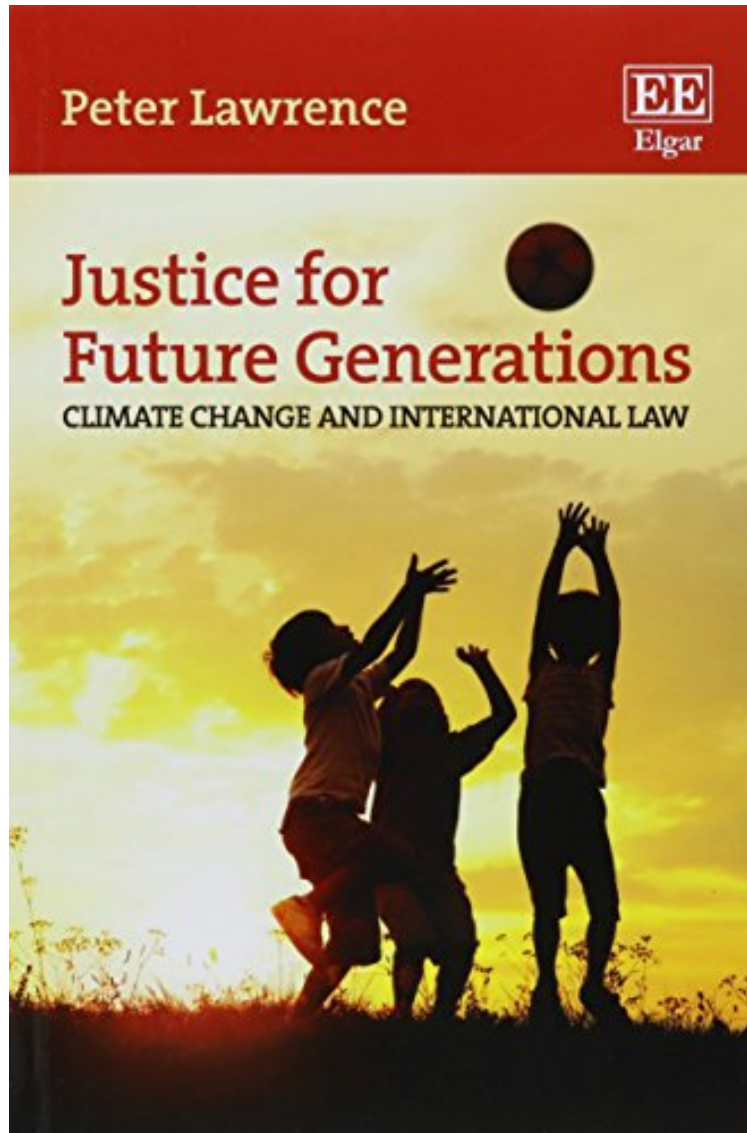


Justice for Future Generations: Climate Change and International Law

Peter Lawrence

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Peter Lawrence : Justice for Future Generations: Climate Change and International Law before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Justice for Future Generations: Climate Change and International Law:

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GROUND ON THE ETHICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE THREAT: A NEW TREATISE OF INTEREST TO ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERS An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers
What does our present generation owe to generations yet unborn in the matter of climate change? Obviously there is no simple answer. Nonetheless author Peter Lawrence, a senior law lecturer based in Tasmania, has taken this question on board together with all or most of the resulting legal issues. His thought provoking treatise, published by Edward Elgar, discusses and examines the threat of climate change and the ethical obligations that we might conceivably owe to future generations in addressing this threat. Lawrence's interdisciplinary approach to this issue involves discourse theory, international relations theory and concepts of ethics and justice. His basic argument is that, in his words, climate change raises acute issues of justice between generations largely because future generations who did not create the problem. The overarching question that informs this book centres on what justice requires of the current generation to safeguard the environmental welfare of future generations -- and also how such obligations should be reflected in international law. Environmental lawyers especially, will find this book useful in assisting them in supporting (or countering) arguments that, for example, inform certain assumptions which the author shares with most environmentalists; one being that climate change is anthropogenic, i.e. caused by human activities that have been shown to be harmful to the environment. The book covers these and related topics quite comprehensively. Following the introduction on the problem of climate change and solutions, the book is divided logically into three parts, with Part I focusing on justice and ethics in the context of climate change and the content of justice-based obligations. Part II examines international law and politics, a broad area to say the least, which encompasses, for example, international human rights law and intergenerational justice in the context of climate change. Part III discusses the way forward in incorporating intergenerational justice principles into international climate law. The author arrives, at least in part, at the rather bleak conclusion that it is difficult but possible to implement justice principles to safeguard the welfare of future generations in a workable global treaty. One look at the Table of International Instruments contained in the book will certainly remind readers of the number of agreements and conventions -- including the Kyoto and Montreal Protocols -- that have not exactly been met with unbounded enthusiasm internationally. Nonetheless, the author strongly advocates the creation of a robust international framework of law to address the problems of climate change, as justice for future generations depends on it. Those interested in, or affected by environmental issues (and aren't we all?) should seek out this book. Researchers and policy makers in particular will be pleased, not to mention amazed, by the impressive bibliography of over twenty pages with its wealth of useful references. The law is stated as current as of 1 September 2013.

'Peter Lawrence's book is an original and intellectually stimulating publication which raises complex questions of intergenerational equity and climate change. Both issues have been discussed separately in several important works but this book brings them together with fascinating results. Unlike many purely philosophical approaches, this monograph offers practical solutions based on the conclusion of a global treaty. Lawrence suggests difficult but workable solutions, based on ethical, legal and economic considerations, such as how a treaty would reconcile the long-term interests of developed and developing countries. Effective international law rules addressing climate change are fundamental for both humanity and global ecology and as Lawrence argues in his important book building agreement on what justice means in this context is an essential part of the task.' - Malgosia Fitzmaurice, Queen Mary University of London, UK
'This is an extraordinary book that tackles the requirement, as laid down in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, to save our climate for future generations. By approaching this requirement from various angles (international law, human rights, ethics, economics, etc.), Lawrence achieved a unique result: he succeeded in turning a vague aspirational norm into concrete actions that need to be taken by us today.' - Jonathan Verschuuren, Tilburg Sustainability Center and Tilburg Law School, The Netherlands
Justice for Future Generations breaks new ground by discussing what ethical obligations current generations have towards future generations in addressing the threat of climate change and how such obligations should be embodied in international law. Peter Lawrence uses an interdisciplinary approach, involving discourse theory, international relations theory, and philosophical concepts of ethics and justice to inform discussion of international law. Recent political science theories are used to show why the current global climate change treaties are so weak in addressing intergenerational justice concerns. The book draws on contemporary theories of justice to develop a number of principles used to critique the existing global climate change treaties. These principles are also used as a blueprint for suggestions on how to develop a much-needed global treaty on climate change. The approach is pragmatic in that the justice-ethics argument rests on widely shared values. Moreover, the book is informed by the author's extensive experience in the negotiation of global environmental treaties as an Australian diplomat. With its interdisciplinary approach and focus on intergenerational justice, this detailed study will be of particular interest to academics and policymakers in international environmental law and climate law, as well as to those in international law with an interest in ethics and justice issues.

Those interested in, or affected by environmental issues (and aren't we all?) should seek out this book. Researchers and policy makers in particular will be pleased, not to mention amazed, by the impressive bibliography of over twenty

pages with its wealth of useful references. --- Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor, *The Barrister Magazine* About the Author Peter Lawrence, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania, Australia