adoption of international law into Dutch and US domestic jurisdictions and the standing of people to bring environmental proceedings in the European Court of Justice. In the latter piece, Hay is heavily technical, but highlights the way in which policy-making accountability has been limited in the European Union because of its institutional framework. Ultimately, the volume hints at the important insight that institutional and policy culture conditions differ between the European Union and the United States, but does not develop this theme significantly.

Harvard University

Alastair Iles


Andersen and Liefferink's edited volume takes a different approach to comparative environmental policy studies. It looks at how domestic environmental policies and activities in six specific countries (Sweden, Austria, Finland, Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark and Norway) have affected environmental politics at the European Union level. Following Robert Putnam's theory, environmental policy-making in the EU is viewed as a reciprocal two-level game in which activities, actors and politics in domestic and EU arenas affect each other. Governments at times need to build domestic political support to enable a regional agreement to be reached, and at other times they need to use regional policy-making as a way to put pressure on domestic constituencies.

Most analyses of EU policy-making tend to downplay domestic politics, and the volume provides glimpses of how to connect European and national politics, though it does not quite realize its promise. The introduction usefully outlines the key variables involved in EU and national policy-making, and explores the strategies followed by the specific countries studied in the EU in terms of pushers, forerunners and followers.

Individual chapters cover each of the seven countries in the study. These countries have acted as catalysts at various times in European environmental policy, either by developing innovative domestic policies or by pushing other EU members to adopt policies. Each chapter author is an expert on his or her country's environmental policy. Since little readily available material exists on Finland and Austria, these particular chapters help fill the literature gap. The chapters collectively focus on the environmental problems and policies, institutions, political context, key actors, foreign environmental policies and participation in the EU of each country. Different chapters have varying emphases, and sometimes do not treat national policy-making styles explicitly.

The countries differ in their strategies and influence on EU policy-making, and the volume effectively highlights this complexity. Nonetheless, the chapters offer only a broad overview of developments in each country. They are not as incisive as they could have been. However, Pehle makes the interesting observation that Germany is likely to become less prominent in driving European environmental policy because of its enduring technological frame.

This volume adds to the scholarship that reveals the differences between countries in their environmental situation and history, institutions, policy culture and participation in regional and international political systems. Unlike most other works, it targets the dynamic interaction between EU and national politics, and therefore points the way to new research directions.

Harvard University

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This very informative book, edited and authored by distinguished academics, high-ranking European Union officials and senior diplomats is a mine of historical information.