Schleicher, K. (ed.): **Pollution Knows no Frontiers**. - Professors World Peace Academy, New York 1992. 334 pp.

The book begins with motto of Gregory Bateson "The major problems in the world are the results of the difference between the way nature works and the way man thinks". This idea confirms the reality that we are again at the brink of a global extinction crisis which is being set in motion by human activities. This human activities have changed the ecological equilibrium in a very short time indeed. Of course, environmental problems are not a new phenomenon, but they have always been a continuous concomitant of civilization.

In Part I of the book (Interdisciplinary Concepts and Tasks), examples are given as to why and how researches from Bulgaria and Poland, as well as from Hungary, England and Austria favour integrative and co-operative concepts to cope with transnational pollution effects while a colleague from Germany adds perspectives for a cost-benefit analysis.

Within the broad context Part II (Knowledge of Transnational Pollution) of the volume singles out certain pollutants as analyzed by the natural sciences, *i.e.*, to what extent specific pollutants travel across the borders and how they contamine air, water and soil. In addition to these well-established analyses, the chapter draws attention to the considerable danger of agro-chemical production in case of industrial accidents, to the poorly researched pollution problem at the microbiological level and to the possibilities of an eco-physiological monitoring system. For example, Z. Tuba and Z. Csintalan come back to the problem of air pollution, but now stressing the importance of monitoring systems. The authors point to the great possibilities of the bio-indication method, demanding European co-operation in using cryptogam species. Lichens and bryophytes are more valuable bioindicators in many respects, than Angiosperms.

All investigations have confirmed authors belief that the new cryptogam eco-physiological method is suitable for indicating various pollutants and other adverse environmental effects. The authors illustrate - in a case study for Hungary - the specific means in recording, measuring and evaluating the quality of environment through responses of living organisms. Since environmental capabilities of European countries are quite different, they encourage the development of a trans-European network.

Considering the before-mentioned environmental challanges, the question arises how avareness and competence of the public, of opinion leaders and decision makers can be elevated or supported. Accordingly, Part III (Educating for Ecological Action) discusses the need, possibilities and means to further ecological responsibility, *e.g.* via education, media and management training.

Part IV (Interdependence of Ideology, Politics and Ecology) points out that an effective pollution control needs as much critical expertise as careful analysis of the ideological context. Although pollution problems were largely denied in those days in East European countries and data collection was even prohibited, awareness of the problem was obvious to those who had the courage to mention it. The authors reflect in a rather considerate way, whether the overall adaptation of Eastern structures to Western market strategies is an optimal solution for environmental protection.

On the whole, environmental problems unmask man's limited ability to interrelate the social sphere harmoniously to the biosphere. Therefore, the book is useful not only for ecologists and scientists, but also for the people from the field with other life activities.

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