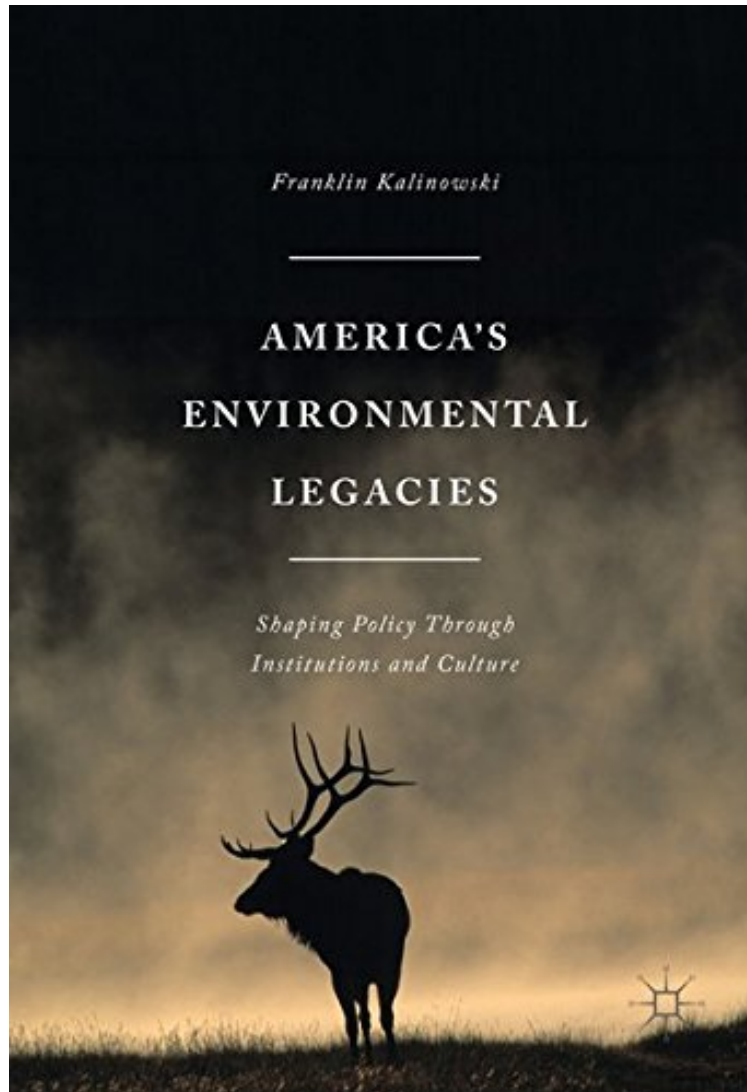


[Free read ebook] America's Environmental Legacies: Shaping Policy through Institutions and Culture

America's Environmental Legacies: Shaping Policy through Institutions and Culture

Franklin Kalinowski

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#4289752 in Books 2016-09-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.68 x .98 x 6.06l, .0 #File Name: 1349948977362 pages | File size: 40.Mb

Franklin Kalinowski : America's Environmental Legacies: Shaping Policy through Institutions and Culture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised America's Environmental Legacies: Shaping Policy through Institutions and Culture:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A stimulating analysis that draws on sophisticated thinking of founding fathers as well as contemporary perspectivesBy Frank T. ManheimFrank Kalinowski, a retired professor of environmental studies and political science at Warren Wilson Colleg has written a book that points up the dilemma

facing the U.S. Keep going the way we are going in terms of reliance on fossil fuels (and failing to provide commitment and stimulus to global movements to restrict greenhouse gases) and the earth and the United States face an unpleasantly warm future - Bill McKibben and especially Jim Hansen, the climate scientist who was the first to clearly signal that man-made global warming was here in a Senate hearing in 1988, note that sea level rise has accelerated beyond earlier projections because of sapping of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets. Miami will be one of the first major cities to go. However, those who regard global climate change as a hoax do have some legitimate concerns. Much of U.S. housing, transportation and electrical power remain built around fossil fuels. And the investments of the petroleum industries in fuel resources are huge. If these were suddenly restricted or devalued in favor of alternative energy sources the economic impacts would be devastating. This means that the nation faces a challenge that requires its best talents and more unified efforts to find resolutions. Unlike many political scientists who maintain interest in relatively narrow and often contemporary theoretical approaches, Kalinowski's analysis places importance on the US Constitution and the thinking of key founders whose writing he regards as sophisticated and potentially useful starting points for resolution of our dilemma. Kalinowski's writing is also free of social science jargon. Though his subject is necessarily complex the book can be recommended to nonspecialist readers seriously interested in environmental policy. The problem that causes me to give the book a four instead of five stars is that like most works by Americans, it has an America-centric focus and fails to give adequate attention to leaders in global climate change policy and performance, e.g. nations like Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, and Germany. Each of the foregoing nations also has robust industrial and manufacturing sectors and foreign trade surpluses: unlike the U.S. where environmentalists are locked in battle with industry, industry is a critical element both in maintaining the economic vitality to be able to afford intensive investment and research in renewable energy and related developments, but also in advanced technology and strategies involved in environmental advances.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Essential Reading
By William J Vitek
This is an important contribution to the literature. No one working in Environmental Studies or Political Science today combines the intellectual range, depth and good sense that Kalinowski brings to this book and to the issues that we face today. If we are to get past the same-old environmental fixes that simply are no match for the challenges we're up against, we will need to dig deeply into the American imagination and trace the roots and routes of our thinking. Kalinowski's book shows us the journey we've taken, and a path forward in a global world the Founders would not have been able to imagine.
Bill Vitek
Clarkson University

This powerful book focuses on the capacity of the American political system to respond to ecological challenges through policy perspectives, the constraints of our written Constitution, and the determination we must address these tests of national character. Put simply, this is a book about politics, policy, and political will. Kalinowski brilliantly shows that America's collective will is found in the cultural values enunciated by the Founding Fathers and passed down through history with modifications. It comprises the essential missing ingredient in determining how we currently respond to crises. Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison had distinct ideas concerning the role that Nature might play in the future. Recognizing the origins and impacts of their environmental legacies is the key to interpreting where American environmental politics is today, how we got here, and where we might be headed.

Jefferson famously encouraged every generation to reexamine The Constitution and the State to make them fit the times. Kalinowski has brilliantly done so for this generation. He has imaginatively and authoritatively reexamined Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton for this generation, as humanity faces ecological disaster and species extinction. This is truly a much-needed book for the times. - Richard Matthews, Distinguished University Professor, Political Science, Lehigh University, USA