

**The New Environmental Age.** Max Nicholson. Foreword by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987 (Paperback, 1989) Pp. xvii, 232. \$27.95.

The author is undoubtedly one of the most widely recognized and influential voices for environmental conservation, both in the United Kingdom and internationally. His more than four decades of dedication to this field have been fundamental to the "emergence of ecology and conservation from obscurity to become a major force in the modern world." As HRH Prince Philip has written in his foreword: "It is one thing to be conscious of the damage we are doing; it is quite another matter to understand how to repair the damage already done and how to limit further damage in the future." Nicholson has effectively accomplished both of these goals by considering the history of conservation and the results of its lack in the past as well as modern efforts towards the application of contemporary knowledge and the establishment of national and international institutions "seeking to avoid disaster by bringing together natural and human elements to function in balance in a blended, new global system, [since] natural environment is itself fast becoming a historical concept . . ."

Max Nicholson's writing is both personal and forthright, characterized by an unusual mastery of details from an extraordinarily wide background of sources and presented against a convincingly practical outlook. There is little in this book that could be called theoretical; every page assures the reader of personal and active involvement in one way or another stemming from his realization that the world can no longer afford to wait to control and rectify the condition into which humanity has put the natural world.

One of the hallmarks of this, Nicholson's second book (the first was *The Environmental Revolution*, in 1970), lies in his introducing the reader to the work of some of the agencies established to further various aspects of conservation and many of the individuals who have materially contributed to the success of the "new environmental age."

The breadth of coverage of the book is brought into relief by a review of the titles of the nine chapters: The Context of the Struggle; The Early Years of Environmental Conservation; Environmental Conservation Comes of Age; The Growth of Knowledge and Spread of Ideas; Organization and Resources of the Moment; Interactions; Pioneers of Conservation; an Appraisal of the Movement Today; and A Forward View.

Both the author and Cambridge University Press are to be congratulated and thanked for this most valuable contribution to the growing "environmental revolution."

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