Contents

Preface vii Chronology of Important Environmental Events xvii

1. Of Environmental Sociology and the Butterfly Effect 1

Why Sociology? 4
A Case of Conflict 6
The Truth Hurts 8

2. The Environment According to Sociology 10

A Sociological View of Environmental Issues 10 A Political Economy Perspective on the Environment 15

3. And Industry Shall Inherit the Earth 20

An Environmental Science Primer 20
Natural Resources 20
The Earth's Life Support System 22
The Fragile Apple 25
Economic Growth and Environmental Degradation
A Model of Industrial Production 27
The Mining Phase of the Production Process 2
The Transportation Phase of the Production

Process 30
The Manufacturing Phase of the Production
Process 30

The Waste Disposal Phase of the Production Process 32

Summary 36

4. Live Long and Prosper 37

The Functions of the Modern Capitalist State 37
Accumulation 39
Legitimization 42
The Dimensions of Corporate Power 46
The Growth Coalition 48
Summary 51

5. Keeping the Faith: Economic Growth and Environmental Exploitation 52

European Colonization and the Early United States 52
Progressive Conservationism 54
The Great Depression 57
World War II 60
Postwar America and the Military-Industrial
Complex 62
Summary 65

6. Rumblings from Below 67

National Environmental Lobbying Organizations 67
Description 70
Charges of Environmental Elitism 73
Portents of the New Plague 75
Love Canal 75
Three Mile Island 84
Summary 89

7. The Breaking of the Faith 91

Environmental Deregulation 91
Contaminated Communities and Environmental Grievances 96
Grievances in Industry-Contaminated Communities 96
Grievances in Military-Contaminated Communities 97
Environmental Racism 99
Summary 102

8. Environmental Injustices 103

Environmental Issues and Social Class Conflict 103
Grassroots versus National Environmental
Organizations 106
Typical Stages of Grassroots Environmental
Conflict 108
Emergence and Early Mobilization of Citizens 109
Appeal to Authorities 112
Litigation 113
Transformation and Evolution / Dissolution 114
Accomplishments by the Grassroots 114

9. In Search of Environmental Justice 116

Glossary 123
Selected Readings 129
List of Environmental Organizations 137
Index 141