



Ecology for Beginners

Stephen Croall

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Ecology for Beginners Details

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Author : Stephen Croall

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From Reader Review Ecology for Beginners for online ebook

Stephanie Schlim says

Everyone should read this book. It's easy to follow, comical, and eye-opening (or reassuring, if you already know these things). I only gave it 4 stars because it needs to be updated to the latest statistics, etc.

Zechy says

The author has the interesting talent of presenting ideas that I agree with, and yet making me want to disagree violently. Don't like his assumption of near messianic prescience, his apparent conviction that he knows the right way for everything and (almost) anyone who disagrees with him is selfish, if not malevolent. One thing to keep in mind is that this is quite an old book. I'd be very interested to know what the author thinks of the changes in industry and politics since he wrote this, and if/how that has changed his views at all.

Manzoid says

This is a comic-style ecology overview laced with wry british humor.

In one breath, here's an overview. It sketches a grand sweep of the rise of life, ecosystems, the rise and fall of civilizations, industrialism, colonialism/imperialism, overview of basic science, the arrogance of science with a touch of gender politics, the emptiness and excess of modern life (for those in 'developed' countries), loss of resources due to overutilisation/erosion/ desertification/monoculture agribusiness, concentration of control over production into a handful of giant corporations, the myth of food shortage, the deep/wide damage inflicted by unfettered capitalism, the myth that centralised control under soviet 'socialism' is different from centralised control under state-capitalism, Native American perspectives, the cross-disciplinary nature of ecology, including the necessarily social/political/economic nature of effective ecology, refutation of technology as a panacea, affirmation of technology's positive role in suggestion to work less & better, complex (interrelated) vs. complicated (incomprehensible/spinning out of control) systems, ecological planning & farming, recycling/sustainability, global solidarity against the 'world order', as exemplified by a broad spectrum of groups working for change.

Safura says

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Stephen says

This is a great series. I have read Einstein and Freud for Beginners in the past and picked up Ecology for Beginners awhile ago. This series is basically a tongue-in-cheek approach, verging on a graphic novel. Amazing illustrations and to the point way of explaining complexities of the environment. My only gripe may be that it was written in 1982, and therefore facts and figures are out of date. It would be great if an updated version comes out.
