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978-0-521-69614-2 - The Human Right to a Green Future: Environmental Rights and Intergenerational Justice

Richard P. Hiskes

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THE HUMAN RIGHT TO A GREEN FUTURE: ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AND INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE

This book presents an argument for environmental human rights as the basis of intergenerational environmental justice. It argues that the rights to clean air, water, and soil should be seen as the environmental human rights of both present and future generations. It presents several new conceptualizations central to the development of theories of both human rights and justice, including emergent human rights, reflexive reciprocity as the foundation of justice, and a communitarian foundation for human rights that both protects the rights of future generations and makes possible an international consensus on human rights – beginning with environmental human rights. In the process of making the case for environmental human rights, the book surveys and contributes to the entire field of human rights theory and environmental justice.

Richard P. Hiskes is Professor of Political Science and Senior Political Theorist at the University of Connecticut. He is the Editor of the *Journal of Human Rights* and Associate Director of the Human Rights Institute. He is the author or co-author of four other books, most recently of *Democracy, Risk, and Community: Technological Hazards and the Evolution of Liberalism* (1998). Professor Hiskes has published works on a variety of topics within political theory, human rights theory, environmental ethics, and science and technology policy. He has published articles in many journals, including *Review of Politics*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *Human Rights Review*, *Hume Studies*, *Women and Politics*, *Policy Studies*, and others.

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RICHARD P. HISKES

University of Connecticut



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*For Anne D., Anne, and Ben,
in gratitude for
The Presence of the Past
and Future.*

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[More information](#)

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> ix
Introduction	1
1 Environmental Human Rights and Intergenerational Justice	5
2 Emergent Human Rights, Identity, Harms, and Duties	26
3 Reflexive Reciprocity and Intergenerational Environmental Justice	48
4 Cosmopolitan Ethics, Communal Reciprocity, and Global Environmentalism	69
5 Toward a Global Consensus on Environmental Human Rights	92
6 Human Rights as Inheritance: Instituting Intergenerational Environmental Justice	117
7 Conclusion: Environmental Justice and the Emergent Future of Human Rights	143
<i>References</i>	153
<i>Index</i>	161

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Acknowledgments

All books are, like this one, emergent products of the author's relationships with many others over the course of many years. It is never really possible to acknowledge all the intellectual debts one owes for what appears on subsequent pages, but here is where one attempts the impossible, always in the hope that important contributors are not excluded.

In a significant sense, this book is the product of the Human Rights Program at the University of Connecticut. Although little more than a decade old, the vibrancy, intellectual insight, and enthusiasm encountered daily in interchanges with students, faculty, and staff of the program have richly stimulated the research behind this book and many other current projects at the University. Director Richard A. Wilson, therefore, deserves special gratitude for all that he has accomplished in his short tenure. Thanks also to members of the University administration whose foresight, imagination, and support made the program a reality.

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audience members at the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, before whom I made the first public presentation of this project.

Several pieces of the following arguments were presented at the American Political Science Association annual meeting, and early versions of them appeared in *Human Rights Quarterly*, *Human Rights Review*, and *Public Affairs Quarterly*. I am grateful both to panel audiences and to anonymous reviewers for their contributions.

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