



Vanishing Borders: Protecting the Planet in the Age of Globalization

Hilary F. French

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A look at the profound implications of accelerating globalization for our planet's health, and a prescription for the action necessary to cope with this challenge.

Our world is shrinking fast: goods, money, microbes, pollution, people, and ideas are crossing borders with growing ease. National governments are ill-suited for tackling the problems that result, from climate change, to the soaring trade in limited resource commodities like timber, to the management of regional water supplies. Hilary French argues that the only long-term solution to our environmental problems is a worldwide commitment to strengthening the international treaties and institutions essential for integrating ecological considerations into the still-nascent rules of global commerce. More than two hundred international environmental treaties already exist, but few of them stipulate stringent commitments and effective enforcement; and institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization continue to view environmental protection as a peripheral concern. But at the same time, new communications technologies are making it possible for nongovernmental organizations to mobilize powerful coalitions of private citizens to press for change, and some forward-thinking businesses have begun to support environmental codes of conduct and other international standards. *Vanishing Borders* provides people concerned about the future of the planet with a clear plan of action for ensuring environmental stability in the wake of globalization. Charts, tables and graphs

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