

## THE ECOLOGY OF WAR AND PEACE

The connection between ecology and conflict has been the object of extensive study by political scientists and economists. From the contribution of natural resource ‘scarcity’ to violent unrest and armed conflict; to resource ‘abundance’ as an incentive for initiating and prolonging armed struggles; to dysfunctional resource management and environmental degradation as obstacles to peacebuilding, this literature has exerted a huge influence upon academic discussions and policy developments. While international law is often invoked as the solution to the socio-environmental challenges faced by conflict-affected countries, its relationship with the ecology of war and peace remains undertheorised. Drawing upon environmental justice perspectives and other theoretical traditions, the book unpacks and problematises some of the assumptions that underlie the legal field. Through an analysis of the practice of international courts, the UN Security Council, and Truth Commissions, it shows how international law silences and even normalises forms of structural and slow environmental violence.

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# The Ecology of War and Peace

MARGINALISING SLOW AND STRUCTURAL  
VIOLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

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fatti non foste a viver come bruti,  
ma per seguir virtute e canoscenza.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> D. Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy: Inferno*, Canto XXVI, also known as Ulysses’ Canto. ‘Consider ye the seed from which ye sprang: Ye were not made to live like unto brutes, But for pursuit of virtue and of knowledge.’



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