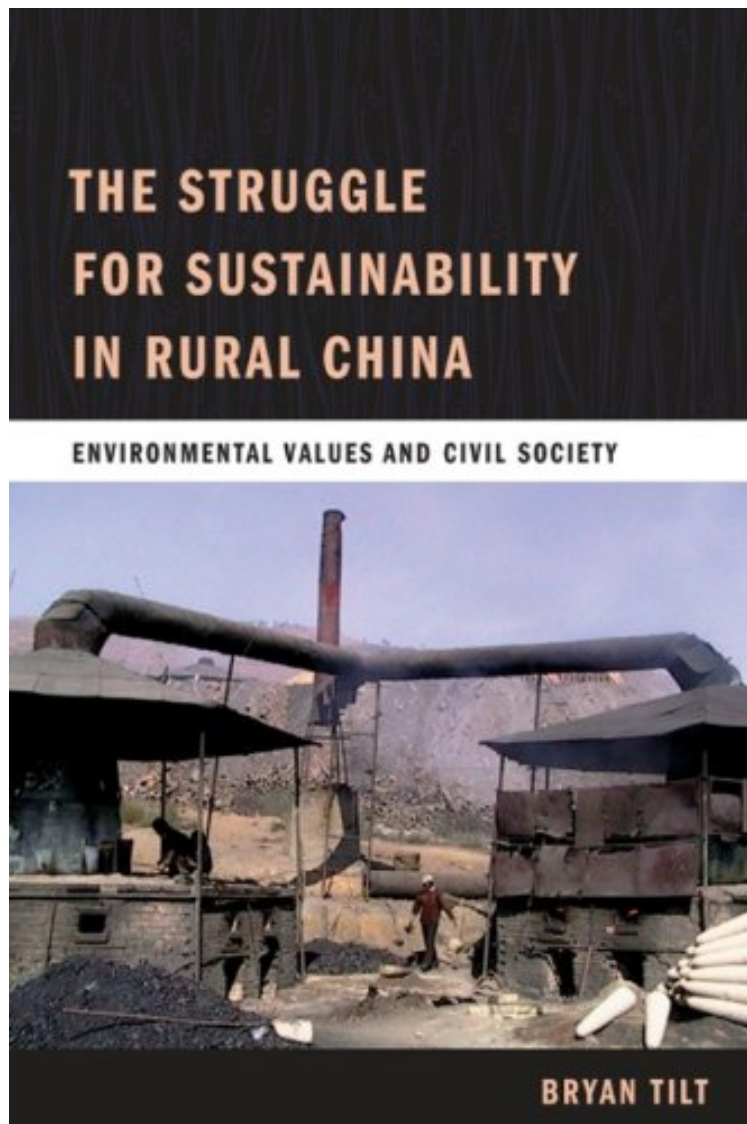


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The Struggle for Sustainability in Rural China: Environmental Values and Civil Society

Bryan Tilt

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Bryan Tilt : The Struggle for Sustainability in Rural China: Environmental Values and Civil Society before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Struggle for Sustainability in Rural China: Environmental Values and Civil Society:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book, somewhat easy read By Luke Campbell Bryan was a great professor; he knew his material and knew how to teach it to everyone in the class well. His book reflects his knowledge and love for the field of study. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Constantly Lending this

bookBy MaureenI was assigned this book for a comparative development class in grad school. I found it very interesting compared to other case studies in the field. It's one of those cases that sort of defies logic (shutting down polluting factories can lead to increased pollution) and also lets you in on some useful history/culture and analysis (role of rural factories, role of media in china, etc). I've lent this book multiple times to classmates and will replace it if it is not returned. It had a reserved place on my shelf.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent local studyBy E. N. AndersonThis book is an excellent study of the ways China's environmental devastation plays on the ground in a rural region. Tilt shows how awful the Maoist "struggle against nature" is in reality. This book provides valuable contexting for other, more broad and general work on the Chinese environment (books by Vaclav Smil, Elizabeth Economy, K. Abe and James Nickum, etc.). More important, it is part of the sobering answer to China-boosters like Thomas Friedman and Orville Schell. They live in a dream-world, accepting China's distorted "growth" figures and neglecting not only environmental costs but human rights issues, apparently thinking that economic growth can be sustained indefinitely in the absence of personal freedoms. Tilt's book, which is particularly balanced and cautious (not alarmist or extreme-environmentalist), is an ideal corrective.

Though China's economy is projected to become the world's largest within the next twenty years, industrial pollution threatens both the health of the country's citizens and the natural resources on which their economy depends. Capturing the consequences of this reality, Bryan Tilt conducts an in-depth, ethnographic study of Futian Township, a rural community reeling from pollution. The industrial township is located in the populous southwestern province of Sichuan. Three local factories—a zinc smelter, a coking plant, and a coal-washing plant—produce air and water pollution that far exceeds the standards set by the World Health Organization and China's Ministry of Environmental Protection. Interviewing state and company officials, factory workers, farmers, and scientists, Tilt shows how residents cope with this pollution and how they view its effects on health and economic growth. Striking at the heart of the community's environmental values, he explores the intersection between civil society and environmental policy, weighing the tradeoffs between protection and economic growth. Tilt ultimately finds that the residents are quite concerned about pollution, and he investigates the various strategies they use to fight it. His study unravels the complexity of sustainable development within a rapidly changing nation.

Tilt's remarkable... timely book, which offers a major contribution to the study of China and environmental governance in the developing world. (Anna Lora-Wainwright *The China Journal*)An interesting and illuminating book for scholars who wish to understand the present ecological situation in rural China and the daily conflict between values and actions that confront the local governments and citizens of China. (Li Ying *China Quarterly*)An important addition to environmental studies of China. (Yan Gao *H-Environment*)Struggle for Sustainability has something important to offer a wide audience...its manageable rendering of technical and scientific industrial production and pollution measurement reaches the nonenvironmental specialist; and its lucid prose and compelling ethnographic evidence have the potential to attract a lay readership beyond the environs of academia. (Jennifer Hubbert *American Anthropologist*) Bryan Tilt tackles the multifaceted nature of environmental conditions, crises, and responses. In this nuanced, detailed analysis, the reader is presented with a slice of history, life, problems, actions, and consequences. In short, Tilt's work is informative, engaging, and unique. (Barbara Rose Johnston, UNESCO-IHP advisor on water and cultural diversity, and senior research fellow, Center for Political Ecology)An excellent book that makes a very useful case study on the fundamental causes and effects of pollution in China. The volume provides a superb explanation of the root causes of China's incredible disregard for the natural environment as the country rapidly develops. (Steven Cohen, The Earth Institute at Columbia University)A timely book that provides an in-depth account of the environmental problems of a Chinese community in the early twenty-first century. Tilt's thorough and meticulous data gathering makes this book a unique and major benchmark study of China's environmental problem and its effect on a local community. It will remain valuable as a historic document. (Gene Anderson, University of California, Riverside)The first study that really lets us understand China's environmental issues from the ground up. Tilt reveals how environmental attitudes vary with social position and how policies vary from one level of government to the next. Above all, his ethnography shows us the sharp horns of China's environmental dilemma. (Robert P. Weller, Boston University)About the AuthorBryan Tilt is assistant professor of anthropology at Oregon State University. His research focuses on economic development and environmental protection in China, and he has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces.