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Environmental Securitisation in India and China

Edited by

**Joe Thomas Karackattu
Justin Joseph
Ramnath Reghunadhan**

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PREFACE

The twenty-first century has witnessed an unprecedented transformation in the way environmental issues are perceived and addressed. Coupled with an escalating climate crisis characterised by rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and the degradation of natural ecosystems, this has prompted a re-evaluation of traditional security paradigms. In this era of global challenges, the interplay between knowledge, governance, and the relations between states (and non-state actors, alike) has never been more critical. Scientists and policymakers agree that humanity is approaching unfamiliar and uncharted territory, where the implications of inaction could be disastrous. The increasing consensus that we are facing a climate emergency is a result of rising global temperatures and the increasing frequency of environmental challenges. In response, international organisations have started to define climate change as a security issue, highlighting the necessity of swift and concerted action under the SDGs. This book, *Environmental Securitisation in India and China*, explores the complex interplay between environmental challenges and security concerns in India and China, two of the world's most populous and rapidly developing economies. This book seeks to illuminate the intricate dynamics that shape our understanding of global environmental

policy, particularly in the context of environmental governance, security, and the evolving role of non-state actors.

The book brings together scholars, experts, and academicians to analyse environmental securitisation in India and China comprehensively. Through a multidisciplinary lens, the historical, political, and social contexts that shape diverse approaches to environmental challenges have been examined. The book is structured to facilitate a nuanced understanding of the various dimensions of environmental securitisation, including policy frameworks, institutional responses, and social changes. The contributions within this volume are a testament to the rich tapestry of thought that characterises contemporary scholarship in International Relations, which draws from a wide array of theoretical frameworks and empirical studies. With their contemporary and timeless ideas, the chapters tackle the most critical issues of our day. This book gives readers a thorough understanding of the complex subject of governance—covering everything from the effects of climate change on international security to the influence of epistemic communities on policy discourse. As we embark on this intellectual journey, we must acknowledge the diverse voices and perspectives that enrich this discourse, with the contributors to this volume hailing from various academic backgrounds, regions, and experiences. The insights serve as a reminder that no single discipline or perspective holds the key to understanding the complexities of our world. Instead, it is through collaboration and dialogue that we can forge new pathways collectively towards effective governance and sustainable solutions.

The book delves into the theoretical foundations of environmental securitisation, exploring key concepts and frameworks that inform the discourse. This grounding sets the stage for a deeper exploration of the specific cases of India and China. The subsequent sections of the book provide a detailed examination of the policies and initiatives undertaken by both countries in response to environmental challenges. The chapters highlight the role of government agencies, non-governmental organisations, and civil society in shaping environmental policy and action, exploring the impact of international agreements and collaborations on national strategies, and emphasising the importance of global

cooperation in addressing transboundary environmental issues. In an increasingly interconnected world, by examining the interactions between state and non-state actors, this book highlights the importance of inclusive governance and the need for collaborative approaches to address complex global issues. The contributions also reflect a growing recognition of the role of non-state actors in shaping environmental policy, especially the involvement of environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGOS), business groups, etc.

This creates interlinkages for diverse perspectives and innovative solutions, often challenging the status quo and advocating for marginalised voices. One of the central themes that emerges from the contributions is the urgent need for a paradigm shift in approaching environmental governance. As climate change continues to pose existential threats to ecosystems and human societies, traditional governance models are proving inadequate. The book calls for reimagining the relationship with the environment, emphasising the importance of sustainability, resilience, and social justice.

This shift requires innovative policy solutions and a fundamental change in the values and priorities of a global community. In addition to addressing environmental challenges, the book also explores the intersections of security and governance. The concept of security has evolved significantly in recent decades, expanding beyond traditional military concerns to encompass a broader range of issues, including human security, environmental security, and economic stability. The book engages with these evolving definitions and discourses of security, highlighting the need for holistic approaches that recognise the interconnectedness of various threats and vulnerabilities.

As we navigate the complexities of the twenty-first century, we must recognise that the solutions to our most pressing issues often lie at the intersection of diverse disciplines, perspectives, and practices. The challenges posed by climate change and environmental security are not confined to national borders; they are global issues that require collective action and innovative solutions. As the human civilisation stands at a critical juncture in history, the lessons drawn from the experiences of

India and China can inform our collective efforts to build a more resilient and sustainable future for all. This book serves as a timely contribution to the ongoing discourse on environmental securitisation, not merely as an academic exercise but as a call to action. The book offers valuable insights, and we hope that it can serve as a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and anyone interested in the intricate relationships between knowledge, governance, and International Relations.

The shortcomings remain entirely ours.

Chennai, India

Joe Thomas Karackattu
Justin Joseph
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ABOUT THIS BOOK

This book examines how emerging environmental challenges are situated within existing International Relations (IR) theoretical understandings of ‘security’. Although securitisation has been studied by various scholars, environmental securitisation in Global South polities (with case studies) still remains an under-researched area despite its increasing significance in earth system governance and planetary security. As governments in the Global South undertake policy interventions to mitigate the impact of increasing climatic changes and yearn to achieve human-nature harmony, one can observe similar patterns of responses chiefly due to ecology-economy dichotomy in these states and their societies. In this context, this book brings to the readers various aspects of theory and practice of state interventions in the form of environmental securitisation in the Global South majorly under four themes (encompassing theory and policy processes). The themes explicate connections between environment and International Relations theory, securitisation in developing countries, state society and the environment in India and China and lastly, public participation and environmental policymaking. The scholarship presents a comprehensive and coherent overview on the politics of securitisation in India and China, two prominent economies in the Global South. Faculty and researchers who work on non-Western International Relations theory and non-traditional security threats, policy practitioners and experts in environmental policymaking, students of IR and Comparative Politics, chiefly, will benefit from this book.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMRUT	Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ARAI	Automotive Research Association of India
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEZs	Advanced Social and Economic Development Zones
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CAN	Climate Action Network
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBDR	Common But Differentiated Responsibilities
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CND	China's National Defence in New Era
CNSC	Central National Security Commission
COP	Convention of Parties
COVID	Corona Virus Disease
CPC	Communist Party of China
CSCA	Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action
CSE	Centre for Science and Environment
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAS	East Asian Summit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessments
ETF	Ecological Task Force

EU	European Union
FC	Fuel Cells
FRA	Forests Rights Act
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Green House Gas
GIFT	Gujarat International Finance Tec-City
GNI	Green Nicobar Island
GRP	Gross Regional Product
HADR	Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
ICEs	Internal Combustion Engines
IDSAs	Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IR	International Relations
IRT	International Relations Theory
ISA	International Solar Alliance
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JNNURM	Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission
JST	Just Securitisation Theory
LED	Light-Emitting diode
LiFE	Lifestyle for Environment
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MW	Mega Watt
NAPCC	National Action Plan on Climate Change
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NC&RE	Non-Conventional & Renewable Energy
NDF	National Disaster Relief
NDRC	National Development and Reform Commission
NEV	New Energy Vehicles
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NIEO	New International Economic Order
NIH	National Institute of Hydrology
NISE	National Institute of Solar Energy
NITI Aayog	National Institution for Transforming India Aayog
NWDA	National Water Development Authority
PEMFC	Proton-Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell
PESA	Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas)
PMUY	Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna
PPP	Public Private Partnerships

PRC	People's Republic of China
R&D	Research and Development
SBA	Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
SCM	Smart City Mission
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEPA	State Environmental Protection Administration
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOFC	Solid Oxide Fuel Cell
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicles
STAR-C	Solar Technology Application Resource Centre
TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute
UAPA	Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act
ULB	Urban Local Bodies
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNPKOs	United Nations Peace Keeping Operations
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USD	United States Dollar
VVT	Vehicle and Vessel Tax
WEO	World Economic Outlook
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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PART I

Introduction



Environmental Securitisation in India and China: An Overview

*Justin Joseph , Joe Thomas Karackattu,
and Ramnath Reghunadhan*

Abstract Securitisation framework of the Copenhagen School in International Relations Theory has widely been applied to study policy processes aimed at environmental security, however, in the developed liberal democracies of the Global North. Non-Western polities such as India and China also attempt to securitise their environmental sector due to emerging

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