



Ken Conca, [Governing Water: Contentious Transnational Politics and Global Institution Building](#)
(Cambridge: MIT Press, 2006).

Governing Water examines how social and economic globalization are yielding informal but increasingly embedded sets of global rules for the governance of water, rivers, watersheds, and freshwater ecosystems around the world. The book contrasts institutionalization from four distinct sources: international river-basin diplomacy, expert water-policy networks, transnational activist networks, and neoliberal marketization. The book also examines the relative influence of these forces in two key cases of water-policy reform, Brazil and South Africa. Particular attention is given to the role of transnational political controversies, activism, and social conflicts around water as sources

of institutional development.

**** Winner of the 2006 Harold and Margaret Sprout Award for best book on international environmental affairs and the 2006 Chadwick Alger Prize for best book on international organization.**

“Scholars, students, practitioners, and all those who care about sustainable development, human security, and democratization should read this book.”

--Sanjeev Khagram, Lindenbergh Center for International Development, University of Washington; author of *Dams and Development*

“This is an outstanding contribution to the study of international environmental politics and world politics more generally.”

--Margaret Keck, Johns Hopkins University; author of *Activists Beyond Borders*

“Well-written and thought-provoking....It fills major gaps in IR theory, IWRM literature, and the discipline of environmental security...I sincerely believe that it will play a substantial role in placing the discipline of hydropolitics firmly on the IR research agenda.”

--Anthony Turton, African Waters International Research Unit, University of Pretoria

“Conca's study of water produces a compelling critique of prevailing modes of global governance and a hopeful exploration of a nonterritorialist, nonstatist, nonfunctionalist social ecology.”

--Jan Aart Scholte, Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, University of Warwick