Memo for a Saner World

B. Brown, 2004
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BOB Brown, the Australian Green's Party Senator, has been voted the "World's most inspiring politician". His political career has spanned two decades, during which he established both the Wilderness Society and the Australian Bush Heritage Fund. Senator Brown has also won several prestigious environmental awards. His stance on environmental ethics and human rights issues have led to assault, vilification and incarceration, but his voice has not wavered despite pressure from local and international sources.

Senator Brown's latest accomplishment is his inspiring new book "Memo for a Saner World" in which he describes personal moments in his life of activism. The book discusses his stance on environmental and human rights, providing both Australian and international examples of activism. The book's purpose is to provide the reader with an understanding of key issues regarding environmental ethics and provide accurate accounts of Senator Brown's political and public journey.

"Memo for a Saner World" provides the reader with environmental statistics, vivid description and justification of Senator Brown's activism through peaceful protests and environmental philosophy. Throughout the book, the Green Party is promoted as the complement to the more traditional two party political system. Comparisons are drawn between the push for economic growth, human injustice and materialism of the main parties to the Greens' underlying principles of social justice, peace and environmental ethics. Senator Brown places the blame for environmental destruction squarely at the feet of the market fundamentalists. The author does not presume to instruct the reader on correct management techniques, instead only describing the importance of natural places, the need for conservation and his struggle to promote this environmental philosophy.

Within each chapter, Brown narrates a different environmental crisis. He recounts, for example, the victory of the Franklin River blockade, threats to Antarctica, the decimation of Tasmanian old growth forests and the destruction of the Australian coast. However, the book does not cause a sense of despair within the reader, but rather a feeling of hope. Brown discusses the Green Party's increase in popularity among younger people, the gradual change in perception and the formation of a new environmental paradigm.

The book is aimed at readers who want to expand their political awareness and gain a clear understanding of the role of the environment in politics. Brown provides a personal recollection that makes the reader shake with outrage, cringe with shame and cheer with elation. I believe the book is a compelling addition to the environmental activism literature providing a crucial message of hope and optimism. I recommend the book to anyone who is concerned with the state of the environment and uncertain about the politics that govern its conservation.

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