

## Betrayal of Science and Reason. How Anti-environmental Rhetoric Threatens our Future

**P. R. Ehrlich and A. H. Ehrlich, 1996.**  
Island Press, Washington DC.  
Pp. x and 333. ISBN 1-55963-483-9.  
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*BETRAYAL of Science and Reason, How Anti-environmental Rhetoric Threatens our Future* is another excellent example of Paul and Anne Ehrlich's work opening doors to a sustainable future. *Betrayal of Science and Reason* explores current environmental problems and the importance of the scientific processes that assist in solving them. In doing this, an insight is gained into the sources and implications of anti-environmental rhetoric, providing the reader with means of understanding and refuting the fables that constitute brownlash.

Brownlash, or anti-environmental rhetoric, is an attempt to downplay the significance and importance of global environmental problems. It is a betrayal of science consisting of two forms. The first form is through efforts of undermining or misinterpreting environmental data. It involves the speaking of half-truths, outright lies or deliberately withholding information. The second form consists of scientists who refuse to participate in any environmental conflict at all. It is this form that is the most sinister. These scientists are not only betraying their science, but also betray every species on this planet by not becoming involved and contributing their knowledge.

Collectively the brownlash can be described as a political folly where the world's nations pursue on a course of irreversible environmental destruction, despite the knowledge and warnings of its consequences being readily available.

This anti-environmental rhetoric has significant adverse effects on conservation policy and legislature aiming to protect and restore environmental quality. With the extreme reluctance of many scientists to become involved in public debate, there has been an increase in the dismantling of conservation legislation. In *Betrayal of Science and Reason* the Ehrlich's lead the attack on anti-environmental rhetoric through scientific critique and discussion.

*Betrayal of Science and Reason* combats brownlash by encouraging scientists and the public alike to speak out on matters of social urgency, such as anti-environmental rhetoric. This will only be achieved through an understanding that this is the only environment we have, so we should start looking after it more efficiently, sooner rather than later.

I recommend this book to anyone who is rethinking the way we exploit our planet. It will relate to any member of the public who is interested in the state of our environment, but is confused with the huge array of contradicting assertions and stories. *Betrayal of Science and Reason* enables readers to distinguish hyped up brownlash from reality.

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## Fish for Thought: Fisheries, International Trade and Sustainable Development

**C. Dommen, 1999.**  
International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and IUCN — The World Conservation Council.  
20 pp.

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THE world's fisheries are in crisis with declining yields and rising demands. *Fish for Thought* is the first in a series of papers that will flag issues at the intersection of fisheries, international trade and sustainable development. The main function of this paper is to outline the pressures of international trade on the increasing demand to harvest fish sustainably and to outline the perceived tensions

between international trade in fish, fish products, fisheries services and sustainable development. While Dommen has set out to convene policy dialogues on fisheries, international trade and sustainable development, she acknowledges that this paper does not aim to be exhaustive, nor to suggest policy options. Rather, the author highlights gaps in our knowledge regarding fisheries, international trade and sustainable development that require further attention and analysis. This paper is an excellent introduction to the effects of trade and fisheries, making it a valuable reference work for those interested in the fundamental issues and problems plaguing the fisheries industry.

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