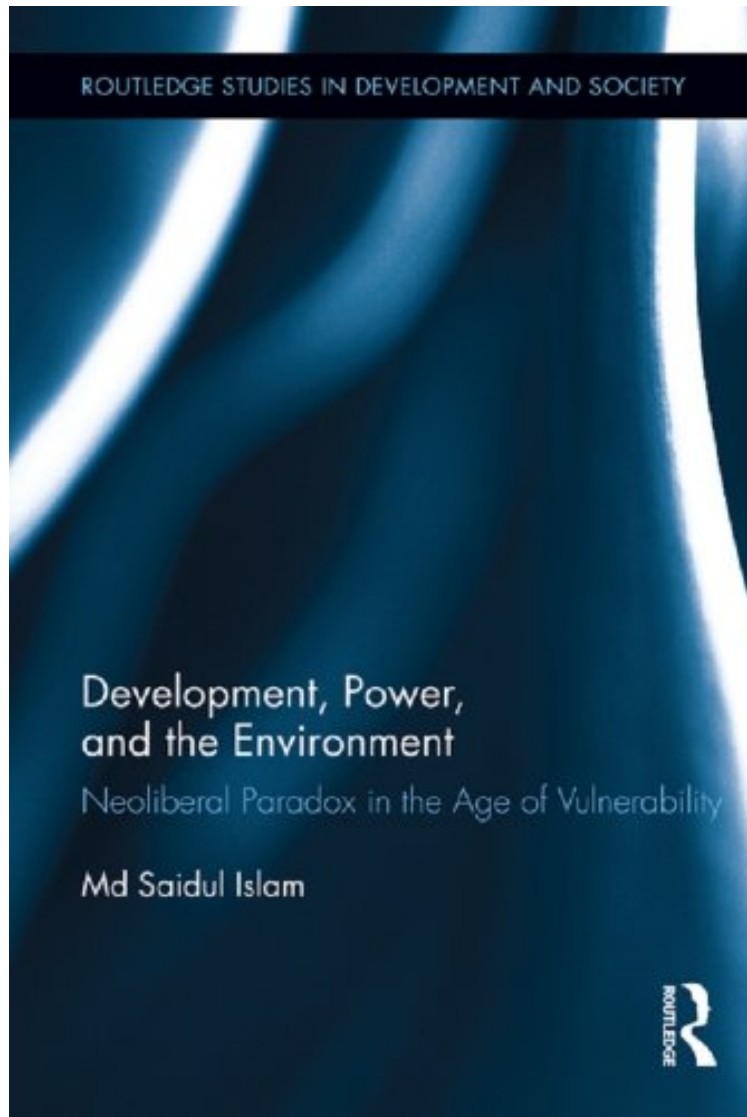


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## **Development, Power, and the Environment: Neoliberal Paradox in the Age of Vulnerability (Routledge Studies in Development and Society)**

*Md Saidul Islam*

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**Md Saidul Islam : Development, Power, and the Environment: Neoliberal Paradox in the Age of Vulnerability (Routledge Studies in Development and Society)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Development, Power, and the Environment: Neoliberal Paradox in the Age of Vulnerability (Routledge Studies in Development and Society):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Environmentalism of the Global South By Tommy Kevin The book focuses on development in the global south using a framework of "Double-risk Society", detailing four "projects of power" in order to propound a thesis of "Neoliberal Paradox" as the contradictions of development (as well as its associated social and ecological consequences) intrinsic under capitalism. In fitting with the book's title and subtitle, the first chapter sketches out the economic and material development and its associated ecological crises of our time; chapter two contemplates the question of power in society ["Development"]; chapter three examines that power dynamic with development discourses ["Development-Power"]; chapter four adds the environment to the equation, theorizing society-nature relationships by applying an environmental focus to existing social theories ["Development-Power-Environment"]; and chapter five brought hard-line critique to the neoliberal domination on developmental and environmental politics in local and global affairs by exposing it as a paradox ["Neoliberal Paradox"]. This integrated framework is analyzed through seven case studies, highlighting the crises of our time with pressing urgency. The seven cases are: Post-colonial development in Asia and Latin America; the Green Revolution; Food Regimes (food as political capital); Climate Change Politics; the proposed Tipaimukh dam construction as a case of multi-sovereign contestations over ecological commons; displacement of indigenous peoples justified in the name of development and modernization; and a western (American) construction of a Muslim discourse and identity as The Other in the post 9/11 world. Chapter thirteen elaborates a new concept of double-risk society [pp. 210] by building on the notion of risk society. The final chapter reiterates the four projects of power [pp. 227] as conflicts and contradictions inherent in the trajectory of capitalism through the different eras (colonialism, development, globalization and security regimes). The book concludes with some closing remarks and suggestions of some possible pathways towards a sustainable earth. In review, double-risk society could have been introduced earlier, suggestible as a standalone chapter before the case studies and under the purview of Part I of the book, to articulate its theory, including its potentials and limitations, so as to make more pronounced the application of the theory in relation to the seven case studies by way of further theoretical and/or empirical analyses throughout Part II. Pertaining to chapter four, I would have liked to see the imposition of environmental elements onto the existing social theories beyond a narration of green activism; and more amalgamation of the different theories in chapters two to five as a formulation to address the specific concerns raised in later parts of the book and the articulation of said theories in this chapter so as to serve the case studies with a better insight. In fair assessment, these points are addressed via the double-risk society theory to the extent that it is applicable as such throughout, as well as the conclusion of the book by a coherent, macro narrative through the "Projects of Power" perspective in the final chapter. Overall, this work add indispensable and important insights to environmental sociology by exploring the economic and ecological realities and consequences of development and social change in conjunction with the pressing concerns of environmentalism through a sociological understanding of power in order to critically address the dynamics of the neo-liberal discourse that is entrenched in the international political-economic structure and that is prevalent amongst power groups and individuals at the highest decision making and changing levels between and within societies. --- Tommy Kevin

Unmasking the neoliberal paradox, this book provides a robust conceptual and theoretical synthesis of development, power and the environment. With seven case studies on global challenges such as under-development, food regime, climate change, dam building, identity politics, and security vulnerability, the book offers a new framework of a "double-risk" society for the Global South. With apparent ecological and social limits to neoliberal globalization and development, the current levels of consumption are unsustainable, inequitable, and inaccessible to the majority of humans. Power has a great role to play in this global trajectory. Though power is one of most pervasive phenomena of human society, it is probably one of the least understood concepts. The growth of transnational corporations, the dominance of world-wide financial and political institutions, and the extensive influence of media that are nearly monopolized by corporate interests are key factors shaping our global society today. In the growing concentration of power in few hands, what is apparent is a non-apparent nature of power. Understanding the interplay of power in the discourse of development is a crucial matter at a time when our planet is in peril — both environmentally and socially. This book addresses this current crucial need.

"This book has, perhaps for the first time, uncovered ? both theoretically and empirically ? the critical nexus between development, power and the environment." - Progress in Development Studies "...will remain an influential and path-breaking contribution in the areas of international development, political sociology and environmental sociology in the years to come." - Journal of South Asian Development "The book brings a unique contribution to the scholarship through its analysis of a wide range of global issues from climate change to terrorism, through the lens of development, power and environment." - Journal of International Development "Overall, the book is very insightful... the book makes at least four central contributions in terms of: unmasking the critical nexus between development, power and the environment; showing development as a "project of power"; highlighting global vulnerabilities, global survival, global sustainability and global social justice; and finally, developing a thesis of neoliberal paradox, a new

framework of the double-risk society and a new focus on the Global South." - Md. Delwar H. Mazumder, City University of New York, Progress in Development Studies "This book offers valuable insights about the intersections of development, power, and environment. It will be especially useful to those researchers in the fields of environment and development. Graduate students in particular will benefit from its broad literature review. It is an excellent book." - Luiz Barbosa, San Francisco State University, American Journal of Sociology

About the Author Md Saidul Islam is Assistant Professor in the Division of Sociology at Nanyang Technological University.