The Power of the Periphery

What is the source of Norway's culture of environmental harmony in our troubled world? Exploring the role of Norwegian scholar-activists of the late twentieth century, Peder Anker examines how they portrayed their country as a place of environmental stability in a world filled with tension. In contrast with societies dirtied by the hot and cold wars of the twentieth century, Norway's power, they argued, lay in the pristine, ideal natural environment of the periphery. Globally, a beautiful Norway came to be contrasted with a polluted world and fashioned as an ecological microcosm for the creation of a better global macrocosm. In this innovative, interdisciplinary history, Anker explores the ways in which ecological concerns were imported via Rachel Carson's Silent Spring in 1962, then to be exported from Norway back to the world at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

PEDER ANKER is Associate Professor at The Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University. He is also Professor II in History of Science at the University of Oslo. He is on Twitter @pederanker.

Published online by Cambridge University Press

Studies in Environment and History

Editors

J. R. McNeill, *Georgetown University*
Ling Zhang, *Boston College*

Editors Emeriti

Alfred W. Crosby, *University of Texas at Austin*
Edmund P. Russell, *Carnegie Mellon University*
Donald Worster, *University of Kansas*

Other Books in the Series

Peder Anker *The Power of the Periphery: How Norway Became an Environmental Pioneer for the World*
David Moon *The American Steppes: The Unexpected Russian Roots of Great Plains Agriculture, 1870s–1930s*
James L. A. Webb, Jr. *The Guts of the Matter: A Global Environmental History of Human Waste and Infectious Intestinal Disease*
Maya K. Peterson *Pipe Dreams: Water and Empire in Central Asia's Aral Sea Basin*
Thomas M. Wickman *Snowshoe Country: An Environmental and Cultural History of Winter in the Early American Northeast*
Debjani Bhattacharyya *Empire and Ecology in the Bengal Delta: The Making of Calcutta*
Chris Courtney *The Nature of Disaster in China: The 1931 Yangzi River Flood*
Dagomar Degroot *The Frigid Golden Age: Climate Change, the Little Ice Age, and the Dutch Republic, 1560–1720*
Edmund Russell *Greyhound Nation: A Coevolutionary History of England, 1200–1900*
Timothy J. LeCain *The Matter of History: How Things Create the Past*
Ling Zhang *The River, the Plain, and the State: An Environmental Drama in Northern Song China, 1048–1128*
Abraham H. Gibson *Feral Animals in the American South: An Evolutionary History*
Andy Bruno *The Nature of Soviet Power: An Arctic Environmental History*
David A. Bello *Across Forest, Steppe, and Mountain: Environment, Identity, and Empire in Qing China's Borderlands*
Erik Loomis *Empire of Timber: Labor Unions and the Pacific Northwest Forests*
Peter Thorsheim *Waste into Weapons: Recycling in Britain during the Second World War*

(continued after index)

Published online by Cambridge University Press

The Power of the Periphery

How Norway Became an Environmental Pioneer for the World

PEDER ANKER
New York University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Published online by Cambridge University Press

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108477567
DOI: 10.1017/9781108763851

© Peder Anker 2020

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781108763851 under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties. Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781108763851

First published 2020

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-108-47756-7 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Published online by Cambridge University Press