The key limitation of this collection is its failure to address two common criticisms of the PP. First, the PP lacks a uniform, operational definition. Several chapters in this volume argue persuasively that the application of precaution is complex and context-specific, which precludes a single, simple definition of the requirements of the PP. This may be the case, but how then can we ensure that decision makers don’t apply the PP in an arbitrary, unreasonable, or protectionist manner? The book provides little or no discussion of this problem, which increasingly complicates application of the PP.

The second issue left unaddressed is the problem of false positives. Many of the authors argue for the need to reduce false negatives by adopting less stringent scientific standards of proof. One inevitable consequence of such a shift toward minimizing false negatives is an increase in false positives. What harms will result from this increase in false positives? How much of an increase in false positives should we accept? How should false positives be weighed against false negatives? These fundamental issues underlying the PP will have to await another day to be addressed.

Notwithstanding these limitations, this book makes a meaningful and provocative contribution to the debate about the PP, especially the interaction of science and precaution. Perhaps the nature and significance of this book is best summarized by the comment of one of the signatories to the conference statement that concludes and summarizes the book: “On its surface the statement is quite rational and logical, but underneath it [are] far-reaching implications for science and policy.”

GARY MARCHANT
Gary Marchant has law and public policy graduate degrees from Harvard and a Ph.D. in genetics, and is Professor of Law and Executive Director of the Center for Law, Science & Technology at Arizona State University.

Democracy's Dilemma: Environment, Social Equity, and the Global Economy
Robert C. Paehlke
Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003. 304 pp. ISBN: 0-262-6615-6, $27.95

Disinfection Byproducts in Drinking Water: Formation, Analysis, and Control
Yaofeng Xie
Boca Raton, FL: Lewis Publishers, 2003. 272 pp. ISBN: 1-56032-074-4, $125.95

Ecological and Environmental Economics: Selected Issues and Policy Responses
Cliff Teitel
Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2003. 384 pp. ISBN: 1-84376-021-5, $100

The Ecological Economics of Biodiversity: Methods and Policy Applications
Paulo A.L.D. Nunes, Eni Enrico Mattei, Jeroen C.J.M. van den Berg, Peter Nijkamp
Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2003. 168 pp. ISBN: 1-84376-270-6, $65

Extracellular Nucleotides and Nucleosides: Release, Receptors, and Physiological & Pathophysiological Effects
Erik Schwierich, ed.
San Diego, CA: Academic Press, 2003. 528 pp. ISBN: 0-12-55354-5, $149.95

Governing the Global Environment
Carlo Carraro, ed.
Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2003. 736 pp. ISBN: 1-84376-014-2, $295

Integrated Pest Management in the Global Arena
K.M. Marella, D. Dakonu, D. Mota-Sanchez, ed.
New York: CAB International, 2003. 560 pp. ISBN: 0-85199-652-3, $149

Making Microchips: Policy, Globalization, and Economic Restructuring in the Semiconductor Industry
Jan Mazurek
Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003. 261 pp. ISBN: 0-262-65370-5, $20

Protein Kinase C Protocols
Alexander C. Newton
Teterboro, NJ: Humana Press, 2003. 592 pp. ISBN: 1-58829-068-9, $125

Reemergence of Established Pathogens in the 21st Century
J.W. Fung, Karl Detick, ed.
Boston, MA: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2003. 312 pp. ISBN: 0-306-47900-6, $139.90

Safety Pharmacology in Pharmaceutical Development and Approval
Shayne C. Gad
Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, 2003. 192 pp. ISBN: 0-8493-1380-5, $149.95

Story and Sustainability: Planning, Practice, and Possibility for American Cities
Barbara Eckenwärter, James A. Throgmorton, eds.
Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003. 272 pp. ISBN: 0-262-05070-6, $62