

Preface

It was a special honor for me to start this new book series on *Pioneers in Science and Practice* (PSP) with a volume on *Arthur H. Westing: Pioneer on the Environmental Impact of War* and to be able to introduce him as such in that book (Westing 2013). Now I am most pleased to have been able to convince Arthur to prepare this second volume, to coincide with his 85th birthday in July 2013, a volume that brings together many of his innovative contributions since the early 1980s on the ‘reconceptualization of security’, with a particular focus on environmental and comprehensive security.

Thus, Arthur has not only been a pioneer on the environmental impact of war, but also a major innovative contributor since the 1980s to a conceptual scientific discourse and policy debate on a ‘reconceptualization of security’ at a time when the Cold War was winding down and that has been underway ever since (cf. Brauch et al. 2008, 2009, 2011). Elsewhere I have distinguished among three processes in the broadening of the dimensions of security from the narrow politicomilitary: (a) to a *widening* of its societal, economic, and environmental or ecological characteristics; (b) to a *deepening* from a state-centered to a people-centered security, that is, from the nation-state as the referent object to one in which human beings, communities, and humankind are the referent objects—a concept to be framed as ‘human security’; and (c) to a *sectorialization* of security to encompass the notions of energy, food, water, soil, and health security.

Arthur’s innovative contribution was primarily to the ‘widening’ of security by bringing—as a forest ecologist and environmental scientist—environmental considerations into the evolving policy debate on national and international security. He addressed simultaneously the two sides of the same coin: (a) of the environmental impact of war (Westing 2013); and (b) of the environmental causes of or impacts on multiple forms of conflict (cf. Chap. 1). He framed ‘environmental security’ initially as a state-centered concept and gradually moved to what he called ‘comprehensive human security’ (Westing 2013, pp 15–17), taking up recent critical suggestions (cf. Bogardi and Brauch 2005; Brauch 2005a, b, 2008, 2011; Brauch and Scheffran 2012; Dalby et al. 2009).

In Chap. 2 Arthur offers us a chronological bibliographical reference list to his many contributions to the reconceptualization of security from 1981 until 2013. Indeed, several of his early contributions inspired me to launch a global

multidisciplinary project on the ‘Reconceptualization of Security’. He introduced environmental factors to national, international, and regional security (cf. [Chaps. 4–7](#)). Arthur used the term ‘human security’ in a United Nations Environment Programme publication of 1993, a year before Mabhuqul Haq triggered a global debate on human security in the United Nations Development Programme’s annual report on human development. As a forest scientist, Arthur was familiar with the debates in the environmental, security, and peace research communities and could thus contribute to conceptual bridge building among those diverse fields.

Arthur’s conceptualization of environmental security in [Chap. 4](#) is still very relevant. For Arthur ‘regional security’ has always been ‘an ecological necessity’ (cf. [Chap. 4](#)). He applied it to the analysis of ‘maritime issues’ (cf. [Chap. 5](#)) and to ‘transfrontier cooperation’ (cf. [Chap. 6](#)), also including a debate on biodiversity issues and the role of protected areas that have been under-researched in the environmental security debate.

I met Arthur most recently in November 2010 at an international conference in Berlin on ‘A World Without Walls’ where he presented a paper on the ‘Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) as a Bridge Between the Two Koreas’ (cf. [Chap. 7](#)) where he began by comparing several divided countries (Germany, Yemen, Korea). He suggested then to protect the DMZ as a ‘confidence and security building measure’, a proposal he developed into a proposed legal text for a treaty between both Koreas.

In [Chap. 8](#) Arthur addresses linkages between globalization and environmental security; and in [Chap. 9](#) he has examined in-depth the concept and significance of ‘environmental refugees’, which emerged from the first conference on Desertification and Migration held in Almeria, Spain in 1994. I read this text when I prepared my opening speech to the second conference on Desertification and Migration held in Almeria in 2006 that firmly placed this linkage of desertification and refugees on the environmental security agendas of nation-states, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

In [Chap. 10](#) Arthur discusses population as perhaps *the* basic issue, using the concept of the ‘global carrying capacity’, having been inspired, among others, by Lester Brown, Garrett Hardin, and Paul Ehrlich, thus relying more on the ecologist discourse and less on the debates among demographers who stress fertility, mortality, and the like while leaving out environmental constraints and environmentally induced migration. Thus, Arthur has once again contributed to a conceptual bridge building that is essential for understanding the global environmental challenges of the twenty-first century.

The present volume (PSP-13) reintroduces the innovative work of a major scientific, conceptual bridge-builder who has applied multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches in linking his experience as a forest scientist with debates on the environment, war, and demography; and at the same time often addressing the legal dimension. This specific perspective has contributed what biologist Edward O. Wilson (1998) has called *consilience* (the interlocking of causal explanations across disciplines) in which the ‘interfaces between disciplines

become as important as the disciplines themselves' that would 'touch the borders of the social sciences and humanities'.

On the occasion of Arthur H. Westing's 85th birthday in July 2013, both volumes (PSP-1, PSP-13) make a part of Arthur's contribution to Wilson's innovative concept of 'consilience' widely accessible to students, whether in hard copy or as electronic publications (via laptop, tablet, computer, or smartphone). These two volumes can be considered as 'intellectual appetizers' that will in turn guide the reader to Arthur's major books, chapters, and articles. I would suggest these two texts to be ideal for course adoption in graduate seminars on environmental, security, peace, and development issues around the world. Indeed, some 4,500 universities and academic institutions globally subscribe to Springer's earth science package, enabling students to download both of these books at no cost.

Arthur's many friends and colleagues around the globe wish him good health and continued creativity. I have learnt much from Arthur's conceptual work and was influenced by his contributions across disciplinary boundaries. As a series editor, my intention has been to share Arthur's experience with future generations and encourage them also to overcome the methodological, theoretical, and disciplinary confinements that prevail in highly specialized journals and that make it more difficult to communicate the scientific results to policymakers and international organizations. Arthur's work at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and the International Peace Research Institute Oslo during the 1970s and 1980s were sponsored and fully supported by the United Nations Environment Programme's Executive Director Mustafa Tolba (who, it might be mentioned, withstood US pressure to stop funding of Arthur's UNEP work).

In short, Arthur has been a *conceptual and empirical innovator* in his several roles during the six decades of his professional life: (a) as a *natural scientist*; (b) as a *professor and educator*; (c) as a *concerned US citizen*; (d) as an *ecologist and environmentalist*; (e) as a *peace researcher*; (f) as a *policy consultant*; and (g) as a *politically active scientist and citizen*. He thus became a *Vorbild* for many young scientists, but also for policymakers, to take the courage not to remain silent on the misuse of scientific knowledge in warfare or for increasing short-term economic benefits and ignoring the longer term effects on the life of present and future generations. This is what the notion of 'sustainable development' is all about, as suggested by the Brundtland Commission (Brundtland et al. 1987). Arthur needs many followers to move toward policies of a transition to sustainability during this century to avoid the security impacts of global environmental change, of biodiversity loss, and of chaotic interactions within the earth system that could result in tipping points endangering the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. Arthur's two books put the analysis of scientific linkages on the agenda of course planners and of policymakers to facilitate moving from 'knowledge to action'.

Cuernavaca, Mexico, April 2013

Hans Günter Brauch
Editor, Springer Briefs on Pioneers
in Science and Practice

Hans Günter Brauch (Dr. phil. habil.) has taught as a Privatdozent (Adjunct Professor) at the Free University of Berlin from 1999 until his retirement in 2012. Since 1987 he has been Chairman of Peace Research and European Security Studies (AFES-PRESS). Since 2003 he has been Editor of the peer-reviewed *Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace* (HESP), and since 2012 he is the Editor of the *Springer Briefs in Environment, Security, Development and Peace* (ESDP) as well as of this *Series on Pioneers in Science and Practice* (PSP). In 2012 he taught at SciencePo (Paris), in the Ph.D. Programme of the *Centro de Estudios Superiores Navales* (CESNAV) in Mexico, at Aarhus University (Denmark), at the *European Peace University* (EPU) (Austria), at the *National University of Malaysia* (UKM), and at Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok).

References

- Bogardi, J. & Brauch, H. G. (2005). Global environmental change: A challenge for human security—defining and conceptualising the environmental dimension of human security. In: A. Rechkemmer, (ed.) *UNEO: Towards an International Environment Organization: Approaches to a Sustainable Reform of Global Environmental Governance*. Baden–Baden, Germany: Nomos, 310 pp: (pp. 85–109).
- Brauch, H. G. (2005a). *Environment and Human Security: Towards Freedom from Hazard Impacts*. Bonn, Germany: UN University, Institute for Environment and Human Security, InterSecTions No. 2/2005, pp. 56 <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/file/get/4031>.
- Brauch, H. G. (2005b). *Threats, Challenges, Vulnerabilities and Risks in Environmental and Human Security*. Bonn, Germany: UN University, Institute for Environment and Human Security, Source No. 1/2005, pp. 100 <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/file/get/4040>.
- Brauch, H. G. (2008). Conceptualising the environmental dimension of human security in the UN. *International Social Science Journal Monograph Series* (Paris), 148 pp: pp 19–48. [This Monograph was edited by M. Goucha & J. Crowley under the title *Rethinking Human Security* and published in September 2008].
- Brauch, H. G. (2011). *The Environmental Dimension of Human Security—Freedom from Hazard Impacts*. New York: UN General Assembly, Interactive Debate 2: Human Security—Its Application and Added Value, 6 pp. 14 April 2011. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/initiatives/Human%20Security/DrBrauch.pdf> & <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/ga11072.doc.htm>.
- Brauch, H. G. et al. (eds). (2008). *Globalization and Environmental Challenges: Reconceptualizing Security in the 21st Century*. pp. 1147 Berlin: Springer.

- Brauch, H. et al. (eds). (2009). *Facing Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts* pp. 1586. Berlin: Springer.
- Brauch, H.G. et al. (eds). (2011). *Coping with Global Environmental Change, Disasters and Security: Threats, Challenges, Vulnerabilities and Risks* pp. 1815. Berlin: Springer.
- Brauch, H. G. & Scheffran, J. (2012). Introduction: climate change, human security, and violent conflict in the Anthropocene. In: Scheffran, J. et al. (eds): *Climate Change, Human Security and Violent Conflict: Challenges for Societal Stability* 868 pp. 1–40. Heidelberg: Springer.
- Brundtland, G. H. et al. (1987). *Our Common Future: World Commission on Environment and Development*. rev edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 400.
- Dalby, S. et al. (2009). Environmental security concepts revisited during the first three phases (1983–2006). In: H. G. Brauch et al. (eds). *Facing Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts*. 1586 pp. 781–790, Berlin: Springer.
- Westing, A. H. (2013). *Arthur H. Westing: Pioneer on the Environmental Impact of War*. Heidelberg: Springer, 150 pp. (Springer Briefs on Pioneers in Science and Practice, Vol. 1) http://www.afes-press-books.de/html/SpringerBriefs_PSP01.htm & <http://www.springer.com/law/environmental/book/978-3-642-31321-9>.
- Wilson, E. O. (1998). *Consilience: the Unity of Knowledge* pp. 332 New York: Knopf.

From Environmental to Comprehensive Security

Westing, A.H.

2013, XVIII, 153 p. 2 illus., 1 illus. in color., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-00686-4