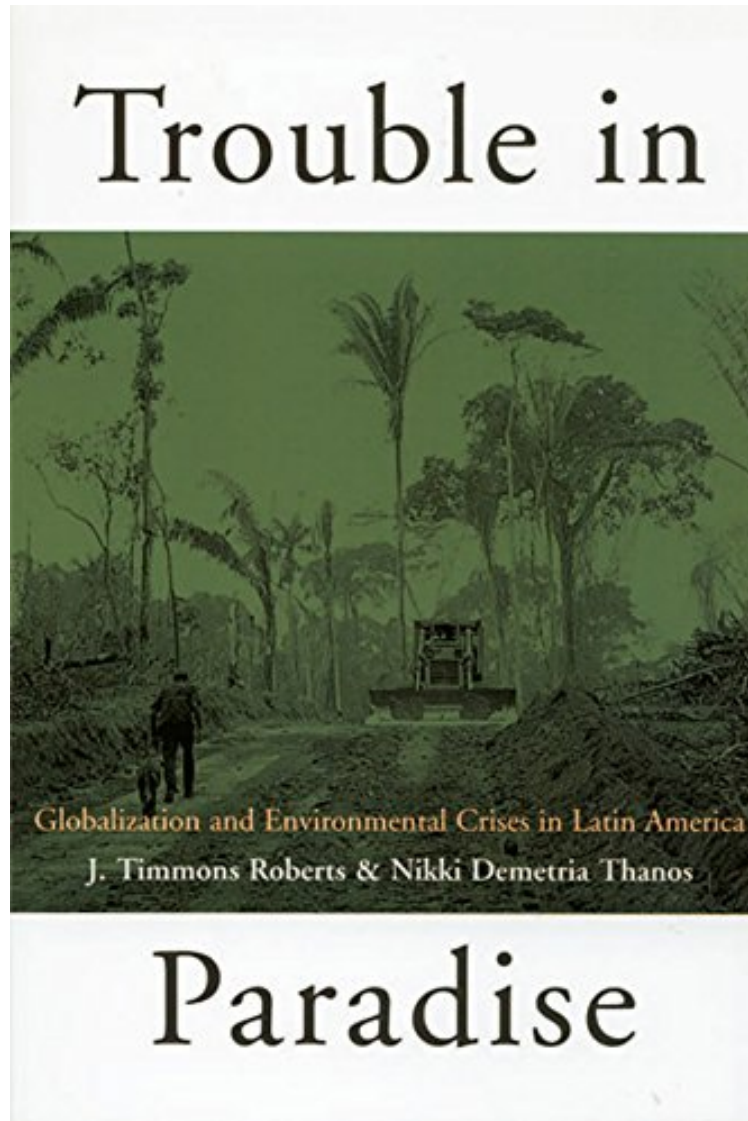


Trouble in Paradise: Globalization and Environmental Crises in Latin America

J Timmons Roberts

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J Timmons Roberts : Trouble in Paradise: Globalization and Environmental Crises in Latin America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trouble in Paradise: Globalization and Environmental Crises in Latin America:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Readable, comprehensive, and thought-provoking analysisBy A CustomerThis is the book we have all been waiting for: a definitive analysis on the state of the environment in Latin America, how it got that way, and --- best of all-- what is and can be done to remedy the crises. Trouble in Paradise

offers the coherence, comprehensiveness, and depth sorely lacking in environmental studies about Latin America. Informed by long-term academic as well as political engagement with these issues, Roberts and Thanos make a varied set of long-term environmental crises and struggles surrounding them come to life for both students and specialists. They trace how common political, economic and social features structure these case studies and thus bring Latin America's environment to the forefront of discussions about globalization. Its readability, price, length (200 pages of reading) and content make this volume excellent for both undergraduate and graduate classrooms. It will get students excited about both Latin America as well as environmental struggles and the inequalities that surround them. The case studies they cover are great jumping off points for important related issues such as free trade, inequality, ethnicity, social movements, urbanization and local politics. I will be using it at my desk and in the classroom for years to come!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended! By Ron Mader (From Planeta Journal) -- A must read for anyone interested in environmental issues and must read for anyone interested in Latin America, *Trouble in Paradise: Globalization and Environmental Crises in Latin America* (Routledge, 2003) combines academic research with a regional travelogue. Written by J. Timmons Roberts and Nikki Demetria Thanos, this book reviews the critical issues run the gamut from green to gray. Chapters review pollution havens on the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands, the hazards of an urban sprawl and the rise of protests particularly via the Internet. This is no surprise as co-author J. Timmons Roberts is a co-founder of the Environment and Latin America Network (ELAN). Excerpts from *Trouble in Paradise* To become sustainable, Latin America needs real democracy to create the leverage for its citizens to demand a cleaner environment and the services they need to survive. (p. 4) Contact informs strategic advocacy work on one or both sides of the North-South divide. Lives can be changed. The same can be said of academic programs in the region and of linkages between universities and other schools ... Rather than merely observing these issues from afar and wringing our hands, we need to be engaged. Institutions can be changed. (pp. 205-206) Study and travel in Latin America and connections between communities and universities across the North-South divide can create lasting bonds and new directions of change. And we need to call for a drastic rethinking of priorities in international aid and finance. Aid needs to support solutions which address social and environmental problems at the same time. (pp. 210-211)

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Definitive, enlightening and beautifully written By L. Stoller I've been in business, been involved with ecology and cultural survival and I've traveled in and among the countries and cultures of Latin America for over 25 years. I read this book on a recent trip to Costa Rica and I am so impressed with it that I am purchasing 25 copies and sending them to all of the managers of my mutual funds. How this action fits in with a review on a book concerning the plant's ecology may not be clear to you, but if you read some of the other descriptions of "Trouble in Paradise", then you may understand. For people concerned with the future and with the environment this book provides tremendous relief.

Environmental degradation in Latin America has become one of the most pressing issues on the international agenda. The volume began to crescendo when space shuttle astronauts photographed five thousand fires on a single night in the Brazilian Amazon state of Rondonia in 1985, and grew shrill when rubber tapper Chico Mendes was shot in 1988 trying to stop ranchers from clearing rainforests near his home in Acre. Since the early 80s, we've heard pleas from rock star, environmental groups, and scientists, asking us to focus our attention on environmental destruction in Latin America-oil spills, lax NAFTA driven ecological standards, endangered indigenous cultures, and the destruction of the rainforests. This volume presents an overview of the pressing nature of these issues and the scope of the problems and seeks to focus our attention on environmental destruction in Latin America by examining several types of environmental crises in Latin American countries. With discussions of the World Bank, urban pollution, NAFTA, toxic pollution in maquiladoras, headline grabbing environmental disasters, drug trafficking, and the 1992 Rio Earth Conference, this book will be a must read for anyone interested in the future of Latin America or world ecology.

Fast-paced, complex, challenging and important. Their analysis of the broad scale of loss and biological decline occurring in the basin, and the factors driving it, are as stunning as any I've read.. About the Author J. Timmons Roberts is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Mellon Program in Environmental Science and Policy at the College of William and Mary. He is author of *Chronicles from the Environmental Justice Frontline*, and *From Modernization to Globalization*. Nikki Demetria Thanos works in MDexico as a Popular Educator and Political Analyst for Witness For Peace, a US-based non-profit organization. She studied environmental policy and Latin American studies at Tulane University, and has conducted research in Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, MDexico and the Andes.