This project evolved from a discussion we had about the state of the study of international environmental politics some five years ago. We were both dissatisfied with this literature, because it seemed to us that it was on the whole largely apolitical. Most attempts at general theorizing about international environmental politics, whether from the regimes literature or the market failure literature, began with the assumption of the "common enemy" of environmental threat, and of a collective action or tragedy of the commons situation that hindered international action to meet that threat. The study of international environmental politics thus became a process of finding the appropriate cooperative or institutional mechanisms to overcome the collective action problem. Like the functionalist literature on political cooperation and integration in the 1950s and 1960s, the issues to be dealt with were inherently transnational, but of a basically technical rather than political nature, and thus best addressed technically rather than politically. The measure of solutions to international environmental problems thus became the efficiency of the mechanism for dealing with overcoming collective action problems, rather than the viability of the political settlement underlying the mechanism.
This is unrealistic; international environmental issues are as heavily politi-
cized as most other kinds of international issues. Ignoring this political element
will neither make it go away nor make environmental degradation easier to ad-
dress effectively. It is clear that all governments do not share similar interests in
international environmental management, and they often have significantly
different notions of what environmental management means. This volume,
then, is part of a larger trend in the literature that is working to put the politics
back into the study of international environmental politics. We have chosen to
do so through the analytical lens of common pool resources, because this al-
lows us to introduce these differences in interest within the framework of ra-
tionalist analysis that encompasses so much of the work done in this field.

We developed the hypotheses that are the focus of the analysis of this vol-
ume through a deductive examination of the logic of common pool re-
sources, and the case studies were written to these hypotheses specifically.
They were developed both by the volume editors and by the contributors to
this volume, working as a group. This process of working through this logic,
and examining its explanatory value for specific cases, was aided enormously
by two workshops that brought the group together, one in the fall of 1995 and
one on the spring of 1996. The first of these workshops, held at Georgetown
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gram. The second was held in conjunction with the Annual Convention of
the International Studies Association (ISA) in San Diego, and was funded by
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debt of gratitude; without these workshops this volume would be much less
coherent than it has turned out to be.

Much of this volume was also presented on a panel at the 1996 meetings
of the American Political Science Association, in San Francisco. Duncan Snid-
dal was the discussant for the panel, and he commented extensively not only
on those chapters presented as papers on the panel, but on the manuscript as
a whole. Tom Teitenberg also read and provided highly useful and incisive
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ume would not have been possible.

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