

Review

“There is no better critique of sustainable development in print today than these 14 essays by scholars of the Environmental Law Collaborative. Their discerning insights expose inadequacies inherent in how the diverse and competing concepts of sustainable development can cope with climate disruptions. Has the law and policy associated with sustainable development become a maladaptation, increasing socio-economic and ecological vulnerability? Can resilience theory, precaution, ecosystem management, eco-consumerism, or emergent community values infuse sustainability with needed rigor?”

As society sheds its ignorance about the unmanageable harms associated with heating Earth beyond the 2 degrees Celsius target set in 2009, will legal reforms among local governments or in non-traditional patterns, induce evolution of a new regime that becomes sustainable? If these accessible and crisply written essays do not seek to answer such questions, they succeed in leaving the reader better able to reflect upon them. The work is provocative and timely. Profs. Owley and Hirokawa have deftly edited a well annotated book that is essential in assessing whether sustainable development can address—or survive—the problems of climate disruption.”—**Nicholas A. Robinson, Gilbert & Sarah Kerlin Professor of Environmental Law Emeritus, Pace University School of Law**