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

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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 Arhus University (Denmark), at the European Peace University (EPU) (Austria), at the National University of Malaysia (UKM), and at Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok).

References


Arthur H. Westing: A Personal Memoir

Arthur Westing came to the International Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) in January 1988. Sverre Lodgaard, who had worked at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) for the past 6 years, returned to Oslo to take over the position as Director of PRIO. He was able to bring Arthur to Oslo at the same time, along with his project on ‘Peace, Security, and Environment’ funded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). SIPRI’s loss was PRIO’s gain. At PRIO Arthur edited a volume on Environmental Hazards of War, which dealt with the planned or inadvertent release of pollutants following the destruction of major industries in war. Before that, however, he had edited another volume, Comprehensive Security for the Baltic, which focused on security in the Baltic region as seen through the lens of an extended concept of security. Arthur did not invent the concept of environmental security. But his work was (and remains) one of the most thorough and thoughtful expositions of it.

When Arthur went back to the USA (to retire, I thought—some retirement!) I had to take over the organizing of a UNEP-funded conference in 1991 on conversion and the environment which had fallen between the cracks. Some of the UNEP-funded conferences had to be held in the USSR in order to spend some of the non-convertible rubles in which that country had paid a major portion of its dues. I have to confess that I took on this project largely because I was fascinated by the opportunity to visit Perm (known as Molotov in my school days), a city closed to foreigners until just before our conference was held there. But my academic interest in the relationship between the environment and security arose from that experience, and continues to this day.

Eventually, my colleagues and I came to focus more on the environmental causes of armed conflict than on its consequences. We have probably taken the work in a direction more critical of neomalthusian thinking than Arthur might have felt comfortable with. I am somewhat less pessimistic than Arthur on several issues discussed in this volume, such as the risk of transboundary atmospheric pollution leading to international conflict (cf. page 20), that the quest for human security may have become more elusive (cf. page 63), that economic globalization may be harmful to environmental security (cf. page 114), that environmental security is
seriously deteriorating at the global level, and that global overpopulation is our most serious problem (cf. page 133). But if you want an intelligent defense of those propositions, you can do a lot worse than to consult this volume.

One of my most profound memories of Arthur’s work at PRIO relates to his extreme attention to detail and accuracy, which the reader will soon discover in this volume too. Arthur found errors even in reputable collections of treaties and other standard works of reference. One of the few people who seemed able to live up to Arthur’s high standards of citations and references was his valued erstwhile colleague from SIPRI, the recently deceased Jozef Goldblat. With an office right next to Arthur’s I couldn’t help noticing the occasional outburst when someone did not meet his exacting standards. In one of my papers I inadvertently cited him as ‘Arthur F. Westing’. This was not easily forgiven. Nor should it be.

But I thought even Arthur had gone too far when I learned that he was asking every author who had a direct quotation in a chapter in one of his books to send him a photocopy of that quote from the original publication. Surely this was going too far! Shortly thereafter I was in charge of an edited volume myself. PRIO’s discerning copy editor pointed out some language infelicities that appeared to have been committed by prominent writers—if one were to believe the lesser mortals who had cited them. Did they really say that? I was too embarrassed to ask the authors to send me copies of the originals, so I looked them up myself. And, indeed, there were numerous errors. Of course, scholars often copy quotations and references from previous articles they have read, so any errors get reproduced. Most of them are trivial, but once in a while there will be one ‘not’ too many (or one too few). Those of my colleagues at PRIO who think I’ve spent too much time correcting details now know where I learned that modus operandi.

Many of my fruitful interactions with Arthur were linked to my role as Editor of the Journal of Peace Research. Arthur published two articles and several short book reviews in the Journal and I took advantage of his presence to solicit referee reports from him on many occasions. In fact, over a 15-year period, he was among the top 5% of referees in terms of the number of reports. I was particularly impressed by the fact that, as a matter of principle, Arthur always signed his reviews with his full name. Many scholars, however committed they may be to transparency, are reluctant to do this because it exposes them to potential quarrelsome responses from authors who felt that their fine scholarship had not been sufficiently appreciated by the Journal.

On factual academic matters, I was never able to catch Arthur out. My moment of triumph arrived years later when my son and I stayed with Arthur and Carol over a weekend in Vermont and went hiking with them in a local nature reserve that they had helped to establish, reflecting their environmental activism. This was in the fall and I suggested bringing along a basket for picking mushrooms. There are no edible mushrooms in that area, Arthur stated with some finality. Since my stubbornness matches his, I brought the basket along anyway. That evening we all had mushrooms at supper, and no one got sick. I was later told by Carol that no
sooner had I left than Arthur went off to buy a mushroom field guide. This was a 
dozen or so years ago. He hadn’t stopped taking in new knowledge then. He hasn’t 
stopped at 85. And he never will.

8 April 2013

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