



# Social Movements, Public Spheres and the European Politics of the Environment Green Power Europe?

Hein-Anton van der Heijden

This book examines how the European environmental movement, as part of an emerging European civil society, has impinged on the problem definitions and solution strategies in the European politics of the environment. Examining core case studies in European environmental policy - biodiversity politics (Natura 2000), the politics of genetically modified organisms, Trans-European Transport Networks, and the European politics of climate change - this study, written at the crossroads of social movement, public sphere and political discourse theory, argues that a social movement's most important feature is its 'cognitive praxis', its ability to successfully challenge dominant conceptions of reality and to create new green public spheres. It examines whether 'ecological modernization' is able to solve the tension between economic growth and environmental protection, and to what extent European environmentalism has contributed to the emergence of a green 'normative power Europe'.

## CONTENTS:

Introduction

Social Movements, Civil Society and Public Spheres

European Environmental Politics

Environmental Groups in Brussels

In Search of a Green 'Good Society'

The Natura 2000 Discourse

Framing Genetically Modified Organisms

Ecological Modernization and the Trans-European Transport Network

The European Politics of Climate Change

Conclusion

Bibliography

HEIN-ANTON VAN DER HEIJDEN is Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He has widely published on topics like environmental movements and political opportunity structures, European and global environmental politics, political discourse analysis, and on the interplay between social science and politics.



December 2010

Hardback

£55.00

978-0-230-23614-1