



# Fight for the Bay: Why a Dark Green Environmental Awakening is Needed to Save the Chesapeake Bay

By Howard R. Ernst

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In this important new book on the declining health of one of America's leading environmental treasures, Howard Ernst reveals a Chesapeake bay that has become functionally dead. He argues that the Chesapeake Bay succumbed to a 'light green' environmental movement that has too often adopted a philosophy of compromise over confrontation and that has fueling a 'political dead zone' where political leaders posture but fail to make the hard decisions needed to achieve real improvement in the Bay's health. While blunt in his evaluation of past and present failures to restore the Bay, Ernst believes that there is still time to turn the restoration effort around and sets out new 'dark green' strategies to do so. In the concluding chapter, five long-time bay activists provide first-person accounts of their battles and hopes for the future. Hailed by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as 'a must read for anyone concerned about environmental protection,' this challenging book provides a wake-up call for everyone concerned about the future of the Chesapeake Bay and other ecological treasures through out America.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **From Publishers Weekly**

In 2003, Hunt, a political science professor at the U.S. Naval Academy, issued a wakeup call with his polemic *Chesapeake Bay Blues*, arguing that "politics as usual" was leading to "continued environmental degradation." Six years later, the situation is worse; Chesapeake Bay is "functionally dead," and the problem has gone global. Distinguishing between the more confrontational approach of the "Dark Greens" and the moral arguments of the "Light Greens," Ernst argues that differences in the movement have contributed to the ability of opposing "Cornucopians" to push an agenda of pure economic self-interest. The largest environmental interest group in the Bay region, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, refuses to engage in electoral politics while the Bay's biggest polluters, such as the poultry industry, use their money to get pro-industry candidates into office: "the Perdue family alone spent more in one recent election... than the combined spending of all environmental groups across the three key Bay states during the same period of time." Still, there are many individuals and organizations doing important work, and Ernst chronicles their struggles in detail. A passionate call to action from a longtime activist (Ernst is currently in his 80s), this read will shock and inspire a range of concerned citizens, from homeowners to journalists to lawmakers.

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### **From Booklist**

Ernst is devoted to elucidating both obvious and subtle aspects of the catastrophic transformation of the Chesapeake Bay from a vast, fecund "ecological treasure" into a dead zone, first in *Chesapeake Bay Blues* (2003), and now in this eye-opening inquiry into the failure to restore the Bay, in spite of the spawning of 600-plus environmental groups and the allocation of huge amounts of money. Taking measure of the gap between the scientific understanding of what needs to be done and the lack of political will to make it happen, Ernst decries the demise of mainstream environmental journalism, the public's habit of "wishful thinking," and the government's tactics of evasion. He also characterizes three key groups. The Dark Greens believe that the "carrying capacity of nature" should determine land and water use and that strong regulations are necessary. The Light Greens believe we should try to be good stewards, and the Cornucopians take a strict economy-first approach. Ernst's incisive and thought-provoking study pinpoints the sticking points holding up environmental progress and offers a do's-and-don'ts primer to effective action. --Donna Seaman

### **Review**

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Howard Ernst has done it again, creating a stunning mosaic of politics, policy, and the environment. Nobody writes about environmental politics with more clarity or understanding than Ernst..... (Dr. Larry Sabato, University of Virginia)

Like Paul Revere, Howard Ernst calls us to arms?to rescue our birthright to a clean environment. Our great waterways are 'functionally dead,' he warns, maimed by 'raw greed, political hypocrisy' and well-intentioned but weak-kneed environmentalists. It is time, Ernst declares, to mount a 'dark green' revolution against our

'political dead zone' and reclaim our birthright. And he points the way. (Hedrick Smith, Pulitzer Prize and Emmy award-winning journalist, correspondent, and producer of *Poisoned Waters*)

I read with special interest the chapter on environmental journalism, which describes with accuracy and wisdom the dangerous decline of reporting in this area. It's clearly a major reason why progress is so halting and slow when it happens at all. (Bill McKibben, Founder of 350.org, author of *Deep Economy*)

Ernst is back with a new book, called *Fight for the Bay*, striking out in some new directions with sharpening important insights that have turned out to be true. . . . Ernst plows new ground in tackling a fact many Americans haven't yet realized: The decline of newspaper investigative reporting will affect their lives, their well-being, and their environment. (*Bay Weekly, October 22-28, 2009*)

Professor Ernst's new concept?the political dead zone?will change the way people think about environmental politics. This book is a must-read for anyone concerned with environmental protection. (Robert F. Kennedy Jr., author of *Crimes Against Nature*)

*Howard Ernst has done it again, creating a stunning mosaic of politics, policy, and the environment. Nobody writes about environmental politics with more clarity or understanding than Ernst. (Dr. Larry Sabato, University of Virginia)*

*There are many individuals and organizations doing important work, and Ernst chronicles their struggles in detail. A passionate call to action from a longtime activist, this read will shock and inspire a range of concerned citizens, from homeowners to journalists to lawmakers. (Publishers Weekly, Web Exclusive Review, November 2009)*

This short and straightforward book calls for regulatory, legislative and enforcement action to protect the Chesapeake . . . Ernst's discussion of the different mind-sets of what he calls cornucopians, light-green and dark-green environmentalists, is provocative and insightful . . . *Fight for the Bay* is a compelling book that may one day be viewed as the Chesapeake's counterpart to *Silent Spring*. (*The Capital, December 2, 2009*)

Ernst's *Fight for the Bay* is an incisive look at an important ecosystem and what communities everywhere can learn from it. Researchers, environmentalists, and political activists of all kinds may find it an enlightening read. (*The Futurist, March 2010*)

He is best known for his work in the area of environmental politics and is considered a leading authority on the Chesapeake Bay restoration program. (*The Evening Sun, March 18, 2010*)

Ernst concisely details the irony of an ecosystem once remarkably productive, precisely because of its nutrient-rich waters, becoming threatened by excessive nutrients.... Recommended. (*CHOICE, August 2010*)

The general public may largely view environmentalists as all being green, but author Howard Ernst points out in his latest book that the conservation community is far from a monolithic block. Rather, environmentalists come in all shades of green and he argues that the shade of green that dominates political debate could determine the future of the Chesapeake in, *Fight for the Bay*. (*Bay Journal*)

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

**Jose Reed:**

This book untitled Fight for the Bay: Why a Dark Green Environmental Awakening is Needed to Save the Chesapeake Bay to be one of several books this best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book store or you can order it through online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this publication from your list.

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