

"Ecology, Soils, and the Left is a quite unusual and much-needed work that makes crucial contributions to current debates in political ecology. While Engel-Di Mauro presents a brilliant dissection of pseudo-dialectical leftist ecologies, his central focus is on the positive task of guiding the left toward a very specific analysis grounded in the materiality of social, natural, and historical realities. He thus makes a major contribution to giving concrete content to concepts such as 'ecosocialism' and 'left ecology.'"

—John Clark, Professor of Philosophy, Loyola New Orleans, USA

Conventional explanations about soils and their degradation contain fundamental flaws. In standard approaches, social relations of domination are mystified, while much leftist theorization falters by disregarding soil dynamics. Soil degradation is both an occurring process and a political construct; therefore, it must be addressed as both a biophysical and social process. By developing and applying an ecosocial perspective, this volume improves on soil science and leftist approaches to environmental degradation to develop an understanding of environmental degradation that counters prevailing tendencies for decontextualization or reductionism.

Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro is an Associate Professor of Geography at SUNY New Paltz, USA, where he works, presents, and writes on soil degradation. He received a MSc degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, in Physical Geography specializing in soils, and a PhD in Geography at Rutgers University, USA (2000), focusing on the impact of social processes on soil use and quality.

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