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Whales and Nations: Environmental Diplomacy on the High Seas

By Kurkpatrick Dorsey

University of Washington Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 372 pages. Before commercial whaling was outlawed in the 1980s, diplomats, scientists, bureaucrats, environmentalists, and sometimes even whalers themselves had attempted to create an international regulatory framework that would allow for a sustainable whaling industry. In *Whales and Nations*, Kurkpatrick Dorsey tells the story of the international negotiation, scientific research, and industrial development behind these efforts --and their ultimate failure. *Whales and Nations* begins in the early twentieth century, when new technology revived the fading whaling industry and made whale hunting possible on an unprecedented scale. By the 1920s, declining whale populations prompted efforts to develop rational--what today would be called sustainable--whaling practices. But even though almost everyone involved with commercial whaling knew that the industry was on an unsustainable path, Dorsey argues that powerful economic, political, and scientific forces made failure nearly inevitable. Based on a deep engagement with diplomatic history, *Whales and Nations* provides a unique perspective on the challenges facing international conservation projects. This history has profound implications for today's pressing questions of global environmental cooperation and sustainability. Kurkpatrick Dorsey is associate professor of history at the University of New Hampshire. This important book is essential for understanding...

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