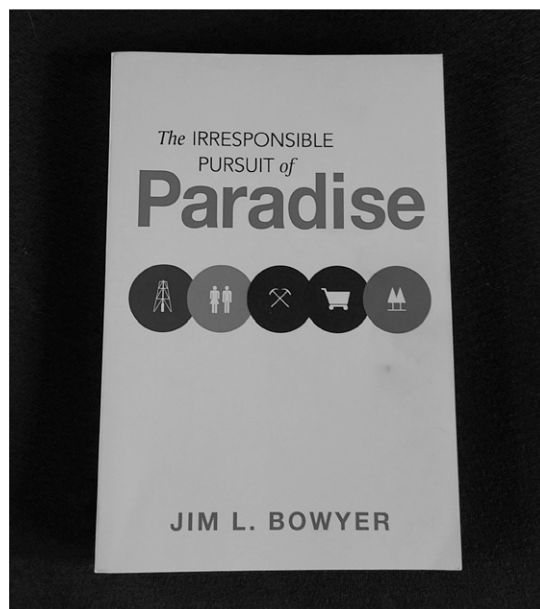


BOOKS

THE IRRESPONSIBLE PURSUIT OF PARADISE

by Jim Bowyer

Every once-in-a-while there is an addition to our scientific literature that should be mandatory reading for those in the sustainability and bio-materials disciplines. *The Irresponsible Pursuit of Paradise* by Dr. Jim Bowyer is one of these books. Those familiar with Dr. Bowyer's work in the past few years know how he has emphasized the impact of human population on our natural resources. In this book, he documents the developed world's need for raw materials, often at the expense of developing nations. We continue to increase our imports of raw materials from these countries to meet the demands of the developed world. While developed nations attempt to practice sustainability, our demands for goods and services remain at all-time highs. Although we have attempted to increase our recycling rates and reduce energy consumption, our growing populations' needs outpace these efforts. He also highlights the impact of the increase of raw material consumption in developing countries, which puts additional pressures on our natural resources. Dr. Bowyer concludes with the last chapter "Toward a New Paradigm" in which he suggests on how we may help slow our dependence on our natural resources, but not without a major shift in our daily approaches to consumption. Ultimately, it is people who have



caused this problem and it is people who have to solve it. Up to now, Dr. Bowyer indicates that we have not done enough. This is a well written and easy to read book that I have recommended as a textbook in some of our classes.

Bob Smith

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