

Historians for Future – Resource Material

Note: we are working on a new list of resources, coming soon!

We would like to create a curated resource material collection for our H4F website.

The idea is to provide anyone who is interested in learning more about the climate crisis from a (critical) historical perspective with an overview over good and accessible literature and a recommended reading list. At the moment, we've just collected all kinds of books, articles, reading material etc., which means it's too much and not really sorted and "curated".

Now, we need to:

- 1. sort out this list (good, recommendable, focused on our goal, not just environmental history...)*
- 2. add missing recommendable literature*
- 3. add links to interesting projects, podcasts, blog series etc*
- 4. add open access information*

Thanks for helping getting more knowledge out there =)

Overview

Behringer, Wolfgang: Kulturgeschichte des Klimas. Von der Eiszeit bis zur globalen Erwärmung, München 2007.

Bosbach Franz et al. (ed.): Environment and History in Britain and Germany – Umwelt und Geschichte in Großbritannien und Deutschland, München 2006.

Glaser, Rüdiger: Klimageschichte Mitteleuropas. 1200 Jahre Wetter, Klima, Katastrophen, 2. Aufl., Darmstadt 2008.

McNeill, John R.: Something New Under the Sun. An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World, New York 2000.

Russell, Edmund: Evolutionary History. Uniting History and Biology to Understand Life on Earth, Cambridge 2011.

Simmons, Ian G.: Global Environmental History 1000 BC to AD 2000, Edinburgh 2006.

Sörlin, Sverker/Warde, Paul: Nature's End: Environment and History, London 2009

Uekötter, Frank: Umweltgeschichte im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert, München 2007.

Weiner, Douglas R.: A Death-Defying Attempt to Articulate a Coherent Definition of Environmental History, in: Environmental History 10 (2005), vol. 3, p. 404-420.

Winiwarter, Verena / Knoll, Martin: Umweltgeschichte. Eine Einführung, Köln 2007.

Warde, Paul, Sverker Sörlin, and Libby Robin, *The Environment: A History of the Idea* (Baltimore 2018).

Reference Books

Jenks, Andrew L.: Perils of Progress. Environmental Disasters in the Twentieth Century, Boston u.a. 2011.

Warren, Louis S. (ed.): American Environmental History, Malden (MA) 2003.

Agnoletti, Mauro/Neri Serneri, Simone: The Basic Environmental History, Cham 2014.

Bühler, Benjamin: Ecocriticism. Eine Einführung, Stuttgart 2016.

Fäßler, Peter E./Puschner, Uwe: Umweltgeschichte. Von der Industriellen Revolution bis heute, Darmstadt 2014.

Guha, Ramachandra: Environmentalism. A global history, New York 2000.

Fleming, James Rodger/Johnson, Ann: Toxic airs. Body, place, planet in historical perspective, Pittsburgh, Pa 2014

Fressoz, Jean-Baptiste: Introduction à l'histoire environnementale, Paris 2014.

Gabrielson, Teena et al. (ed.): Oxford handbook of environmental political theory, Oxford 2016.

Herrmann, Bernd: Umweltgeschichte. Eine Einführung in Grundbegriffe, Berlin, Heidelberg 2016.

Hoffmann, Richard: An Environmental History of Medieval Europe, Cambridge 2014.

Isenberg, Andrew C. (ed.): The Oxford handbook of environmental history, Oxford/New York 2014.

Jakubowski-Tiessen, Manfred/Sprenger, Jana: Natur und Gesellschaft. Perspektiven der interdisziplinären Umweltgeschichte, Göttingen 2014.

Jørgensen, Dolly: New natures. Joining environmental history with science and technology studies, Pittsburgh, Pa. 2013.

Mauelshagen, Franz: Klimageschichte der Neuzeit 1500-1900, Darmstadt 2010.

Mauelshagen, Franz/White, Samuel/Pfister, Christian (ed.): The Palgrave Handbook of Climate and History, New York 2018.

Reith, Reinhold: Umweltgeschichte der frühen Neuzeit, München 2011.

Schlottmann, Christopher/Jamieson, Dale/Jerolmack, Colin u. a.: Environment and society. A reader, New York 2017.

Siemann, Wolfram (ed.): Umweltgeschichte. Themen und Perspektiven, München 2003.

Schott, Dieter: Europäische Urbanisierung (1000-2000). Eine umwelthistorische Einführung, Köln 2014.

Schwerdtner Máñez Costa, Kathleen/Poulsen, Bo: Perspectives on oceans past. A handbook of marine environmental history, Dordrecht 2016.

Whyte, Ian D.: A dictionary of environmental history, London 2013.

Classics

Carson, Rachel L.: Silent Spring, Boston 1962.

Crosby, Alfred W.: Ecological imperialism. The biological expansion of Europe 900-1900, Cambridge 1993.

Crosby, Alfred W.: The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492, Westport 1972.

Descola, Philippe: Diversité des natures, diversité des cultures, Paris 2010

Descola, Philippe: The Ecology of Others, Chicago (Ill.) 2013.

Hughes, J. Donald: An environmental history of the world. Humankind's changing role in the community of life, London 2002 (repr.).

Luhmann, Niklas: Ökologische Kommunikation. Kann die moderne Gesellschaft sich auf ökologische Gefährdungen einstellen?, Opladen 1986.

Meadows, Dennis L. et al.: Die Grenzen des Wachstums. Berichte des Club of Rome zur Lage der Menschheit, München 1972.

Melville, Elinor: A Plague of Sheep: Environmental Consequences of the Conquest of Mexico, Cambridge 1994.

Merchant, Carolyn: The death of nature. Women, ecology, and the scientific revolution, New York 1989.

Nash, Roderick: Wilderness and the American Mind, Yale 1967.

Worster, Donald: Dust Bowl. The Southern Plains in the 1930s, New York 1979.

Environmental History: Epochs, Periodization, and the Anthropocene

- Bonneuil, Christophe/Fressoz, Jean-Baptiste: *The shock of the Anthropocene. The earth, history and us*, London, New York 2016.
- Brüggemeier, Franz-Josef/Engels, Jens Ivo (ed.): *Natur- und Umweltschutz nach 1945. Konzepte, Konflikte, Kompetenzen*, Frankfurt a.M. 2005.
- Chakrabarty, Dipesh: *Verändert der Klimawandel die Geschichtsschreibung?*, in: *Transit* 41 (2011), p. 143-163.
- Godrej, Farah: *Culture and Difference, Non-western approaches to defining environmental issues*, in: Gabrielson, Teena et al. (ed.): *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental Political Theory*, Oxford 2016, p. 1-19.
- Hermand, Jost: *Grüne Utopien in Deutschland. Zur Geschichte des ökologischen Bewusstseins*, Frankfurt a.M. 1991.
- Hoffmann, Richard C.: *An environmental history of medieval Europe*, Cambridge 2014.
- J. Donald Hughes, *An Environmental History of the World. Humankind's Changing Role in the Community of Life, Second Edition*, New York 2009.
- Knoll, Martin: *An environmental history of the early modern period : experiments and perspectives*, Wien 2014.
- Mauelshagen, Franz, „Anthropozän“. *Plädoyer für eine Klimageschichte des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts*, in: *Zeithistorische Forschungen/Studies in Contemporary History, Online-Ausgabe*, 9 (2012), vol. 1, online unter <http://www.zeithistorische-forschungen.de/16126041-Mauelshagen-1-2012>.
- McNeill, John R.: *The Great Acceleration: An Environmental History of the Anthropocene Since 1945*. Cambridge 2016.
- McNeill, John R.: „The Environment, Environmentalism, and International Society in the Long 1970s“, in: Ferguson, Niall/Maier, Charles S./Manela, Erez/Sargent, Daniel J. (eds.): *The Shock of the Global. The 1970s in Perspective*. Cambridge (MA) 2011.
- McNeill, John R./Unger, Corinna R. (eds.): *Environmental Histories of the Cold War*. Cambridge (UK) 2010.
- Radkau, Joachim/ Uekötter, Frank (ed.): *The Turning Points of Environmental History*, Lanham 2006.
- Radkau, Joachim: *Die Ära der Ökologie. Eine Weltgeschichte*, München 2011.
- Bruce, Scott G.: *Ecologies and Economies in Medieval and Early Modern Europe. Studies in Environmental History for Richard C. Hoffmann*, Leiden 2010
- Sörlin, Sverker: *The Contemporaneity of Environmental History: Negotiating Scholarship, Useful History, and the New Human Condition*, in: *Journal of Contemporary History* 46 (2011), vol. 3, p. 610-630.
- Steffen, Will et al.: *The Anthropocene: Conceptual and Historical Perspectives*, in: *Philosophical Transactions, Series A: Mathematical, Physical, and Engineering Sciences* 368 (2011), p. 1056-1084.

Environmental History: National and Regional Histories

North America

- Andrews, Richard N. L.: *Managing the Environment, Managing Ourselves. A History of American Environmental Policy*, New Haven 2020.
- Cohen, Benjamin R.: *Notes from the ground. Science, soil, and society in the American countryside*, New Haven, London 2009.
- Cronon, William: *Nature's metropolis. Chicago and the Great West*, New York 1992.
- Davis, Jack E.: *The Gulf. The making of an American sea*, New York, London 2017.
- Fiege, Mark: *The republic of nature : an environmental history of the United States*, Seattle (Wash.) 2012.

- Henshaw, Robert E.: Environmental history of the Hudson River. Human uses that changed the ecology, ecology that changed human uses, Albany, N.Y. 2011.
- Parr, Joy: Sensing Changes: Technologies, Environments, and the Everyday, 1953–2003, Vancouver 2010.
- Steinberg, Ted: Down to Earth. Nature's Role in American History, Oxford 2002.
- Wells, Christopher W./Cronon, William: Car country. An environmental history, Seattle/London 2012.
- Krech, Shepard: The ecological Indian. Myth and history, New York 1999.

Middle and South America

- Boyer, Christopher R.: Political Landscapes: Forests, Conservation, and Community in Mexico, Durham 2015.
- Grove, Richard; Adamson, George: El Niño in world history, London 2018.
- Matthews, Andrew S.: Instituting Nature: Authority, Expertise, and Power in Mexican Forests, Cambridge 2011.
- Melville, Elinor: A Plague of Sheep: Environmental Consequences of the Conquest of Mexico, Cambridge 1994.
- Miller, Shawn William: An Environmental History of Latin America, 2007.
- Santiago, Myrna I.: The Ecology of Oil: Environment, Labor, and the Mexican Revolution, 1900-1938, Cambridge 2006.
- Weinstein, Barbara: The Amazon Rubber Boom 1850-1920, Stanford 1983.
- McNeill, John R.: Mosquito Empires. Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1640–1914, New York 2010.

Europe

- Blackbourn, David: The conquest of nature: water, landscape, and the making of modern Germany, New York, NY 2007.
- Franz-Josef Brüggemeier/Thomas Rommelspacher, Blauer Himmel über der Ruhr. Geschichte der Umwelt im Ruhrgebiet 1840-1990, Essen 1992.
- Franz-Josef Brüggemeier, Tschernobyl, 26. April 1986. Die ökologische Herausforderung, München 1998.
- Arvid Nelson, Cold War Ecology. Forests, Farms, and People in the East German Landscape, 1945-1989, New Haven 2005.
- Steel, Karl: Biopolitics in the Forest, in: The politics of ecology. Land, life, and law in medieval Britain, 2016, p. 33–55
- Mieg, Harald A./Haefeli, Ueli: Umweltpolitik in der Schweiz. Von der Forstpolizei zur Ökobilanzierung, Basel 2020.
- Michael Bess, The Light-Green Society. Ecology and Technological Modernity in France, 1960-2000, Chicago 2003.
- Julian Agyeman/Yelena Ogneva-Himmelberger (ed.), Environmental Justice and Sustainability in the Former Soviet Union, Cambridge (MA) 2009.
- Brain, Stephen: Song of the forest : Russian forestry and Stalinist environmentalism, 1905-1953, Pittsburgh (Pa.).

Klaus Gestwa, Ökologischer Notstand und sozialer Protest. Ein umwelthistorischer Blick auf die Reformunfähigkeit und den Zerfall der Sowjetunion, in: Archiv für Sozialgeschichte 43 (2003), p. 349-383.

Laura A. Henry, Red to Green. Environmental Activism in Post-Soviet Russia, Ithaca/London 2010.

Douglas R. Weiner, A Little Corner of Freedom. Russian Nature Protection from Stalin to Gorbachëv, Berkeley 1999.

Edward Snajdr, Nature Protests. The End of Ecology in Slovakia, Washington 2008.

Tamara L. White u.a. (ed.), Northern Europe. An Environmental History, Santa Barbara 2005.

J. Donald Hughes, The Mediterranean. An Environmental History, Santa Barbara 2005.

Frank Uekötter, Gibt es eine europäische Geschichte der Umwelt? Bemerkungen zu einer überfälligen Debatte, in: Themenportal Europäische Geschichte (2009), online unter <http://www.europa.clio-online.de/2009/Article=374>.

Uekötter, Frank: Deutschland in Grün. Eine zwiespältige Erfolgsgeschichte. Bonn 2015.

Mathis, Charles-François, Mouhot Jean-François, Une protection de l'environnement à la française ? (XIXe-XXe siècles). Seyssel 2013

Ford, Caroline, Naissance de l'écologie. Polémiques françaises sur l'environnement 1800-1930. Paris 2018

Afrika

Carruthers, Jane: Africa: Histories, Ecologies, and Societies, in: Environment and History 10 (2004), p. 379-406.

Cock, Jacklyn/Eddie Koch (ed.), Going Green: People, Politics, and the Environment in South Africa, Cape Town, 1991.

Dovers, Stephen et al. (ed.): South Africa's Environmental History. Cases and Comparisons, Athens 2003.

Kreike, Emmanuel: Environmental Infrastructure in African History, Cambridge 2013.

Maathai, Wangari: Green Belt Movement: Sharing the Approach and the Experience, New York 2003.

McCann, James: Green Land, Brown Land, Black Land. An Environmental History of Africa, 1800-1990 Portsmouth 1999.

Mikhail, Alan: Nature and empire in Ottoman Egypt. An environmental history, Oxford 2011.

Mikhail, Alan (ed.): Water on sand. Environmental histories of the Middle East and North Africa, Oxford 2013.

Asia

Boomgaard, Peter (ed.): Paper Landscapes: Explorations in the Environment of Indonesia, Leiden 1997.

Elvin, Mark: The retreat of the elephants. An environmental history of China, New Haven 2006.

Elvin, Mark/Ts'ui-jung Liu (ed.): Sediments of Time: Environment and Society in Chinese History, Cambridge 1998.

Fisher, Michael: An Environmental History of India: From Earliest Times to the Twenty-First Century, Cambridge 2018

Hill, Christopher V.: South Asia: An Environmental History, Santa Barbara 2008.

Obertreis, Julia: Der „Angriff auf die Wüste“ in Zentralasien. Zur Umweltgeschichte der Sowjetunion, in: Osteuropa 58 (2008), vol. 4-5, p. 37-56.

Iqbal, Iftekhar: The Bengal Delta. Ecology, State and Social Change, 1840-1943, London 2010.

- Marks, R. B.: *Tigers, rice, silk and silt. Environment and economy in late imperial South China*, Cambridge 1998.
- Ray, Sugata, *Climate Change and the Art of Devotion: Geoaesthetics in the Land of Krishna, 1550–1850*, Washington, Seattle, 2019
- Shapiro, Judith: *Mao's war against nature: politics and the environment in Revolutionary China*, Cambridge/New York 2001.
- Tal, Alon: *Pollution in a Promised Land: An Environmental History of Israel*, Berkeley 2002.
- Yok-shiu Lee/Alvin Y. So: *Asia's Environmental Movements: Comparative Perspectives*, Armonk 1999.

Topics

- Muir, Cameron: *The broken promise of agricultural progress : an environmental history*, London, New York 2014.
- Parak, Gisela: *Photographs of environmental phenomena. Scientific images in the wake of environmental awareness, USA 1860s-1970s*, Bielefeld 2015.
- Ross, Benjamin/Amter, Steven: *The polluters. The making of our chemically altered environment*, Oxford 2010.
- McNeill, John: *The global environment and the world economy since 1500*, in: Roy, Tirthankar/Riello, Giorgio (ed.): *Global economic history*, London 2019, p. 157-174.
- Trepl, Ludwig: *Die Idee der Landschaft. Eine Kulturgeschichte von der Aufklärung bis zur Ökologiebewegung*, Bielefeld 2012.
- Beinart, William; Hughes, Lotte: *Environment and Empire, Oxford history of the British Empire companion series*, Oxford 2007.

On Nature/Culture

- Wulf, Andrea; Kober, Hainer: *Alexander von Humboldt und die Erfindung der Natur*, München 2016.
- Wulf, Andrea: *The invention of nature : Alexander von Humboldt's new world*, New York 2015.
- Pluskowski, Aleksander: *Wolves and the wilderness in the Middle Ages*, Woodbridge 2006.
- Gissibl, Bernhard: *Civilizing nature. National parks in global historical perspective*, New York 2012.
- Friedrich, Udo: *Menschentier und Tiermensch. Diskurse der Grenzziehung und Grenzüberschreitung im Mittelalter*, Göttingen 2009
- Ellen, Roy/Fukui, Katsuyoshi: *Redefining Nature. Ecology, Culture, and Domestication*, Oxford [etc.] 1996.
- Descola, Philippe: *L'écologie des autres. L'anthropologie et la question de la nature*, Versailles 2011.
- Descola, Philippe: *The Ecology of Others*, Chicago (Ill.) 2013.
- Plumwood, Val: *Feminism and the mastery of nature*, London/New York 1993 (ebook edition 2003).

History of Climate Science, Histories of Ecology/the "Ecosystem", the "discovery of a fragile planet" and other central concepts

- Clarke, Bruce: *Gaian Systems. Lynn Margulis, Neocybernetics, and the End of the Anthropocene*. Minneapolis (MN) 2020.
- Dry, Sarah: *Waters of the World. The story of the scientists who unraveled the mysteries of our seas, glaciers, and atmosphere - and made the planet whole*. London 2019.
- Gribbin, John/Gribbin, Mary: *James Lovelock. In Search of Gaia*. Princeton (NJ) 2009.
- Golley, Frank Benjamin: *A History of the Ecosystem Concept in Ecology. More Than the Sum of the Parts*. New Haven (CT) 1993.

- Trepl, Ludwig: Geschichte der Ökologie. Vom 17. Jahrhundert bis zur Gegenwart. Frankfurt am Main 1987.
- Turchetti, Simone/Roberts, Peder (eds.): The Surveillance Imperative. Geosciences during the Cold War and Beyond. New York 2014.
- Zirnstien, Gottfried: Ökologie und Umwelt in der Geschichte. Marburg 1996.

Interesting Reads: Environment and Inequality, Activism

- Chakrabarty, Dipesh: Verändert der Klimawandel die Geschichtsschreibung?, in: Transit 41 (2011), p. 143-163.
- Dawson, Ashley: Edward Said's Imaginative Geographies and the Struggle for Climate Justice, in: College Literature 40 (2013), p.33-51
- Demos, T.J.: Against the Anthropocene: Visual Culture and Environment Today, New York 2017.
- Lee, Debbie: The land speaks. New voices at the intersection of oral and environmental history, New York, NY, United States of America 2017.
- Godrej, Farah: Culture and Difference, Non-western approaches to defining environmental Issues, in: Gabrielson, Teena et al. (ed.): The Oxford Handbook of Environmental Political Theory, Oxford 2016, p. 1-19.
- Gottlieb, Robert / Joshi, Anupama: Food Justice, Cambridge/London 2010.
- Groh, Dieter et al. (ed.): Naturkatastrophen. Beiträge zu ihrer Deutung, Wahrnehmung und Darstellung in Text und Bild von der Antike bis ins 20. Jahrhundert, Tübingen 2003.
- Hasenöhr, Ute: Zivilgesellschaft und Protest. Eine Geschichte der Naturschutz- und Umweltbewegung in Bayern 1945-1980, Göttingen 2010.
- Hoerber, Thomas C.: The origins of energy and environmental policy in Europe. The beginnings of a European environmental conscience, London 2013.
- Hurley, Andrew: Environmental Inequalities: Class, Race, and Industrial Pollution in Gary, Indiana, 1945-1980, Chapel Hill 1995.
- Keck, Margaret E.: Social Equity and Environmental Politics in Brazil: Lessons from the Rubber Tappers in Acre, in: Comparative Politics 27 (1995), vol. 4, p. 409-424.
- Kupper, Patrick: Die 1970er Diagnose. Grundsätzliche Überlegungen zu einem Wendepunkt in der Umweltgeschichte, in: Archiv für Sozialgeschichte 43 (2003), p. 325-348.
- Mann, Charles C.: 1493. How Europe's discovery of the Americas revolutionized trade, ecology and life on earth, London 2011
- Mauch, Christof et al. (ed.): Shades of Green: Environment Activism Around the Globe, Lanham (MD) 2006.
- McNeill, John R.: Observations on the Nature and Culture of Environmental History, in: History and Theory 4 (2003), p.5-43.
- McCormick, Michael: Rats, Communications, and Plague: Toward an Ecological History, in: The Journal of Interdisciplinary History 34 (1), 2003, p. 1-25.
- Merchant, Carolyn: Shades of Darkness: Race and Environmental History, in: Environmental History 8 (2003), vol. 3, p. 380-394.
- Carolyn Merchant, Gender and Environmental History, in: The Journal of American History 76 (1990), vol. 4, p. 1117-1121.
- Pasternak, Judy, An American Story of a Poisoned Land and a Betrayed People, New York 2010.
- Pfister, Christian (ed.): Das 1950er Syndrom. Der Weg in die Konsumgesellschaft, Bern 1995.
- Quark, Amy A.: Toward a New Theory of Change: Socio-Natural Regimes and the Historical Development of the Textiles Commodity Chain, in: Review (Fernand Braudel Center) 31 (1), 2008, p. 1-37. Online: <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/40241703>>.

Schlosberg, Dryzek et al. (ed.): Debating the Earth. The Environmental Politics Reader, Oxford 2005.
Taylor, Alan: Unnatural Inequalities: Social and Environmental Histories, in: Environmental History 1 (1996), vol. 4, p. 6-19.
Taylor, Dorceta E.: The rise of the American conservation movement. Power, privilege, and environmental protection, Durham 2016.
Welzer, Harald et al. (ed.): KlimaKulturen. Soziale Wirklichkeiten im Klimawandel, Frankfurt a.M./New York 2010.
Wöbse, Anna-Katharina: Weltnaturschutz. Umweltdiplomatie in Völkerbund und Vereinten Nationen 1920-1950, Frankfurt am Main 2011.

Projects

Funded by the [Leverhulme Trust](#) from 2019 to 2024, “Making Climate History” maps largely unexamined connexions between histories of places, personnel, materials and power during the period that made and recognised both a global physics and a global climate.

<https://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/about/research-projects/making-climate-history>

Funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF-Ambizione Project) from 2019-2023, “Ice cores, Small States and Global Climate Change: The rise of a new scientific discipline” by Dania Achermann:

https://www.hist.unibe.ch/forschung/forschungsprojekte/ice_cores_small_states_and_global_climate_change/index_ger.html

Databases

Climate Change Knowledge Portal: Historical Data: This database contains historical temperature and precipitation data aggregated from 2-degree gridded data to the country and basin levels:

<https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/climate-change-knowledge-portal-historical-data>

Podcasts

[New Books in Environmental Studies](#)

Online Resources

IPCC 2018, Hervé Le Treut/Richard Somerville et al.: Historical Overview of Climate Change Science.

<https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/ar4-wg1-chapter1.pdf>

Gaian Systems; “Gaian Systems is a transdisciplinary research project to cultivate new forms and practices of planetary cognition.”

<https://www.gaian.systems/>

Big History Project; “Journey through nearly 14 billion years of history in this self-guided, six-hour version of Big History. You'll find every chapter full of great activities to keep you entertained and test your learning.”

<https://www.bighistoryproject.com/home>