

A Reading Field (3010) in European Environmental History
Alison Frank

The exact reading list for this field varies from year to year based on student interest. We begin with seven weeks of shared readings (about one meeting every three weeks). I then meet with each student individually on a topic chosen by the student (in consultation with me).

In 2008-2009, our joint sessions cover the following seven topics: Theoretical Underpinnings, Environmental Movements, Wood, Water, Mountains, Illness and Health, and Empire. Students choose readings from the topical headings, below, and supplement them with additional materials they suggest to the group.

WEEK 1: WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY?

- * William Cronon, preface to the paperback edition, introduction, and “The Trouble with Wilderness” in Cronon, ed., *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature* (New York: Norton, 1996)
- * William Cronon, “A Place for Stories: Nature, History and Narrative,” *Journal of American History* 78 (March 1992): 1437-1376
- Jared Diamond, *Collapase: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* (New York: Viking, 2005)
- * J. Donald Hughes, *What is Environmental History?* (Malden, MA: Polity, 2006)
- * J. Donald Hughes, “Global Dimensions in Environmental History,” *The Pacific Historical Review* 70, no. 1. (February, 2001): 91-101.
- * John McNeill: *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the 20th-Century World* (New York: Norton, 2000)
- * McNeill, J.R., “Observations on the Nature and Culture of Environmental History”
- * Carolyn Merchant, “Nature as Female,” in *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and the Scientific Revolution* (San Francisco: Harper, 1982)
- Greg Mitman and Kevin Dann, “Exploring the Borders of Environmental History and the History of Ecology,” *Journal of the History of Biology*, June 1997.
- Roderick Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*
- R. Porter and M Teich, eds., *Nature and Society in Historical Context* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997)
- Simon Schama, *Landscape and Memory*
- James Scott, *Seeing Like a State*
- Wolfram Siemann, Ed., *Umweltgeschichte: Themen und Perspektiven* (Munich: Beck, 2003)
- * Sverker Sörlin and Paul Warde, “The Problem of the Problem of Environmental History – a Re-reading of the Field and Its Purpose,” Address at the Scandinavian Environmental History Conference, Turku, September 15, 2005.
- * Raymond Williams, “Ideas of Nature,” in *Problems of Materialism and Culture: Selected Essays* (London: Verso, 1980), 67-85.
- Verena Winiwarter, “Major Theme 1c: Natural Sciences and (Environmental) History,” Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Historical Sciences, Sydney (July 2005).
<http://www.cishsydney2005.org/images/MT1cConvenor.doc>
- Verena Winiwarter, “Environmental History in Europe from 1994 to 2004: Enthusiasm and Consolidation,” *Environment and History* 10 (2004): 501-530

* Donald Worster, *Nature's Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas*, 2d edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), especially chapter 2
 Donald Worster, ed., *The Ends of the Earth: Perspectives on Modern Environmental History* (New York, 1988). See especially: "Doing Environmental History"

WEEK 2: ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS

Michael Bess, *The Light-Green Society: Ecology and Technological Modernity in France, 1960-2000* (Univ. Chicago, 2003)
 Janet Biehl and Peter Staudenmaier, *Ecofascism: Lessons from the German Experience* (AK Press, 2001)
 Murray Bookchin, *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* (AK Press, 2004)
 Murray Bookchin, *Our Synthetic Environment* (1st edition 1964, 2nd edition 1972)
 Franz-Josef Brüggemeier, Mark Cioc, Thomas Zeller, eds., *How Green Were the Nazis?: Nature, Environment and Nation in the Third Reich* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2005)
 Jane Dawson, *Eco-Nationalism: Anti-Nuclear Activism and National Identity in Russia, Lithuania, and Ukraine* (Durham: Duke, 1996)
 Raymond Dominick III, *The Environmental Movement in Germany: Prophets and Pioneers, 1871-1971* (Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press, 1992)
 Richard Grove, *Green Imperialism: Colonial Expansion, Tropical Island Edens and the Origins of Environmentalism, 1600-1860* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1996)
 Ramachandra Guha, *Environmentalism: A Global History* (Longman, 1999)
 Thomas Lekan, *Imagining the Nation in Nature: Landscape Preservation and German Identity 1885-1945* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 2004)
 Peter List, *Radical Environmentalism: Philosophy and Tactics* (Wadsworth, 1993)
 William Rollins, *A Greener Vision of Home: Cultural Politics and Environmental Reform in the German Heimatschutz Movement, 1904-1918* (Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 1997)
 J. E. de Steiguer, *The Origins of Modern Environmental Thought* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2006)
 Frank Uekoetter, *The Green and the Brown: A History of Conservation in Nazi Germany* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006)

WEEK 3: WOOD

William Cronon, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*
 Caroline Ford, "Reforestation, Landscape Conservation, and the Anxieties of Empire in French Colonial Algeria," *AHR* 113, no. 2 (April 2008): 341-362.
 Hamish Graham, "Women and Wood: The Gender Dimensions of Timber-Gathering and Wood-Theft in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries," in *The Sphinx in the Tuileries and Other Essays in Modern French History: Papers Presented at the Eleventh George Rudé Seminar*, ed. Robert Aldrich and Martyn Lyons (Sydney, 1999), 15-26.
 Peter Sahlins, *Forest Rites: The War of the Demoiselles in Nineteenth-Century France*
 Thaddeus Sunseri "'Something else to burn': forest squatters, conservationists, and the state in modern Tanzania," *Journal of Modern African Studies* 43, no. 4 (December 2005): 609-640.
 Tamara L. Whited, *Forests and Peasant Politics in Modern France*

WEEK 4: ILLNESS AND HEALTH

- David S. Barnes, *The Making of a Social Disease: Tuberculosis in Nineteenth-Century France* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995)
- David S. Barnes, *The Great Stink of Paris and the Nineteenth-Century Struggle against Filth and Germs* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006)
- Alfred Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900* (Cambridge, 2004)
- Alfred Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (Greenwood Press 1972, Praeger Publishers 2003)
- Alfred Crosby, *America's Forgotten Pandemic: The Influenza of 1918* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989)
- Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel*
- R. J. Evans, *Death in Hamburg*,
- Timothy Mitchell, "Can the Mosquito Speak?" in *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002)
- Gregg Mitman, et al, eds., *Landscapes of Exposure: Knowledge and Illness in Modern Environments (Osiris Volume 19)* (Univ. Chicago, 2004)
- Frank Snowden, *The Conquest of Malaria: Italy, 1900-1962* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006)
- Frank Snowden, *Naples in the Time of Cholera, 1884-1911* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)

WEEK 5: EMPIRES, COLONIES, IMPERIALISM

- William Beinart and Lotte Hughes, *Environment and Empire* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007)
- Alfred Crosby, *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900* 2nd edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994)
- Alfred Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (Greenwood Press 1972, Praeger Publishers 2003)
- Caroline Ford, "Nature, Culture, and Conservation in France and Her Colonies, 1840-1940," *Past and Present* 183 (2004) 173-198
- Richard Grove, *Green Imperialism: Colonial Expansion, Tropical Island Edens and the Origins of Environmentalism, 1600-1860* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1995)
- Richard Grove and D. Anderson, eds., *Conservation in Africa: People, Policies and Practices* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987)
- Richard Grove, *Ecology, Climate and Empire: Colonialism and Global Environmental History 1400-1940* Cambridge: White Horse Press, 1993)
- Richard Grove, V. Damodaran, S. Sangwan, *Nature and the Orient: the Environmental History of South and South east Asia* (Oxford and Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998)
- L. Robin and T. Griffith, *Ecology and Empire: Environmental History in Settler Societies* (Edinburgh University Press, 1997)

WEEK 6: WATER

AHR Forum: Oceans of History (*AHR* 111, no. 3 [June 2006])

Kären Wigen, "Introduction," 717-721

Peregrine Horden and Nicholas Purcell, "The Mediterranean and 'the New Thalassology,'" 722-740

Alison Games, "Atlantic History: Definitions, Challenges, and Opportunities," 741-757

Matt K. Matsuda, "The Pacific," 758-780

David Blackbourn, *The Conquest of Nature: Water, Landscape, and the Making of Modern Germany*

David Blackbourn, "Fashionable Spa Towns in Nineteenth-century Europe," *Water, Leisure and Culture*

Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons: The Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006)

Mark Cioc, *The Rhine: An Eco-Biography, 1815-2000*

Eric Jennings, *Curing the Colonizers: Hydrotherapy, Climatology, and French Colonial Spas* (Duke, 2006)

Charles King, *The Black Sea* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)

Hansjörg Küster, *Die Ostsee: Ein Natur- und Kulturgeschichte* (Munich: C.H. Beck, 2002)

Claudio Magris, *Danube*, translated by Patrick Creagh (Harvill Press, 2001)

Alan Palmer, *The Baltic: A New History of the Region and its People* (Overlook)

Sara Pritchard, "Reconstructing the Rhône: The Cultural Politics of Nature and Nation in Contemporary France, 1945-1997," *French Historical Studies* 27.4 (2004): 765-799

Richard White, *The Organic Machine: The Remaking of the Columbia River*

THE MEDITERRANEAN

Horden and Purcell, *The Corrupting Sea: A Study of Mediterranean History*

Matvejevic, *Mediterranean*

Chambers, *Mediterranean Crossings*

Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*

Abulafia, *The Mediterranean in History*

WEEK 7: MOUNTAINS

William A. Christian, Jr. *Person and God in a Spanish Valley*

Fergus Fleming, *Killing Dragons: The Conquest of the Alps*

Günther, *Alpine Quergänge*

Victor Hugo, *The Alps and the Pyrenees* (1839 & 1843)

Nicolson, *Mountain Gloom and Mountain Glory*

Ozzvia, *Upland Communities*

Charles King, *The Ghost of Freedom: A History of the Caucasus* (Oxford, 2008)

Peter Sahlins, *Boundaries: The Making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees*

Audrey Salkeld and José Luis Bermúdez, *On the Edge of Europe*

Kurt Scharr, ed., *Die Karpaten*

Nicholas and Nina Shoumatoff, *The Alps: Europe's Mountain Heart*

Bernhard Tschöfen, *Berg, Kultur, Moderne: Volkskundliches aus den Alpen* (Vienna: Sonderzahl, 1999)

Additional topics (with a few examples of related literature) might include:

SCIENCE, THE STATE, IMPROVEMENT

David Blackbourn, *The Conquest of Nature: Water, Landscape, and the Making of Modern Germany*

R. H. Drayton, *Nature's Government: Science, Imperial Britain and the 'Improvement' of the World*

Sheila Jasanoff, *Designs on Nature: Science and Democracy in Europe and the United States.*

Stephen Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as Civilization*

James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998)

Paul Warde, *Ecology, economy and state formation in early modern Germany* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006)

Douglas Weiner, *A Little Corner of Freedom: Russian nature protection from Stalin to Gorbachev*

COMMUNISM AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

Jane Dawson, *Eco-Nationalism: Anti-Nuclear Activism and National Identity in Russia, Lithuania, and Ukraine* (Durham: Duke, 1996)

Murray Feshbach and Alfred Friendly, Jr., *Ecocide in the USSR: Health and Nature Under Siege*

Zsuzsa Gille, *From the Cult of Waste to the Trash Heap of History*

Eagle Glassheim, "Ethnic Cleansing, Communism, and Environmental Devastation in Czechoslovakia's Borderlands, 1945-1989," *Journal of Modern History* 78 (March 2006): 65-92

Stephen Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as Civilization*

Mary Mycio, *Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl* (Washington, DC: Joseph Henry Press, 2005)

Douglas Weiner, *A Little Corner of Freedom: Russian nature protection from Stalin to Gorbachev*

Christa Wolf, *Accident: a day's news*

LANDSCAPE

Simon Schama, *Landscape and Memory*

Denis Cosgrove and Stephen Daniels, *The iconography of Landscape* (Cambridge, 1988)

David Crowley and Susan Reid, eds., *Socialist Spaces: Sites of Everyday Life in the Eastern Bloc* (New York: Berg, 2002)

Jeffrey Diefendorf and Kurk Dorsey, *City, Country, Empire: Landscapes in Environmental History* (Pittsburgh, 2005)

Thomas Lekan and Thomas Zeller, eds., *Germany's Nature: Cultural Landscapes and Environmental History* (Rutgers, 2005)

Hoskins, *The Making of the English Landscape*

Chandra Mukerji, *Territorial Ambitions and the Gardens of Versailles*

Wolschke-Bulmahn, Joachim and Gert Groening, "The ideology of the nature garden: Nationalistic trends in garden design in Germany during the early twentieth century." *Journal of Garden History*. 1992. 12(1): 73-80

Rudy Koshar, *From Monuments to Traces*, p. 15-79

Nuala Johnson, "Cast in Stone: Monuments, Geography, and Nationalism," *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 13 (1995)

Maiken Umbach and Bernd Huppauf, *Vernacular Modernism: Heimat, Globalization and the Built Environment*

CLIMATE

Brian Fagan, *The Little Ice Age: How Climate Made History, 1300-1850* (New York: Basic, 2000)

Vladimir Jankovic, *Reading the Skies: A Cultural History of English Weather, 1650-1820* (Chicago, 2001)

ENERGY

Alfred Crosby, *Children of the Sun: A History of Humanity's Unappeasable Appetite for Energy*. (W.W. Norton, 2006)

Alison Frank, *Oil Empire: Visions of Prosperity in Austrian Galicia* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005; paperback 2007)

Eagle Glassheim, "Ethnic Cleansing, Communism, and Environmental Devastation in Czechoslovakia's Borderlands, 1945-1989," *Journal of Modern History* 78 (March 2006): 65-92

Stephen Pyne, *Vestal Fire: An Environmental History, Told Through Fire, of Europe and Europe's Encounter with the World*

AIR

Peter Thorsheim, *Inventing Pollution: Coal, Smoke and Culture in Britain since 1800* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2006)

Peter Thorsheim, "The Paradox of Smokeless Fuels: Gas, Coke and the Environment in Britain, 1813-1949," *Environment and History*, Vol. 8, Nr. 4, 2002

Stephen Mosley, "Public Perceptions of Smoke in Victorian Manchester"

Stephen Mosely, *The Chimney of the World: A History of Smoke Pollution in Victorian and Edwardian Manchester*