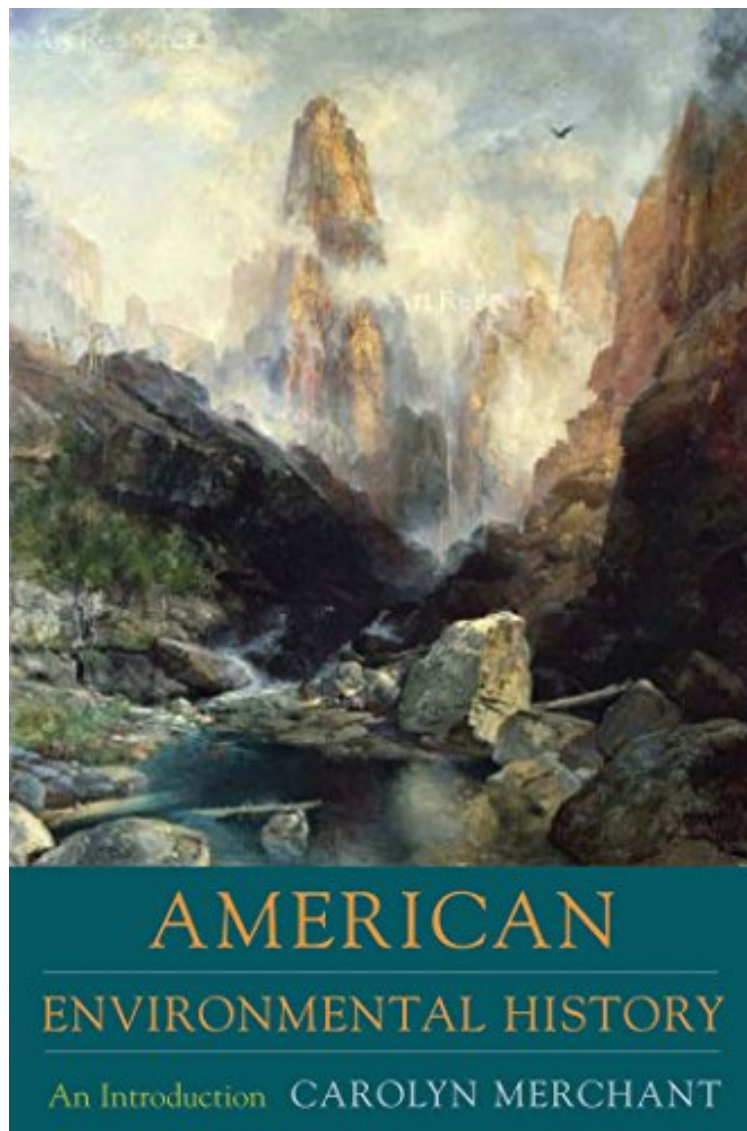


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American Environmental History: An Introduction (Columbia Guides to American History and Cultures)

Carolyn Merchant

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By studying the many ways diverse peoples have changed, shaped, and conserved the natural world over time, environmental historians provide insight into humanity's unique relationship with nature and, more importantly, are better able to understand the origins of our current environmental crisis. Beginning with the precolonial land-use practice of Native Americans and concluding with our twenty-first century concerns over our global ecological crisis, *American Environmental History* addresses contentious issues such as the preservation of the wilderness, the expulsion of native peoples from national parks, and population growth, and considers the formative forces of gender, race, and class. Entries address a range of topics, from the impact of rice cultivation, slavery, and the growth of the automobile suburb to the effects of the Russian sea otter trade, Columbia River salmon fisheries, the environmental justice movement, and globalization. This illustrated reference is an essential companion for students interested in the ongoing transformation of the American landscape and the conflicts over its resources and conservation. It makes rich use of the tools and resources (climatic and geological data, court records, archaeological digs, and the writings of naturalists) that environmental historians rely on to conduct their research. The volume also includes a compendium of significant people, concepts, events, agencies, and legislation, and an extensive bibliography of critical films, books, and Web sites.

Merchant takes a most useful approach to environmental scholarship by encapsulating a daunting range of factual information and critical information into this practical volume... one of the best books of its kind. (History) This is a one-volume resource not to be missed... our primary reference work. (Environmental History) An impressive introduction to environmental history... Merchant has succeeded in producing an accessible first stop handbook that will be relied on for many years. (Environmental Practice) A veritable reference work for the field and should be in every environmentalist's library. (Alan H. McGowan Environment) *American Environmental History* offers a superb introduction to the field. (Jay Turner Quarterly of Biology) About the Author Carolyn Merchant is the Chancellor's Professor of Environmental History, Philosophy, and Ethics at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of several books, including *Reinventing Eden: The Fate of Nature in Western Culture* and *The Death of Nature*, and is a past president of the American Society for Environmental History.