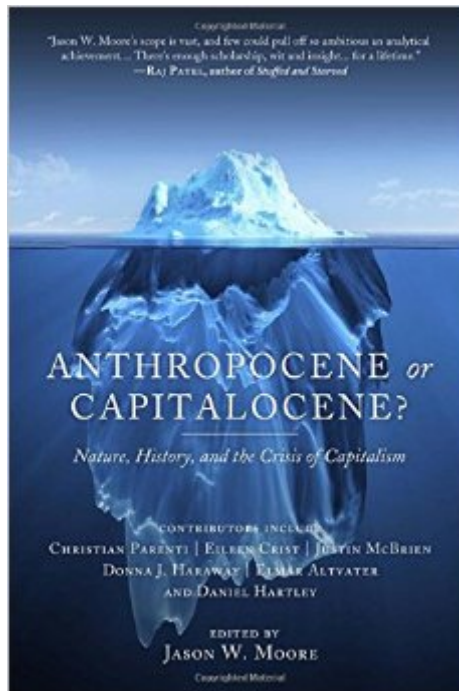


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Anthropocene Or Capitalocene?: Nature, History, And The Crisis Of Capitalism (KAIROS)



Synopsis

The Earth has reached a tipping point. Runaway climate change, the sixth great extinction of planetary life, the acidification of the oceans—all point toward an era of unprecedented turbulence in humanity's relationship within the web of life. But just what is that relationship, and how do we make sense of this extraordinary transition? *Anthropocene or Capitalocene?* offers answers to these questions from a dynamic group of leading critical scholars who challenge the conventional practice of dividing historical change and contemporary reality into "Nature" and "Society," demonstrating the possibilities offered by a more nuanced and connective view of human environment-making, joined at every step with and within the biosphere. In distinct registers, the authors frame their discussions within a politics of hope that signal the possibilities for transcending capitalism, broadly understood as a "world-ecology" that joins nature, capital, and power as a historically evolving whole.

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Customer Reviews

Killer book. Great collection of writers, some more lyrical and literature-based, while some fairly intensely theoretical. Great collection for those out there who teach classes on modern debates about capitalism and nature.

I agree with the authors' complaint regarding the term "Anthropocene" as being just one more example of the anthropomorphism that's been the cause of our problems in the first place, so the

term leaves us with only more of the same. But I take issue with their citation of capitalism as being the better candidate. While capitalism is shown to be a "world ecology" built upon the commodified relations of cheap labor, cheap nature and capital accumulation and is, therefore, geological in its extreme effects, the authors starting point can only be as far back as the "long 16th century" when trans-Atlantic exploitation and other developments were occurring. Even here they are apologetic since the going consensus is that the capitalist narrative doesn't begin until the age of steam and the Industrial Revolution that followed. I think the entire Human/Nature dichotomy began long before that and that it's this rift that has opened up the space for all exploitation since, namely the patriarchal, hierarchical structure of human society. This occurred thousands of years ago with the harnessing of agricultural surplus and the development of cities (and throw in some sky gods for good measure.) I'm not some dyed in the wool feminist but can easily ferret out an obvious incongruity: domination of one sex, one class, one race, one species, etc., over another is our original sin. But I recant: it is all Nature and only Nature. Likewise it's Nature that is feeding off of the, so-called, Anthropocene right now, furthering its own creative action through time. Meaning to say that we, as Nature, are recognizing that species extinction and the destruction of wild spaces need to be given our full creative attention. Perhaps "Anthropocene" is a good term after all as it might lend itself as a wake-up call, even while its framers might be congratulating their arrival.

Provides a fresh perspective on the age we live in and have created. Really gets at the fundamental issue.

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