

Environmental History

Book Review Guidelines

Your review needs to follow this format:

Title of Book. By Author's First and Last Name. Publication City (or Cities): Publisher, Date. Roman numeral pages + Arabic numbered pages. Illustrations, notes, tables, bibliography, and index. Cloth price, paper price.

The review. Almost all reviews should be no more than 500 words. In rare cases, when reviewers are writing about several books in one review, for instance, the book review editor will allow a higher word count.

Your name. A one or two sentence "biography" mentioning your current post/job, publications, and/or research interests.

Please keep these points in mind when writing your review:

- **Audience**
Assume your readers are interested in environmental history but come from a variety of fields and are not experts on the topic of the book.
- **Tone**
Reviews should be professional. Authors and readers alike deserve evenhanded assessments.
- **Coverage**
Readers will want to know:
 - What the book is about. Summarize the main points.
 - Where the books fit in the literature. Whose work does it support or rebut? Is it novel in topic, argument, or methods?
 - How well the author succeeds. What are the book's strengths and weaknesses?
 - Quality of the prose. Is the writing clear and accessible?
 - Audiences. Would you recommend this book to the general public? Scholars in a particular field? Environmental historians? Graduate students? Undergraduates (especially as a class text)?
 - Quality of production if unusual. Did the publisher show unusual care (e.g., in design, figures, etc.) or sloppiness (e.g., in copy editing, quality of reproductions, etc.), pushing the book above or below the broad middle in quality?
 - Overall assessment. How does this book compare to its peers?
- **Edited Collections**
Give the reader an overview of the book. Illustrate your points with examples from one or more chapters. Perhaps identify chapters that stand out and discuss them in more detail.

- **Style**

- Avoid “I,” “we,” “this writer,” and other self-referential words and phrases.
- Keep quotations from the book brief, and cite the page number in parentheses, for example, “quote” (p. 76).
- If you refer to other books or articles, cite the author, title, publisher or journal, publication date, and page numbers (if needed) in parentheses.
- Use no footnotes.
- Spell out whole numbers from one through one hundred unless in a list; otherwise use numerals.
- Spell out references to particular centuries, but hyphenate when they are used as adjectives (“twentieth century,” “nineteenth-century standards”).
- Use lower case and Arabic numerals to refer to numbered parts of a book (for example, “chapter 3” or “part 2”)

- **Submission**

If possible please submit your review via email to Melissa Wiedenfeld at mwiedenfeld@dwiedenfeld.org, copying in Eve Munson at emunson@aol.com. We would prefer the review sent as an attachment, but if necessary it can be sent as text in the message (We prefer documents prepared using MS Word, saved as RTF files). Do not save in fast save.

- **Copies**

The journal will mail you two copies of the issue in which your review appears.