Environmental Histories of the Cold War

Environmental Histories of the Cold War explores the links between the Cold War and the global environment, ranging from the environmental impacts of nuclear weapons testing to the political repercussions of environmentalism. Environmental change accelerated sharply during the Cold War years, and so did environmentalism as both a popular movement and a scientific preoccupation. Most Cold War history entirely overlooks this rise of environmentalism and the crescendo of environmental change. However, these historical subjects not only were simultaneous but also were linked together in ways both straightforward and surprising. The contributors to this book present these connected issues as a global phenomenon, with chapters concerning China, the Soviet Union, Europe, North America, Oceania, and elsewhere. The role of experts as agents and advocates of using the environment as a weapon in the Cold War or, in contrast, of preventing environmental damage resulting from Cold War politics is also given broad attention.

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Contents

List of Figures page ix
Contributors xi

Introduction: The Big Picture 1
J. R. McNeill and Corinna R. Unger

PART I. SCIENCE AND PLANNING

1 War on Nature as Part of the Cold War: The Strategic and Ideological Roots of Environmental Degradation in the Soviet Union 21
Paul Josephson

2 Creating Cold War Climates: The Laboratories of American Globalism 51
Matthew Farish

3 A Global Contamination Zone: Early Cold War Planning for Environmental Warfare 85
Jacob Darwin Hamblin

4 Environmental Diplomacy in the Cold War: Weather Control, the United States, and India, 1966–1967 115
Kristine C. Harper and Ronald E. Doel

5 Containing Communism by Impounding Rivers: American Strategic Interests and the Global Spread of High Dams in the Early Cold War 139
Richard P. Tucker
Contents

PART II. GEOPOLITICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

6 Environmental Impacts of Nuclear Testing in Remote Oceania, 1946–1996 167
Mark D. Merlin and Ricardo M. Gonzalez

7 A Curtain of Silence: Asia’s Fauna in the Cold War 203
Greg Bankoff

David Zierler

Kai Hünemöder

PART III. ENVIRONMENTALISMS

10 The New Ecology of Power: Julian and Aldous Huxley in the Cold War Era 279
R. S. Deese

11 Atmospheric Nuclear Weapons Testing and the Debate on Risk Knowledge in Cold War America, 1945–1963 301
Toshihiro Higuchi

12 The Evolution of Environmental Problems and Environmental Policy in China: The Interaction of Internal and External Forces 323
Bao Maohong

PART IV. EPILOGUE

13 The End of the Cold War: A Turning Point in Environmental History? 343
Frank Uekoetter

Index 353
List of Figures

2.1. Army scientists and research volunteers conducting physiological testing in the jungle room at the U.S. Army Climatic Research Laboratory, Lawrence, Mass., in 1945. page 66
2.2. Aerial view of the Natick Laboratories, on the shores of Lake Cochituate in Massachusetts. 69
2.3. The main gate of the Natick Quartermaster facility in 1956. 69
2.4. Workers install fan sections of the Doriot Climatic Chambers at the Natick facility. 70
2.5. Floor plan of the Climatic Research Laboratory, Natick, Mass., c. 1954. 72
2.6. Natick technicians enter a test chamber maintained at negative sixty degrees Fahrenheit. 73
2.7. The Arctic Aeromedical Laboratory's walk-around sleeping bag. 79
6.1. The Castle Bravo test blast, Bikini Atoll, March 1, 1954. 174
6.2. Aerial photograph of Elugelap Island, Enewetak Atoll, before the Ivy Mike test blast, November 1, 1952. 175
6.3. Aerial photograph of Elugelap Island, Enewetak Atoll, after the Ivy Mike test blast. 176
Map 6.1. Nuclear testing in Remote Oceania, 1946–96. 169
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