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978-1-107-07156-8 - The Ecology of War in China: Henan Province, the Yellow River, and Beyond, 1938–1950

Micah S. Muscolino

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The Ecology of War in China

Henan Province, the Yellow River, and Beyond, 1938–1950

This book explores the interplay between war and the environment in Henan Province, a hotly contested frontline territory that endured massive environmental destruction and human disruption during the conflict between China and Japan that raged during World War II. In a desperate attempt to block Japan's military advance, Chinese Nationalist armies under Chiang Kai-shek broke the Yellow River's dikes in Henan in June 1938, resulting in devastating floods that persisted until after the end of the war. Greater catastrophe struck Henan in 1942–1943, when famine took some 2 million lives and displaced millions more. Focusing on these war-induced disasters and their aftermath, this book conceptualizes the ecology of war in terms of energy flows through and between militaries, societies, and environments. Ultimately, Micah S. Muscolino argues that efforts to procure and exploit nature's energy in various forms shaped the choices of generals, the fates of communities, and the trajectory of environmental change in North China.

Micah S. Muscolino is Associate Professor of History at Oxford University.

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MICAH S. MUSCOLINO

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Abbreviations

AH	Academia Historica
HIA	Hoover Institution Archives
HPA	Henan Provincial Archives
IMH	Institute of Modern History Archives
MHD	Huanghe shuili weiyuanhui, <i>Minguo Huanghe da shiji</i> [Chronology of the Yellow River in the Republican period]
MHS	Minguo Huanghe shi xiezuo xiaozu, <i>Minguo Huanghe shi</i> [History of the Yellow River in the Republican period]
SJZHFZ	<i>Shanhou jiuji zongshu Henan fenshu zhoubao</i> [Weekly report of CNRRA's Henan branch office]
SPA	Shaanxi Provincial Archives
UN	United Nations Archives and Records Management Section
YRCC	Yellow River Conservancy Commission Archives
ZMA	Zhengzhou Municipal Archives