

68. Ecological Imperialism

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In this text Alfred Crosby explains why and how the European people spread all over the world and its consequences. He highlights the negative impact of colonization on environment and on human beings. They have committed the act of imperialism that caused destruction of fertile land, forest and native flora and fauna.

The European people have occupied vast areas of land in Eurasia, Australia, New Zealand, America, Africa and many more. These newly occupied lands are called Neo- Europes. Neo-Europes have a great share of food production and distribution in the world. The Neo-Europes include large areas of very high photosynthetic potential, areas in which the amount of solar energy, the sunlight, available for the transformation of water and inorganic matter into food is very high. The most important agricultural land in the world are the central united states, California, Southern Australia, New Zealand, southern half of France and the northwestern half of Iberia. Large number of humans elsewhere in the world depend on the Neo-Europes for much of their food. A great many people are hostage to the possible effects of weather, pests, disease, economic and political vagaries, and war in the Neo-Europes.

The responsibilities of Neo- Europeans require unprecedented ecological and diplomatic sophistication: statesmanship in farm and embassy, plus greatness of spirit.

The author concludes that the widespread erosion, diminishing fertility and the swift growth in the numbers of those dependent on the productivity of Neo-Europeans indicate that profits are finite.