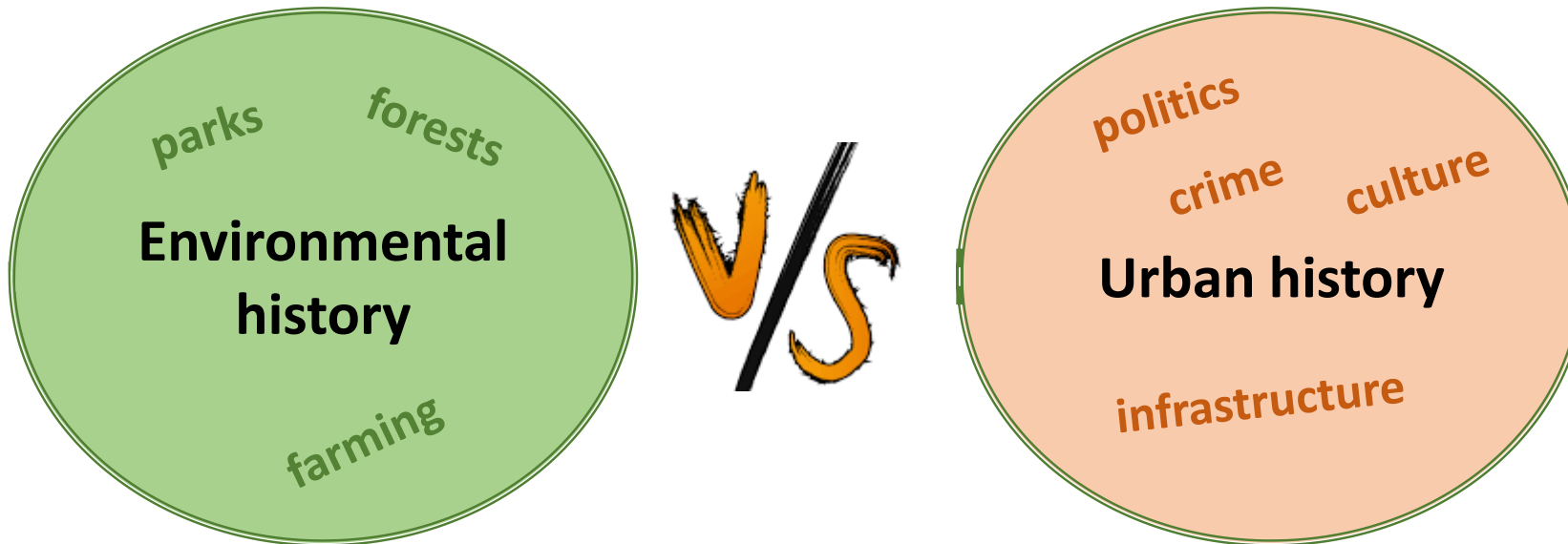


Anti-thesis!

- city-nature binary
- wilderness as the antidote to urban life



Worster–Melosi debate

Transformations of the Earth: Toward an Agroecological Perspective in History

Author(s): Donald Worster

Source: *The Journal of American History*, Mar., 1990, Vol. 76, No. 4 (Mar., 1990), pp. 1087-1106



...along with the history of climate and weather that relies upon huge data sets on tides and winds, ocean currents, geological and hydrological forces, “the living sources of the earth, or the biota” which have been “more susceptible to human manipulation than non-biological factors,” should occupy the primal place in environmental history (1089).

The Place of the City in Environmental History

Author(s): Martin V. Melosi

Reviewed work(s):

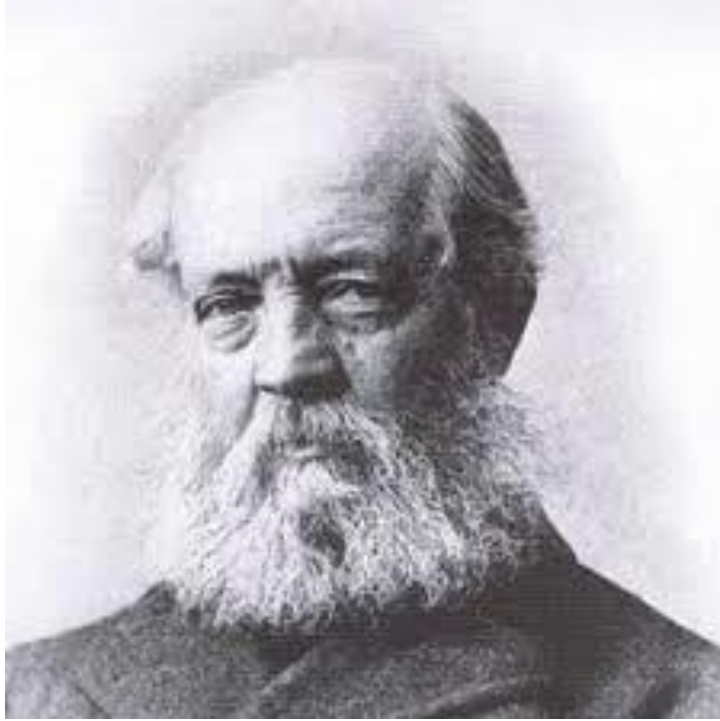
Source: *Environmental History Review*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (Spring, 1993), pp. 1-23



...cities are
derived from the
natural world and
they interact and
blend with it

urban environmental history should combine “the study of the natural history of the city with the history of city building and their possible intersections” (2)

The prelude



Frederick Law Olmsted



The place of nature in the City



Jacob Riis



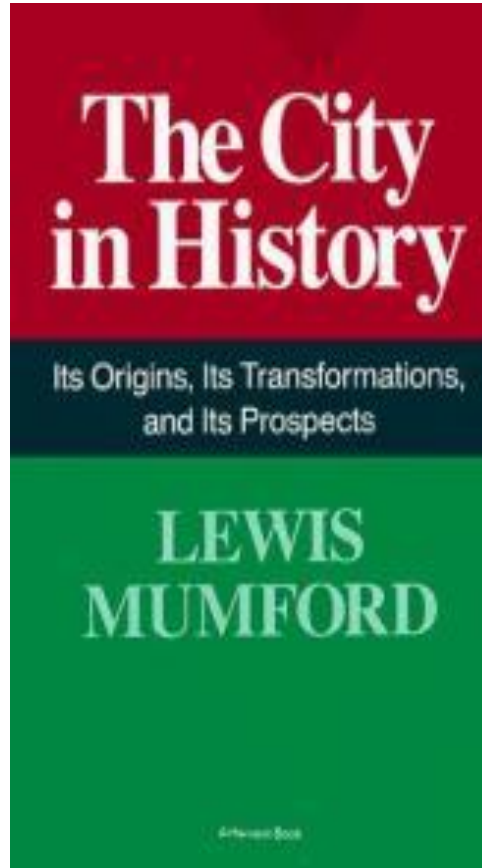
Frank Lloyd Wright



The nature–culture confluence



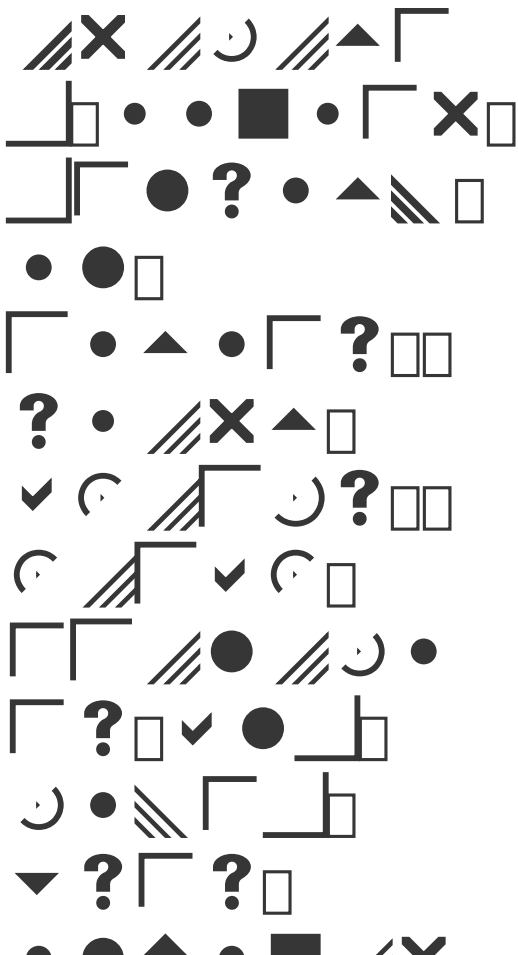
Lewis Mumford

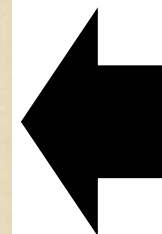
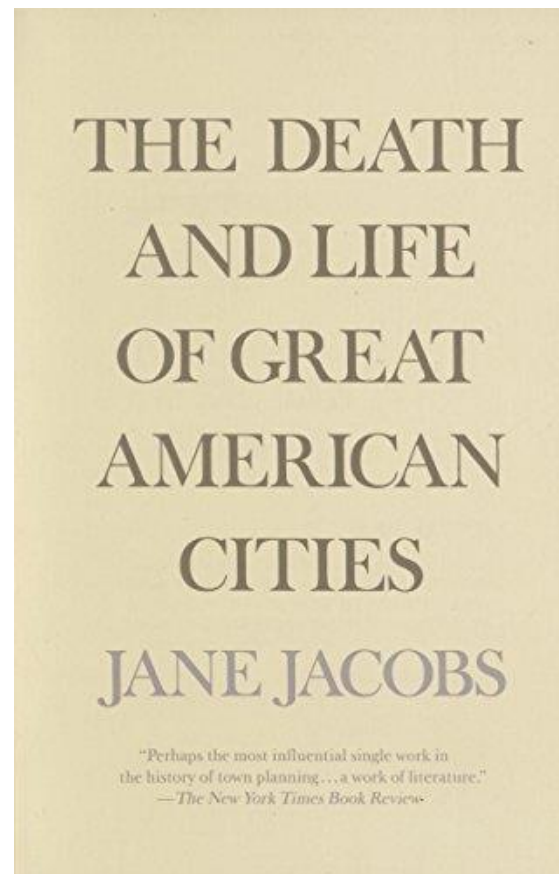


...cities were places where
natural and built
environments, nature, culture,
and technology coexisted in a
complex balance



Jane Jacobs

- cities as integrated systems
- 



**“a manifesto in
favor of the
messy but vital
living
communities”
(Culver 2014:
563)**

Similar contexts, divergent directions

➤ 1960s and 1970s

- urban history
- environmental history

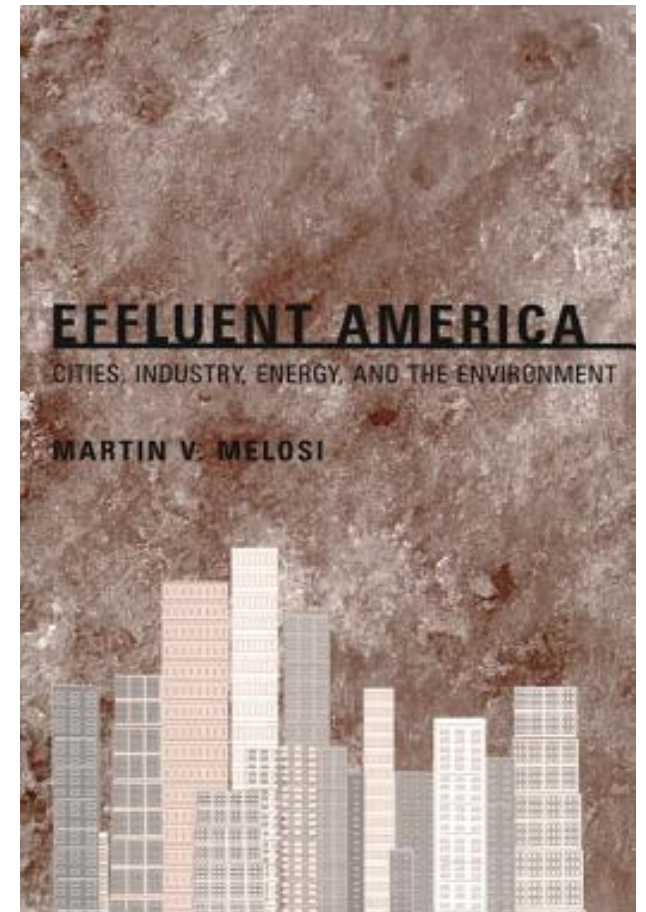
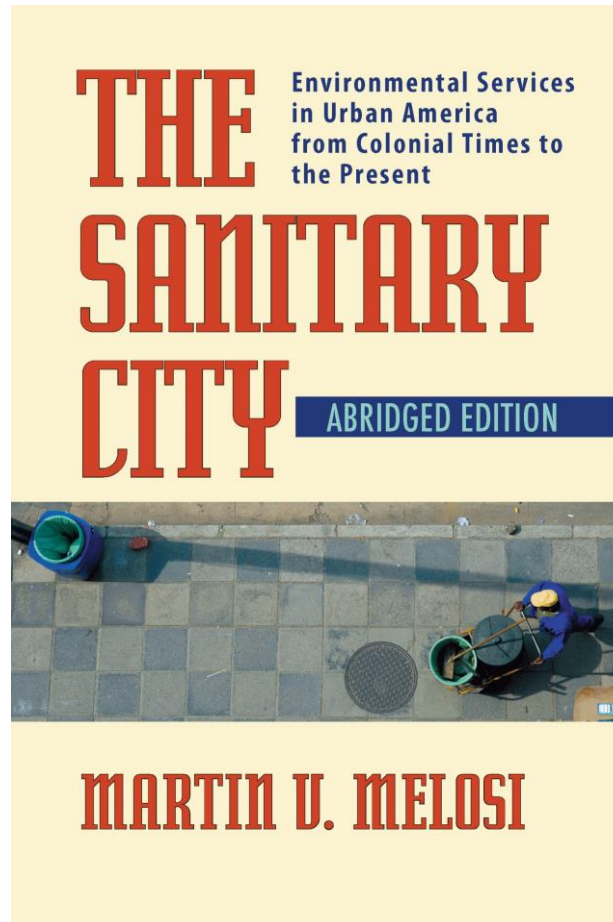
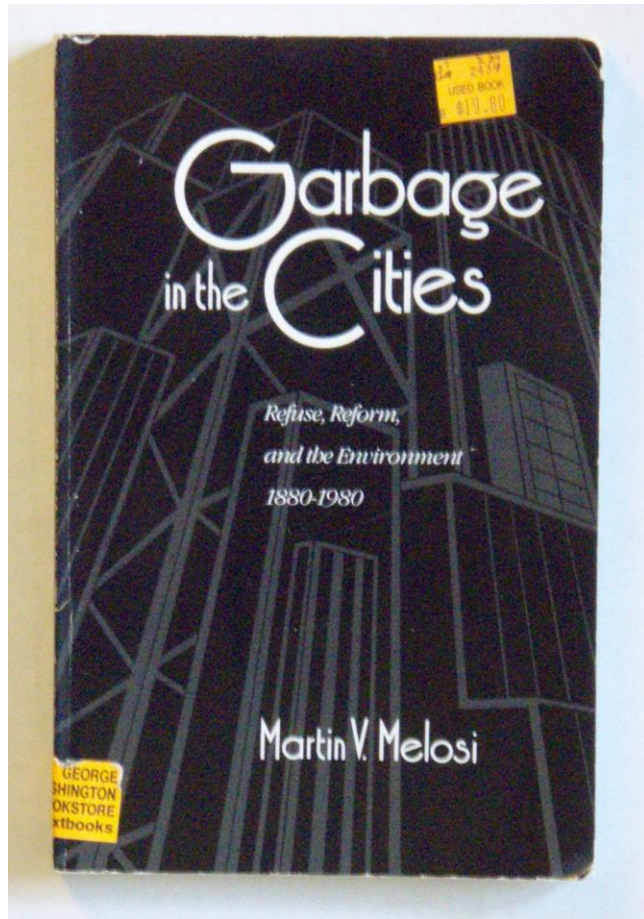
➤ common vantage point of crises

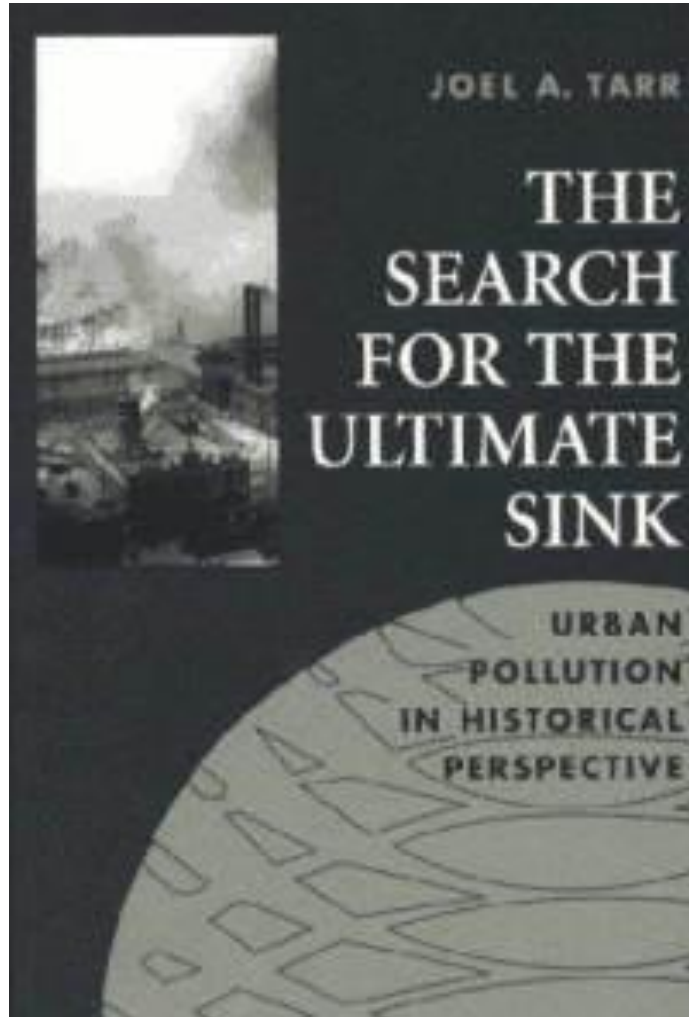
- riots, declining downtowns, suburbanization, etc.
- pollution, toxins; from nature in a national park to nature in one's backyard

The “environmental” turn in urban history and vice versa

- UEH in the US – 1990s
- as “a major subfield of both urban and environmental history” (Tarr 2001: 39)
- Three major influences (Schott 2004)
 - research on urban technical infrastructures – WATSAN [Martin Melosi; Joel Tarr]
 - Cronon’s *Nature’s Metropolis* (1991)
 - the global climate change and “sustainable development” scenario

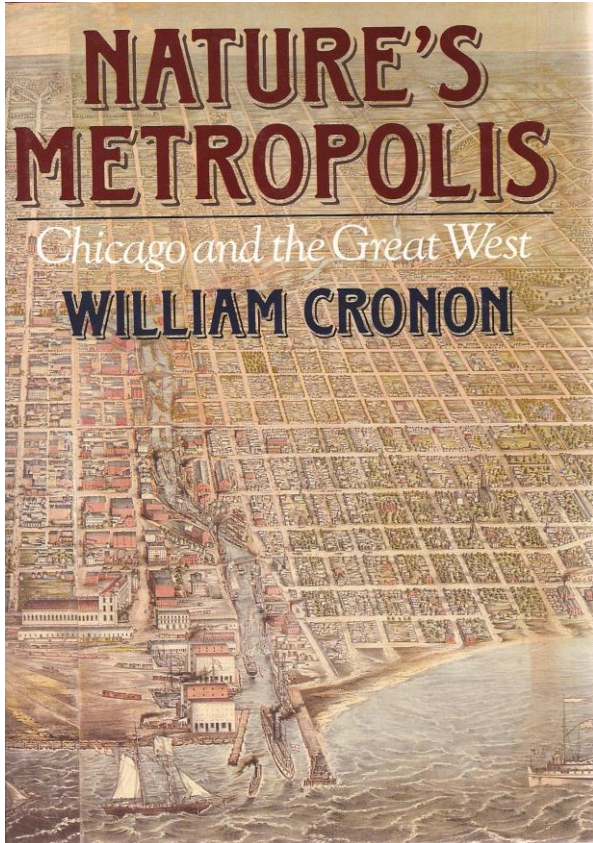
WASH





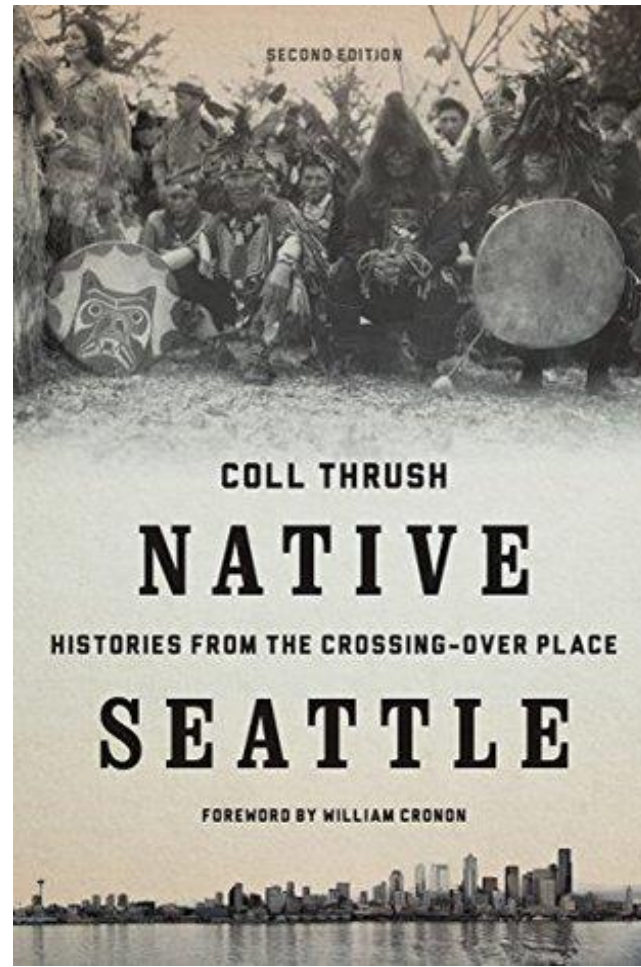
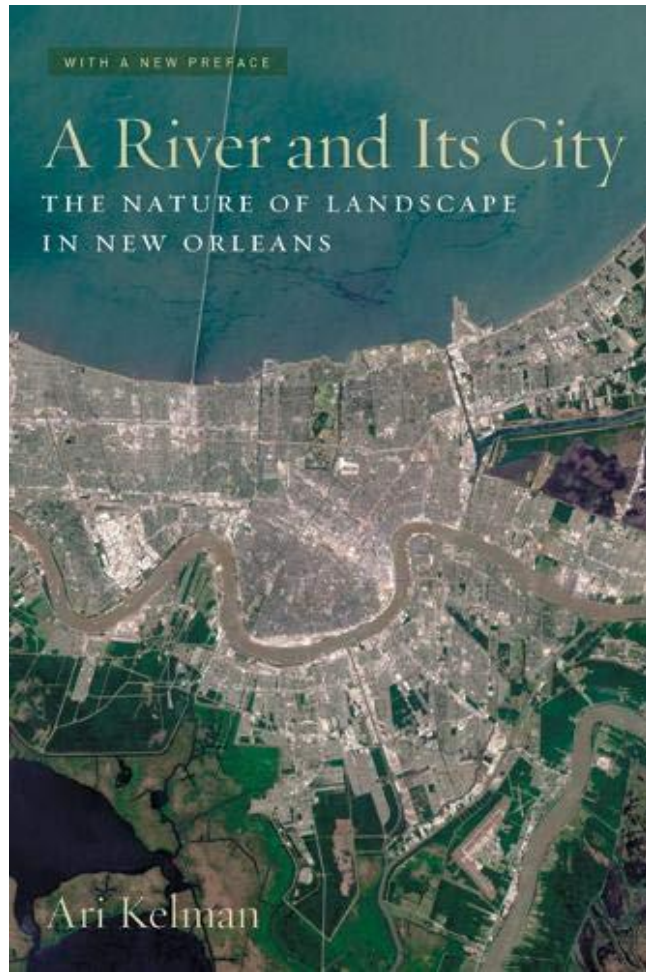
- **“safe ultimate sink” – illusory idea**
- **...the dumping of urban sludge from sewage treatment to the sea – boomerang – through decimated, deformed and degenerate fish resources**
- **how to dispose of those highly toxic substances which have been filtered out?**

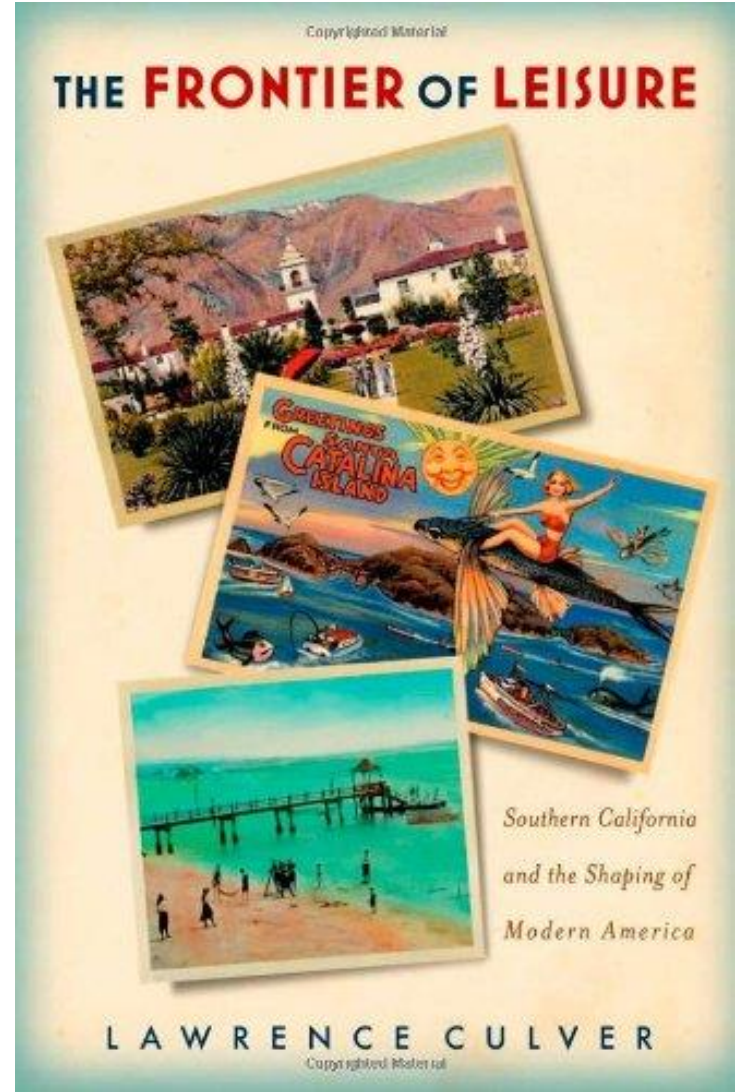
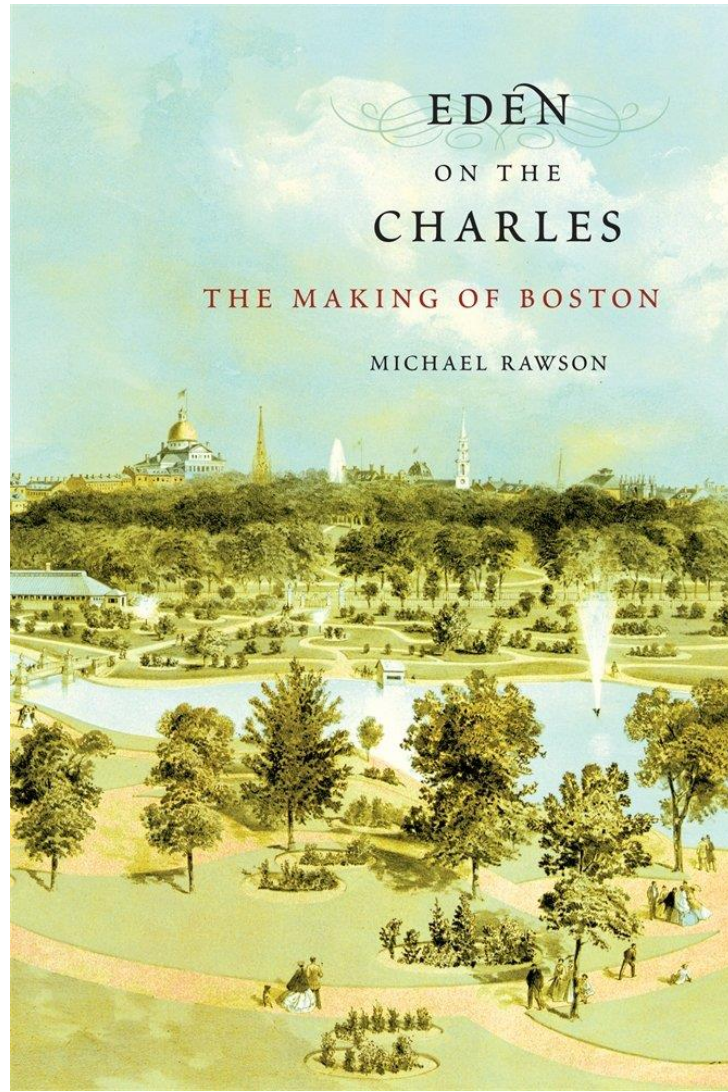
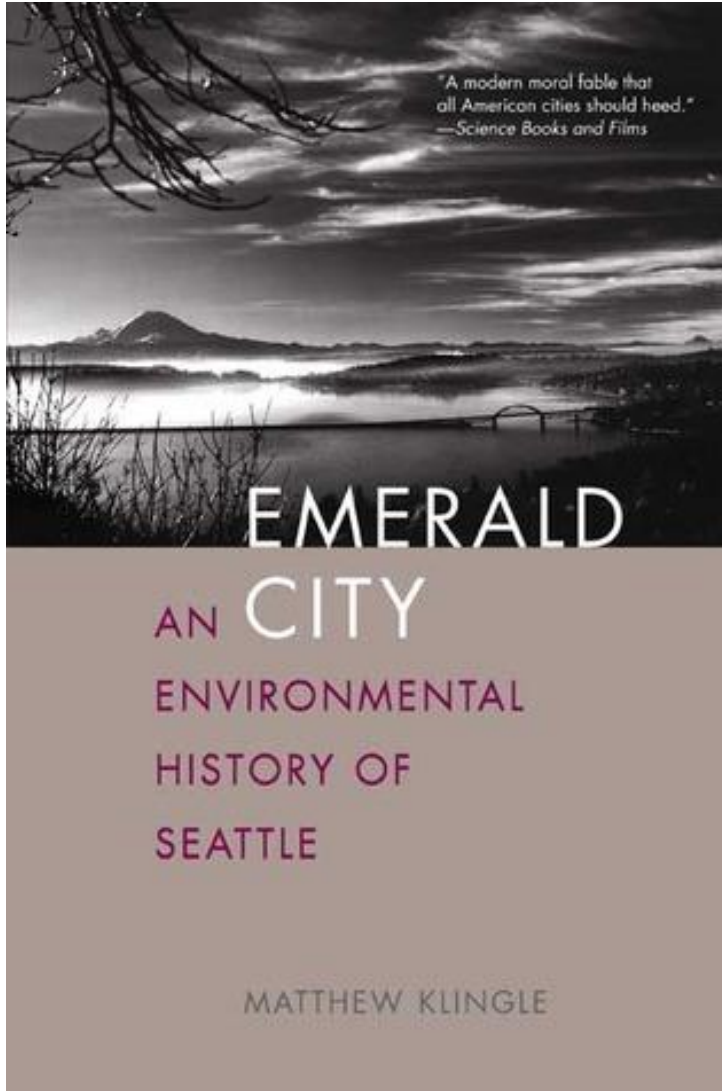
The “watershed” moment in the convergence



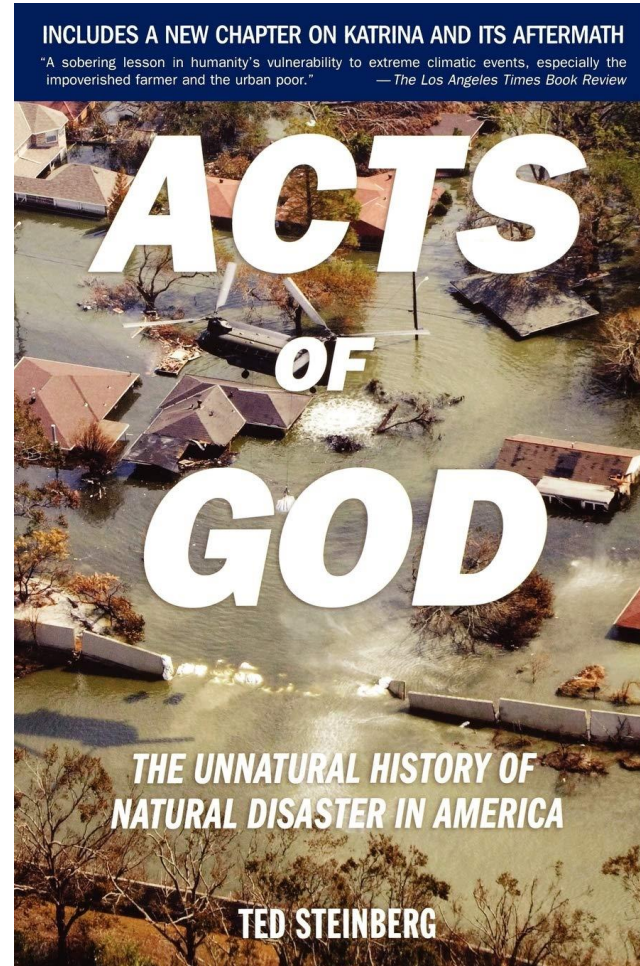
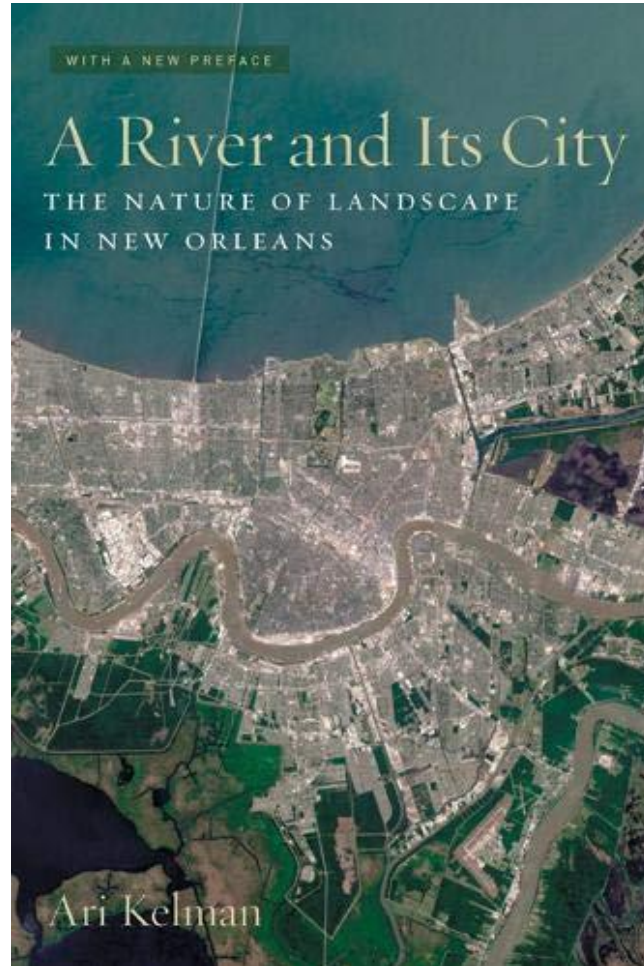
- how Chicago was related to and exploited its hinterland, the Great West
- how “Nature’s Metropolis” profited directly from the industrialization of agriculture and the mechanization of meat processing

urban metabolism





Disasters



Influences

- **1990s – European urban environmental history – impetus from Melosi, Tarr**
- **South Asian urban environmental history – more recent**
 - **focus on utilities and pollution (Anderson 1995; Broich 2007; Das 2007; Mann 2007; Sharan 2011, 2014, 2017; Arnold 2013; Chakrabarti 2015; Wilhelm 2016)**
 - **intersections between urban environmental and legal histories (Bhattacharyya 2018)**
 - **sustainable flows between city and its larger ecological infrastructures (Mukherjee 2020)**

Global urban environmental history

- varieties of environmentalism – “ecology of affluence” of global North versus “environmentalism of the poor” in cities of the global South does not hold

Though a powerful epistemological tool, the edge of distinctness of these two varieties for both the US and South Asia (India) has become blunt with (urban) environmental historians capturing the prevalence of elements of both these varieties within each spatial scale (Mukherjee, 2020: 206).

- Rome (2001), Gioielli (2014) – grassroots environmentalism against environmental injustices
- “green” and “brown” agendas in South Asian urban environmentalism
 - “bourgeoisie environmentalism” (Baviskar 2002) – environmental activism does not correlate to sustenance of the urban subaltern
 - textured situational analysis along particular geographies with “multiple elsewheres” (Ernstson and S. Sörlin 2019)

