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The Human Age

The World Shaped by Us



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The Human Age The World Shaped By Us Diane Ackerman

Robert L. Kelly



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The Human Age Diane Ackerman, 2014-09-03 Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award and the PEN New England Henry David Thoreau Prize A dazzling inspiring tour through the ways that humans are working with nature to try to save the planet With her celebrated blend of scientific insight clarity and curiosity Diane Ackerman explores our human capacity both for destruction and for invention as we shape the future of the planet Earth Ackerman takes us to the mind expanding frontiers of science exploring the fact that the natural and the human now inescapably depend on one another drawing from fields as diverse as evolutionary robotics nanotechnology 3 D printing and biomimicry New York Times Book Review with probing intelligence a clear eye and an ever hopeful heart

The Synthetic Age Christopher J. Preston, 2019-02-19 Imagining a future in which humans fundamentally reshape the natural world using nanotechnology synthetic biology de extinction and climate engineering We have all heard that there are no longer any places left on Earth untouched by humans The significance of this goes beyond statistics documenting melting glaciers and shrinking species counts It signals a new geological epoch In *The Synthetic Age* Christopher Preston argues that what is most startling about this coming epoch is not only how much impact humans have had but more important how much deliberate shaping they will start to do Emerging technologies promise to give us the power to take over some of Nature s most basic operations It is not just that we are exiting the Holocene and entering the Anthropocene it is that we are leaving behind the time in which planetary change is just the unintended consequence of unbridled industrialism A world designed by engineers and technicians means the birth of the planet s first Synthetic Age Preston describes a range of technologies that will reconfigure Earth s very metabolism nanotechnologies that can restructure natural forms of matter molecular manufacturing that offers unlimited repurposing synthetic biology s potential to build not just read a genome biological mini machines that can outdesign evolution the relocation and resurrection of species and climate engineering attempts to manage solar radiation by synthesizing a volcanic haze cool surface temperatures by increasing the brightness of clouds and remove carbon from the atmosphere with artificial trees that capture carbon from the breeze What does it mean when humans shift from being caretakers of the Earth to being shapers of it And in whom should we trust to decide the contours of our synthetic future These questions are too important to be left to the engineers

The Origins of the Modern World Robert B. Marks, 2024-01-02 This clearly written and engrossing book presents a global narrative of the origins of the modern world from 1400 to the present Unlike most studies which assume that the rise of the West is the story of the coming of the modern world this history drawing upon new scholarship on Asia Africa and the New World and upon the maturing field of environmental history constructs a story in which those parts of the world play major roles including their impacts on the environment Robert B Marks defines the modern world as one marked by industry the nation state interstate warfare a large and growing gap between the wealthiest and poorest parts of the world increasing inequality within the wealthiest industrialized countries and an escape from the environmental

constraints of the biological old regime He explains its origins by emphasizing contingencies such as the conquest of the New World the broad comparability of the most advanced regions in China India and Europe the reasons why England was able to escape from common ecological constraints facing all of those regions by the end of the eighteenth century a conjuncture of human and natural forces that solidified a gap between the industrialized and non industrialized parts of the world the mounting environmental crisis that defines the modern world and the ways in which the forces of globalization stress the economic and political underpinnings of the modern world Now in a new edition that brings the saga of the modern world to the present in an environmental context the book considers how and why the United States emerged as a world power in the twentieth century and became the sole superpower by the twenty first century and why the changed relationship of humans to the environment likely will be the hallmark of the modern era the Anthropocene Once again arguing that the US rise to global hegemon was contingent not inevitable Marks also points to the resurgence of Asia and the vastly changed relationship of humans to the environment that may in the long run overshadow any political and economic milestones of the past hundred years

Human Forms Ian Duncan, 2019-09-03 A major rethinking of the European novel and its relationship to early evolutionary science The 120 years between Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* 1749 and George Eliot's *Middlemarch* 1871 marked both the rise of the novel and the shift from the presumption of a stable universal human nature to one that changes over time In *Human Forms* Ian Duncan reorients our understanding of the novel's formation during its cultural ascendancy arguing that fiction produced new knowledge in a period characterized by the interplay between literary and scientific discourses even as the two were separating into distinct domains Duncan focuses on several crisis points the contentious formation of a natural history of the human species in the late Enlightenment the emergence of new genres such as the Romantic bildungsroman historical novels by Walter Scott and Victor Hugo that confronted the dissolution of the idea of a fixed human nature Charles Dickens's transformist aesthetic and its challenge to Victorian realism and George Eliot's reckoning with the nineteenth century revolutions in the human and natural sciences Modeling the modern scientific conception of a developmental human nature the novel became a major experimental instrument for managing the new set of divisions between nature and history individual and species human and biological life that replaced the ancient schism between animal body and immortal soul The first book to explore the interaction of European fiction with the natural history of man from the late Enlightenment through the mid Victorian era *Human Forms* sets a new standard for work on natural history and the novel

[Internet Afterlife](#) Kevin O'Neill, 2016-08-08 Can you imagine swapping your body for a virtual version This technology based look at the afterlife chronicles America's fascination with death and reveals how digital immortality may become a reality The Internet has reinvented the paradigm of life and death social media enables a discourse with loved ones long after their deaths while gaming sites provide opportunities for multiple lives and life forms In this thought provoking work author Kevin O'Neill examines America's concept of afterlife as imagined in cyberspace and

considers how technologies designed to emulate immortality present serious challenges to our ideas about human identity and to our religious beliefs about heaven and hell The first part of the work covering the period between 1840 and 1860 addresses post mortem photography cemetery design and spiritualism The second section discusses Internet afterlife including online memorials and cemeteries social media legacy pages and sites that curate passwords bequests and final requests The work concludes with chapters on the transhumanist movement the philosophical and religious debates about Internet immortality and the study of technologies attempting to extend life long after the human form ceases **Renewal**

Andrés R Edwards,2019-04-02 Explore our emotional bond with nature to heal ourselves and the natural world Why spend countless hours indoors in front of screens when being in nature feels so good In learning why and how to nurture our emotional connection with nature we can also regenerate the ecosystems on which we depend for our survival *Renewal* explores the science behind why being in nature makes us feel alive and helps us thrive Using personal experiences and cutting edge research in cognitive science this book weaves delightful stories that Reveal nature s genius and impacts on our lives from physical emotional intellectual and spiritual perspectives Explore how emulating nature is yielding design breakthroughs with biomimicry and biophilic design Highlight the importance of compassion and coexisting with wildlife in designing our conservation strategies Describe the significance of nurturing an ecological ethic that supports a reciprocal relationship with nature Whether you are drawn to conservation or are interested in the science behind human behavior *Renewal* will help create a blueprint for integrating nature with a life of creativity compassion and joy AWARD GOLD 2019 Nautilus Book Awards Green Living Sustainability SILVER 2020 Living Now Awards Green Living **The Human-Animal**

Boundary Nandita Batra,Mario Wenning,2018-11-27 Throughout the centuries philosophers and poets alike have defended an essential difference rather than a porous transition between the human and animal Attempts to assign essential properties to humans e g language reason or morality often reflected ulterior aims to defend a privileged position for humans This book shifts the traditional anthropocentric focus of philosophy and literature by combining the questions What is human and What is animal What makes this collection unique is that it fills a lacuna in critical animal studies and the growing field of ecocriticism It is the first collection that establishes a productive encounter between philosophical perspectives on the human animal boundary and those that draw on fictional literature The objective is to establish a dialogue between those disciplines with the goal of expanding the imaginative scope of human animal relationships The contributions thus do not only trace and deconstruct the boundaries dividing humans and nonhuman animals they also present the reader with alternative perspectives on the porous continuum and surprising reversal of what appears as human and what as nonhuman

Casting Forward Steve Ramirez,2020-11-01 In *Casting Forward* naturalist educator and writer Steve Ramirez takes the reader on a yearlong journey fly fishing all of the major rivers of the Texas Hill Country This is a story of the resilience of nature and the best of human nature It is the story of a living breathing place where the footprints of dinosaurs

conquistadors and Comanches have mingled just beneath the clear spring fed waters This book is an impassioned plea for the survival of this landscape and its biodiversity and for a new ethic in how we treat fish nature and each other *Wandering Towards a Goal* Anthony Aguirre, Brendan Foster, Zeeya Merali, 2018-05-30 This collection of prize winning essays addresses the controversial question of how meaning and goals can emerge in a physical world governed by mathematical laws What are the prerequisites for a system to have goals What makes a physical process into a signal Does eliminating the homunculus solve the problem The three first prize winners Larissa Albantakis Carlo Rovelli and Jochen Szangolies tackle exactly these challenges while many other aspects agency the role of the observer causality versus teleology ghosts in the machine etc feature in the other award winning contributions All contributions are accessible to non specialists These seventeen stimulating and often entertaining essays are enhanced versions of the prize winning entries to the FQXi essay competition in 2017 The Foundational Questions Institute FQXi catalyzes supports and disseminates research on questions at the foundations of physics and cosmology particularly new frontiers and innovative ideas integral to a deep understanding of reality but unlikely to be supported by conventional funding sources **Environmental Chemistry** Stanley E. Manahan, 2022-06-19 With clear explanations real world examples and updated ancillary material the 11th edition of Environmental Chemistry emphasizes the concepts essential to the practice of environmental science technology and chemistry The format and organization popular in preceding editions is used including an approach based upon the five environmental spheres and the relationship of environmental chemistry to the key concepts of sustainability industrial ecology and green chemistry The new edition provides a comprehensive view of key environmental issues and significantly looks at diseases and pandemics as an environmental problem influenced by other environmental concerns like climate change Features The most trusted and best selling text for environmental chemistry has been fully updated and expanded once again The author has preserved the basic format with appropriate updates including a comprehensive overview of key environmental issues and concerns New to this important text is material on the threat of pathogens and disease deadly past pandemics that killed millions recently emerged diseases and the prospects for more environment threats related to disease This outstanding legacy appeals to a wide audience and can also be an ideal interdisciplinary book for graduate students with degrees in a variety of disciplines other than chemistry New Long awaited companion website featuring additional ancillary material [The Routledge Companion to the Environmental Humanities](#) Ursula Heise, Jon Christensen, Michelle Niemann, 2017-01-06 The Routledge Companion to the Environmental Humanities provides a comprehensive transnational and interdisciplinary map to the field offering a broad overview of its founding principles while providing insight into exciting new directions for future scholarship Articulating the significance of humanistic perspectives for our collective social engagement with ecological crises the volume explores the potential of the environmental humanities for organizing humanistic research opening up new forms of interdisciplinarity and shaping public debate and policies on environmental

issues Sections cover The Anthropocene and the Domestication of Earth Posthumanism and Multispecies Communities Inequality and Environmental Justice Decline and Resilience Environmental Narratives History and Memory Environmental Arts Media and Technologies The State of the Environmental Humanities The first of its kind this companion covers essential issues and themes necessarily crossing disciplines within the humanities and with the social and natural sciences Exploring how the environmental humanities contribute to policy and action concerning some of the key intellectual social and environmental challenges of our times the chapters offer an ideal guide to this rapidly developing field

Our Wild Calling Richard Louv, 2020-11-10 A book that offers hope The New York Times Book Review A wondrous tapestry Carl Safina author of *Beyond Words* What Animals Think and Feel Audubon Medal winner Richard Louv's landmark book *Last Child in the Woods* inspired an international movement to connect children and nature Now he redefines the future of human animal coexistence In *Our Wild Calling* Louv interviews researchers theologians wildlife experts indigenous healers psychologists and others to show how people are connecting with animals in ancient and new ways and how this serves as an antidote to the growing epidemic of human loneliness how dogs can teach children ethical behavior how animal assisted therapy may yet transform the mental health field and what role the human animal relationship plays in our spiritual health He reports on wildlife relocation and on how the growing populations of wild species in urban areas are blurring the lines between domestic and wild animals *Our Wild Calling* makes the case for protecting promoting and creating a sustainable and shared habitat for all creatures not out of fear but out of love Includes a new interview with the author discussion questions and a resource guide

Anthropology in the Anthropocene Christoph Antweiler, 2024-11-25 In this book anthropologist and geologist Christoph Antweiler shows that geology is a special namely historical natural science and is therefore relevant for a historically informed anthropology He argues that we do not only need a geologically informed cultural anthropology but conversely also an anthropologically oriented geology A comprehensive geology must include material human culture as a fundamental geological phenomenon In relation to cultural anthropology the author discusses the challenge the Anthropocene poses for cultural anthropology as a traditionally micro oriented social science The book discusses where the blind spots lie in the highly interdisciplinary discussion Common narratives are critically scrutinized The author argues for the need for a new discipline geoanthropology

[Water Planet](#) Camille Gaskin-Reyes, 2016-10-24 Through case studies opposing viewpoints and primary documents this reference work examines the environmental and sustainability issues regarding water as well as how water is an intrinsic part of human culture Every culture and ecosystem on earth depends on water As the world's climate changes human culture is increasingly threatened by the seemingly opposite problems of having too little clean potable water and having too much water e.g. flooding melting polar ice caps and rising sea levels What are the solutions that humanity must collectively pursue to protect our ability to flourish on planet earth *Water Planet* The Culture Politics Economics and Sustainability of Water on Earth offers an unprecedented examination of the critical subject

of water sustainability Its essays viewpoints case studies and documents show how this vital resource that many in first world countries take for granted is intricately woven into not only basic human survival but also cultural political and economic stability Readers will learn about topics such as flooding and drought the growing problem of water pollution the connections between water and gender including gender equity and gender aspects of water ownership the effects of global temperature changes on the water supply concerns regarding fishing and overfishing water security and sustainable water management

Last of the Giants Jeff Campbell, 2019-08-01 Today an ancient world is vanishing right before our eyes the age of giant animals Over 40 000 years ago the earth was ruled by megafauna mammoths mastodons saber toothed tigers and giant sloths Of course those creatures no longer exist and there is only one likely reason for that the evolution and arrival of the earth s only tool wielding hunter the wildly adaptive comparatively pint sized human species Many more of the world s biggest and baddest creatures including the black rhino the dodo giant tortoises and the great auk have vanished since our world became truly global *Last of the Giants* chronicles those giant animals and apex predators pushed to extinction in the modern era The book also highlights those giant species that remain even though many barely survive living in such low numbers that they are on the brink of leaving this world within the next few decades However there is hope for many endangered species can still be saved As it profiles each extinct and endangered animal *Last of the Giants* focuses on the conservation efforts that are trying to preserve the world s remaining charismatic species before they are lost forever

Futures of the Study of Culture Doris Bachmann-Medick, Jens Kugele, Ansgar Nünning, 2020-08-10 How can we approach possible but unknown futures of the study of culture This volume explores this question in the context of a changing global world The contributions in this volume discuss the necessity of significant shifts in our conceptual and epistemological frameworks Taking into account changing institutional research settings the authors develop pathways to future cultural research addressing the crucial concerns of the cultural and social worlds themselves The contributions thereby utilize contact zones within a wide range of disciplines such as cultural anthropology sociology cultural history literary studies the history of science and bioethics as well as the environmental and medical humanities Examining emerging inter and transdisciplinary points of reference the volume invites scholars in the humanities and social sciences to take part in a conversation about theories methods and practices for the future study of culture *The Fifth Beginning* Robert L. Kelly, 2019-02-12 I have seen yesterday I know tomorrow This inscription in Tutankhamun s tomb summarizes *The Fifth Beginning* Here archaeologist Robert L Kelly explains how the study of our cultural past can predict the future of humanity In an eminently readable style Kelly identifies four key pivot points in the six million year history of human development the emergence of technology culture agriculture and the state In each example the author examines the long term processes that resulted in a definitive no turning back change for the organization of society Kelly then looks ahead giving us evidence for what he calls a fifth beginning one that started about AD 1500 Some might call it globalization but the

author places it in its larger context a five thousand year arms race capitalism's global reach and the cultural effects of a worldwide communication network Kelly predicts that the emergent phenomena of this fifth beginning will include the end of war as a viable way to resolve disputes the end of capitalism as we know it the widespread shift toward world citizenship and the rise of forms of cooperation that will end the near sacred status of nation states It's the end of life as we have known it However the author is cautiously optimistic he dwells not on the coming chaos but on humanity's great potential Gene Editing, Law, and the Environment Irus Braverman, 2017-07-20 Technologies like CRISPR and gene drives are ushering in a new era of genetic engineering wherein the technical means to modify DNA are cheaper faster more accurate more widely accessible and with more far reaching effects than ever before These cutting edge technologies raise legal ethical cultural and ecological questions that are so broad and consequential for both human and other than human life that they can be difficult to grasp What is clear however is that the power to directly alter not just a singular form of life but also the genetics of entire species and thus the composition of ecosystems is currently both inadequately regulated and undertheorized In Gene Editing Law and the Environment distinguished scholars from law the life sciences philosophy environmental studies science and technology studies animal health and religious studies examine what is at stake with these new biotechnologies for life and law both human and beyond **Darwin's Walk and The Last Wave** Richard Krooth, 2017-08-30 This book describes the reasons humankind may be facing its last moments on Planet Earth Darwin marked the path of species evolution modification and extinction Following Darwin's trajectory of evolution the author reveals how human made technologies have had a devastating impact on Earth's biosphere signaling the continuing disappearance of landscapes and the decline of species life *Nature's Wild Ideas* Kristy Hamilton, 2022-10-04 A lively and endlessly fascinating deep dive into nature and the many groundbreaking human inventions inspired by the wild Delightful The Guardian Fans of Helen Scales won't want to miss this Publishers Weekly STARRED Review When astronomers wanted a telescope that could capture X rays from celestial bodies they looked to the lobster When doctors wanted a medication that could stabilize Type II diabetic patients they found their muse in a lizard When scientists wanted to drastically reduce emissions in cement manufacturing they observed how corals construct their skeletons in the sea This is biomimicry in action taking inspiration from nature to tackle human challenges In *Nature's Wild Ideas* Kristy Hamilton goes behind the scenes of some of our most unexpected innovations She traverses frozen waterfalls treks through cloudy forests discovers nests in the Mojave desert scours intertidal zones and takes us to the deepest oceans and near volcanoes to introduce us to the animals and plants that have inspired everything from cargo routing systems to non toxic glues and the men and women who followed that first spark of I wonder all the way to its conclusion sometimes against all odds While the joy of scientific discovery is front and center *Nature's Wild Ideas* is also a love letter to nature complete with a deep message of conservation If we are to continue learning from the creatures around us we must protect their untamed homelands

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The Human Age The World Shaped By Us Diane Ackerman Introduction

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web the distribution of speeds shown in the plot is called maxwell boltzmann distribution of speeds fig a 1 maxwell boltzmann distribution of speeds the graph shows that number of molecules possessing very high and very low speed is very small the maximum in the curve represents speed possessed by maximum number of molecules

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