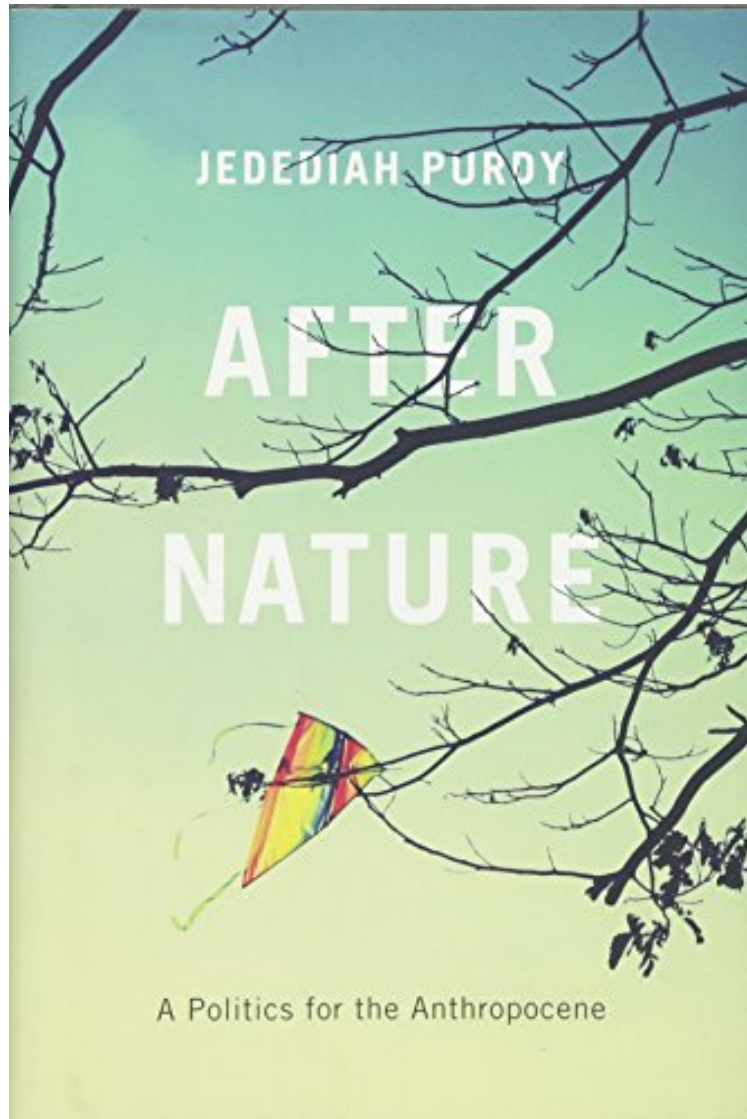


[Library ebook] After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene

After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene

Jedediah Purdy

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Jedediah Purdy : After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The book is a very good overview of how the notion of "nature" has evolved ...By Thomas O'BrienThe book is a very good overview of how the notion of "nature" has evolved over the centuries in the U.S. The book does a good job of connecting historical events to the philosophies of different eras that viewed the natural world in distinct and sometimes contradictory ways. This gives the reader background in how many of our attitudes and law evolved out of deeper convictions about the value the culture placed on the non-human

environment. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By fred springer a must read -- intelligent and really well written - puts things together in a really useful way. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. His writing isn't like Michael Pollen. By the critic After Nature was highlighted on Art Forum's Booklist recently. Ecology, Economics, and Politics are discussed in a way that is accessible to both (man made) climate warming acceptors and deniers. (My stepfather is a man made climate change denier, but this text offers up arguments that even he has made for a change in creating a healthy environment.) Why we have belief systems that we have are covered, what has worked in the environmental movements of past, and what are directions to embrace for the future are all discussed by Purdy. His writing isn't like Michael Pollen, but there is a resemblance that I really enjoy. A good follow up to Naomi Klein's Capitalism vs the Climate.

Nature no longer exists apart from humanity. Henceforth, the world we will inhabit is the one we have made. Geologists have called this new planetary epoch the Anthropocene, the Age of Humans. The geological strata we are now creating record industrial emissions, industrial-scale crop pollens, and the disappearance of species driven to extinction. Climate change is planetary engineering without design. These facts of the Anthropocene are scientific, but its shape and meaning are questions for politics that does not yet exist. After Nature develops a politics for this post-natural world. Jedediah Purdy begins with a history of how Americans have shaped their landscapes. He explores the competing traditions that still infuse environmental law and culture: a frontier vision of settlement and development, a wilderness-seeking Romanticism, a utilitarian attitude that tries to manage nature for human benefit, and a twentieth-century ecological view. These traditions are ways of seeing the world and humans place in it. They are also modes of lawmaking that inscribe ideal visions on the earth itself. Each has shaped landscapes that make its vision of nature real, from wilderness to farmland to suburbs opening some new ways of living on the earth while foreclosing others. The Anthropocene demands that we draw on all these legacies and go beyond them. With human and environmental fates now inseparable, environmental politics will become either more deeply democratic or more unequal and inhumane. Where nothing is pure, we must create ways to rally devotion to a damaged and ever-changing world.

Dazzling [Purdy's] book is, among other things, a panoramic tour of what he calls the American environmental imagination. Purdy hopes that climate change might spur yet another change in how we think about the natural world, but he insists that such a shift will be inescapably political. For a relatively slim volume, this book distills an incredible amount of scholarship about Americans changing attitudes toward the natural world, and about how those attitudes might change in the future. (Ross Andersen *The Atlantic* 2015-11-30) For Purdy, one of the key challenges of the Anthropocene is to use the law in ways that adopt the best rather than the worst of each vision of nature: to integrate concern for human work and meaning into an ecological framework; to set standards for action on climate change; to make transparent the sources of our food and our treatment of animals. Purdy thinks we need to learn the core political lesson of his story which at its heart is not about the politics of nature, but about democracy. This is a history in which democracy is constantly evaded, decision-making is removed from collective politics by appeals to natural systems, and anti-politics creeps back in. (Katrina Forrester *The Nation* 2016-05-12) Jedediah Purdy has written a big book, taking up a set of profound environmental questions and offering sweeping answers. The strengths of *After Nature* are significant and make this a must-read book for all who are struggling with how to reinvigorate environmental protection in the face of political breakdown in America and troubling global trends, including the emerging risk of climate change. The journey he maps is illuminating. In fact, perhaps the greatest strength of *After Nature* is its intellectual history of American environmentalism. With this book, Purdy shows himself to be a deep thinker on the nature of Nature. Purdy offers a provocative ecological vision and ethical argument that deserves to be reckoned with. He has established himself among the top tier of environmental philosophers of our day. (Daniel C. Esty *Los Angeles of Books* 2015-12-06) *After Nature* argues that we will deserve the future only because it will be the one we made. We will live, or die, by our mistakes. (Christine Smallwood *Harpers* 2015-09-01) *After Nature* takes the reader on a smart and eloquent tour of the history of conservation movements, the rise of the study of ecology (and its flourishing in the wake of the Vietnam War) and the gradual expansion of environmental law, but Purdy is at his most insightful and persuasive when writing about the first of his major realms, economy and the subtle ways money has been shaping nature for centuries to suit its own needs. In the previous year, there've been many studies of the deeper meaning of the Anthropocene and the future of humanity, studies ranging from the impenetrable to the inconsolable. *After Nature* is by a wide margin the best of these books; in its passion, intelligence, and persistent thread of hope, it may very well be the *Silent Spring* of the 21st century. (Steve Donoghue *Open Letters Monthly* 2015-09-01) Offers a powerful reckoning with our bewildering present. Its great value lies in its sophisticated, lucid study of the evolving American environmental imagination. Purdy brings impressive intellectual and literary chops to bear on a history of American attitudes toward nature, and how those attitudes have manifested in tangible modifications of the air, land, and water. The book aims to show how our shared philosophical premises inform our laws, our behavior, and ultimately our world. (Rebecca Tuhus-Dubrow *Los Angeles of Books* 2015-11-30) [Purdy] argues that our democracy is too beholden

to the influence of money, that the processes we use to produce energy and food should be made more transparent to the public, and that technological solutions are unreliable and will not bring about the greater change of consciousness that is necessary to solve our most pressing problems. He urges an ethic of self-restraint and a new worldview in which human beings are no longer the figure at its center. (Nathaniel Rich New York of Books 2015-10-22)A profound vision of post-humanistic ethics. (Kirkus s 2015-05-15)Its good to have as powerful a mind as Professor Purdys taking on these questions so central to our modern life. Every page has insights that will help people struggling to understand how we got here and where were headed. (Bill McKibben, author of The End of Nature)Deeply considered and finely laid out To begin reading it is to open and decipher a compressed and encrypted file on a history of ideas about what nature means at the heart of the Anthropocene. Purdy draws on law, letters, philosophy, science, social science, politics, and aesthetics; from Locke, Rousseau, and Burke, through Jefferson, all the way to the recent past of the ecological ages beginnings, the urgent catastrophe of Rachel Carsons Silent Spring (1962), and our contemporary moment, after crisis had become the normal state of affairs, closing with ideas about nature and the posthuman from Rosi Braidotti, among others. Somewhere in between, Purdy manages to give a history of private propertyhow each version of nature has its economy. If the ominous political near past and the planets environmental emergency feel present on every page, so, too, does a sense of the role we each have in shaping the future. (Liz Larner Artforum 2016-12-01)After Nature is the book that finally, somehow, manages to get the whole of our environment in its headto see the multiplicity of its expressions; of our influence; of our capacity, now, to determine the fate of the whole worldand from all of that draws out an account of political possibilities that, for all their sense of danger, are not without plausible hope. (Emmett Rensin Bookforum 2017-03-01)About the AuthorJedediah Purdy is Robinson O. Everett Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law.