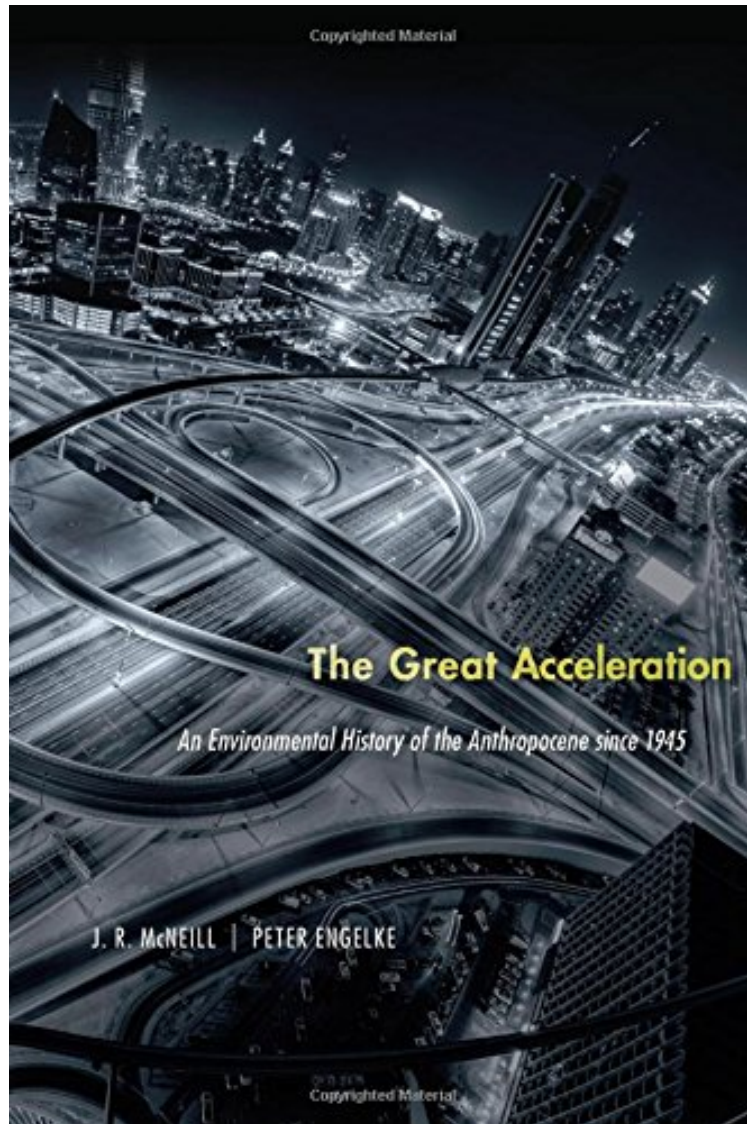


[Mobile book] The Great Acceleration: An Environmental History of the Anthropocene since 1945

The Great Acceleration: An Environmental History of the Anthropocene since 1945

J. R. McNeill, Peter Engelke

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J. R. McNeill, Peter Engelke : The Great Acceleration: An Environmental History of the Anthropocene since 1945 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Acceleration: An Environmental History of the Anthropocene since 1945:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Biased Reportage in a Subject Area Where Scientific Veracity and Comprehensiveness Is ParamountBy Sandy SantraOil companies are the bad guysthat is one of the basic premises of

the argument for calling our epoch the "Anthropocene" epoch. So then why are authors McNeill and Engelke using reference data from the British Petroleum Review of World Energy, June 2014, in the very first table used in the book on page 10? That's like using an enemy's propaganda in the new encyclopedia of history you're publishing; there's no confidence in the factual veracity of BP's findings in the least (because of the context and the fact that BP is one of the major players in the unfolding of the Anthropocene epoch). Only a few pages later, the authors briefly recount the Deepwater Horizon disaster, an oil platform leak that spewed five million barrels into the Gulf of Mexico another instance where BP was involved. The authors merely recite the facts, setting aside where true culpability for the incident lay with a flippant remark about lawyers being busy for decades settling the score as to who did what. In their insistence on presenting "only the facts," they tend to gloss over and/or omit the political weight of large companies' direct responsibility for the massive anthropogenic effects that have impacted the planet over the last 100 years. I wanted to like this book, to have confidence in its reportage, but the authors' approach seems sloppy and disingenuous. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Recommended reading By Customer J.R. McNeill's earlier book, "Something New Under the Sun", was an historian's refreshing outlook on aspects of the environment we live in. This time around, McNeill and Peter Engelke have coauthored "The Great Acceleration, An Environmental History of the Anthropocene since 1945". Once again, the authors address different aspects of the environment from an historical perspective. In this style, they have made important science accessible for lay readers like myself. Well done! 3 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Kalliat T. Valsaraj Once again a remarkable book from my favorite author, McNeill.

The Earth has entered a new age the Anthropocene in which humans are the most powerful influence on global ecology. Since the mid-twentieth century, the accelerating pace of energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and population growth has thrust the planet into a massive uncontrolled experiment. The Great Acceleration explains its causes and consequences, highlighting the role of energy systems, as well as trends in climate change, urbanization, and environmentalism. More than any other factor, human dependence on fossil fuels inaugurated the Anthropocene. Before 1700, people used little in the way of fossil fuels, but over the next two hundred years coal became the most important energy source. When oil entered the picture, coal and oil soon accounted for seventy-five percent of human energy use. This allowed far more economic activity and produced a higher standard of living than people had ever known but it created far more ecological disruption. We are now living in the Anthropocene. The period from 1945 to the present represents the most anomalous period in the history of humanity's relationship with the biosphere. Three-quarters of the carbon dioxide humans have contributed to the atmosphere has accumulated since World War II ended, and the number of people on Earth has nearly tripled. So far, humans have dramatically altered the planet's biogeochemical systems without consciously managing them. If we try to control these systems through geoengineering, we will inaugurate another stage of the Anthropocene. Where it might lead, no one can say for sure.

Among the first scholarly works to make explicit use of the geological framework of the Anthropocene for the purpose of rethinking the grand narratives of global economic change. (Fredrik Albritton Jonsson Public Books 2016-12-01) About the Author J. R. McNeill is University Professor in the Department of History and School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Peter Engelke is a Senior Fellow at the Strategic Foresight Initiative at the Atlantic Council in Washington, DC.