

"An accessible tour de force and an ideal starting point for anyone seeking an understanding of the Anthropocene predicament."

John R. McNeill, Georgetown University

"Earth System scientists have proposed the Anthropocene and geologists are confirming its reality. This work explores more important questions: what does the Anthropocene really mean for humanity and what are the many ways we could deal with it?"

Will Steffen, Australian National University

The Anthropocene is intriguing scientifically, fascinating intellectually, and deeply disturbing politically, socially, economically, and ethically. We must learn how to co-exist sustainably with the rest of nature in what is emerging as a new planetary state. To do so, we must first understand what "Anthropocene" means in all its dimensions. This book adopts a multidisciplinary approach, starting with the question of how people from very different fields might construct useful conversations about a phenomenon that is simultaneously natural-and-human. It then explores the Anthropocene as a geological concept: ranging across the physical changes to the landscape, to the rapidly heating climate, to a biosphere undergoing transformation.

And what of the *anthropos* in the Anthropocene? While geoscience does not normally address political and ethical issues of justice and equity, or economics and culture, Anthropocene studies in the humanities and social sciences investigate the complexities of the human activity driving global change. Here the book looks at human history, both in the deep past and more recently, the politics and economics of growth spurring the Anthropocene, and potential ways of mitigating its cruel effects. Our fragile, still beautiful, planet is finite. The new realities of the Anthropocene will need our best efforts, across disciplinary divides, at effective hope and action.

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<i>About the Authors</i>	vi
<i>Preface</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiv
1 The Multidisciplinary Anthropocene	1
2 The Geological Context of the Anthropocene	18
3 The Anthropocene as a Geological Time Unit and the Great Acceleration	41
4 The Anthropocene and Climate Change	69
5 The Anthropocene and the Biosphere's Transformation	87
6 The <i>Anthropos</i> of the Anthropocene	112
7 The Economics and Politics of Planetary Limits	136
8 The Existential Challenges of the Anthropocene	170
<i>Bibliography</i>	198
<i>Index</i>	227