The World of Cheap Energy 1700-1914 (56)

Environmental History Overviews (6)


Energy History

2. Conditions: Creation of a World Market (4)


2.2. Braudel Civ & Capitalism Volumes 1 & 2 & 3


3. Conditions: Capital Accumulation (3)


3.2. Soll in the Oxford Handbook of Environmental History


5. How Did Cheap Energy Spread? (5)


6. Case Study: Cotton (3)


7. **Case Study: Iron and Steel** (3)


8. **The Second Industrial Revolution** (3)


9. **From Coal To Gasoline To Natural Gas** (2)


**Climate History**

1. **Climate As Causal Force In History** (5)


2. **Environment As Intellectual Problem** (4)


3. **Climate Change As Intellectual Problem** (5)


3.5. Shock of the Anthropocene


Guha Radical environmentalism and third world preservation

Cronen Trouble with Wilderness

**Social Life at the End of the World (61)**

We live in the Anthropocene—a geological era marked by humanity's increasing effects on the environment. Future geologists, digging through the earth a million years from now would find tell-tale signs of human activity. From the increasing carbon dioxide in our atmosphere that will be preserved in limestone, to the slow process of mass extinction, to new layers of rock formation made up of plastics. It's likely that the political and social questions of the future will be deeply influenced by the environmental changes prompted by humanity's actions over the past 300 years. Farms will be stricken with drought. Cities will flood. New areas of settlement will open up in the north. This will lead to changes in global power, justice.

But will also presents a problem for the way we understand history. The past three hundred years have traditionally been framed as a period not of the Anthropocene, but the period of modernity. There's a lot of debate about what modernity means. Some people see it as the development and promulgation of the blueprint for modern Western capitalism. (Whether this is a tragedy or an epic depends on your politics.) Others consider it a particular attitude towards life that is always changing, always evolving, where all that is solid melts into air. Others see modernity as a particular kind of social formation, characterized by rationality, bureaucracy, and democracy. These stories, however different they may be, are familiar ones. They tell a story about the difference between yesterday and today that is caused by the things people think, the words they say, the stuff they do. And these stories have been important, because they have allowed people to imagine different kinds of futures.

The Anthropocene seems to threaten to undo all of this. Instead of people, ideas, classes, and countries, grim global ecological facts dominate the future. Climate, ecology, and mass extinction might be driven by humans—but not by individuals. The actual effects are caused invisibly by the collective actions of the entire planet. While it's certain that blame effects different people differently, we're unable to sort out this blame. Finally, there is the problem of temporality. The anthropocene is quick—for a geological event. But it is incredibly slow for a human event. Since it spans generations, and there is a significant time lag in it effects, it is
incredibly difficult to tell stories about it. And yet as the facts of the Anthropocene increasingly dominate politics, we will need these stories.

This class will attempt to rectify the problems of the anthropocene at these changes by studying everyday human life. We will focus on cities and material culture. This is not to anthropomorphize the environment, but instead to show that the environment is always at work in human history. It will do this to show that human history is always about more than simply people: it is about the food we eat, the animals we live with, the cities we inhabit, the clothes we wear, the plates we eat off of, and the materials we work with. The anthropocene is not a drastic break because it represents the human finally escaping the bounds of natural. It represents a drastic break because human activity is changing a number of natural forces: but these natural forces are tied up intimately with everyday human life.

Doing this will show an ecological view of modern life, where the everyday practices we take to be modern are predicated on new forms of cheap energy. This class will give a cultural account of the early anthropocene, roughly from 1780 to 1900, following things and people as they move from Britain out to the rest of the world.

Lesson Plan
   Part 1: Foundations

Week 1 The Modern World

   1. Intro: argument of the course is that the modern world is peculiar because of global trade, new organizations, and cheap energy, show it through food and breakthrough of Malthusian Trap -- this will look at cultural history from a material, urban, environmental perspective
   2. Two sides of global food: global division of production (sugar, cotton, tapioca); in urban Europe, refinement of food in 18-19 C as art (fine dining) or science (dietary science)

Week 2 Intimate Things

   1. Drugs: these new global commodities shape the way we think and act. Case study of coffee, IPA, and opium
   2. Clothes: why does everyone wear suits? two parts--clothes get cheap b/c cotton factories (but also the relatively late arrival of ready-made); clothes as markers of urban difference

Week 3 The Organized Society

   1. Work. A quick run-down of IR and how it changes the way people work. Factories. Wage labor outside the home. Rise of services. Free time. Creation of new kinds of bureaucratic organizations to deal with this work. Individual --> role (Also think about the institutions that help people expand—think settlement of Australia) Rules for incorporation.
   2. Organization and distant communication. How people communicate across distances: post, newspapers, maybe something on the Japanese Post Office
Week 4 The Technology of Distance

1. Global transport: railroad, steamship telegraph leading to massive amounts of trade in goods
2. And migration: making the city increasingly patchwork, anonymous

Part 2: Urban Experience

Week 5 Strangers in the City

1. Strangers and the city: the problem of trust in the anonymous city, the creation of organizations to create trust (clubs, coffeehouses, etc), leading to expanding idea of individual
2. Women and the city: this process generally not open to middle class + women, creation of Victorian domesticity, undermining of female social capital, domestic modernity (Judy Giles Parlor and Suburb stuff)

Week 6 City of Lights, City of Darkness

1. City as an environmental problem: smoke and industrial pollution leading to battle between modern organizations: civil society orgs trying to clean up smoke vs companies arguing it's a sign of prosperity; increasing appeals to the state
2. Infrastructure improvements: light, water, police, street paving, greater control of urban environment

Week 7 Unwanted Visitors

1. The city as a health problem: sanitation and disease (toilets, cholera, public health)
2. Animals in the city: domestic animals (pets, horses) and synathropes (pigeons, rats, foxes)

Week 8 Sight-Seeing

1. Landscapes: Natural landscape as beautiful, industrial sublime, conquest of nature and distance, tourism
2. Urban landscape: Good and bad neighborhoods, urban consumerism, suburbs

Week 9 Circadian Rhythms

1. Time: global time shifts, larger story is the shift from seasonality to abstract time; including clocks, time reform, calendrical reform
2. Sleep and the night: control over the night through lights, changing sleep patterns, night life and class
Week 10 Urbanism as Modernity; Urbanism as Anthropocene
Some kind of summing up... -- need to think through this some more

Things

1. International Commodities

2. Fast Food

3. Clothes

4. Drugs
   4.3. Opium?

People

5. The Problem of Distance and Trust


5.5. Simmel, The Stranger


6. Sleep


7. Time

7.1. EP Thompson on Time and Work Discipline in Cultures in Common


8. Pollution


8.7. Tom Crook, “Sanitary Inspection and the Public Sphere in late Victorian and Edwardian Britain: A Case Study in Liberal Governance.” *Social History* 3

9. *Built Environment*


Objects – distinctive buildings and building styles
- Departments stores (dream worlds)
- Apartment Buildings
- Factories
- Parks
- Pubs

Landscapes – Imagined space (parks of various kinds)
- Raymond Williams

Transportation
- Tourism
- Horses / Cars / Roads
- Subways

10. *Animals*


11. City As Modernity
12. Urban Difference—each city has its own distinctive formation

12.1. Biographies of the 10 most populous cities in the world? Instead of listing whole books, make sure the reading enables me to tell my own biographical accounts about particular cities

Mad, Bad, Dangerous; Civil, Polite, Enlightened: Britain in the Long 18th Century (62)

Nine Questions
Demography and Agriculture
Describe and account for the change in population in Britain over the long 18 C
Politics
How did the Ancien Regime end and why should we care?
The war makes the state, great—but what other things does war make?
Culture and Society
Does popular culture change over the 18 C?
What processes affected people's conception of status and hierarchy over the 18th century. In other words, how does 'class' change and why?
40 years ago, you could do a course on British history without mentioning civil society once. Do we miss anything out if we don't include civil society? Why are we now talking about it?
Economy
How does world trade and/or capitalism effect everyday life? How does everyday life effect world trade and/or capitalism?
How did the national market expand if most transactions were still done by credit, which presumably requires face-to-face trust?
How revolutionary was the IR?

1. What led to the political stability of the Georgian period? What were the consequences of it?


2. What were the consequences (social, cultural, economic) of the unprecedented proportion of the British population who worked on ships or the shipbuilding industry?


3. How did international trade affect Britain? How did British international trade affect the world?


4. What were the financial revolution and the credit economy and how did it change everyday life and politics?


5. How Did The Fiscal Military State Change the Experience of War


6. **Was There A Public Sphere? Did It Matter?**


7. **How can we best characterize politics in the period? Corrupt? Symbolic? Pragmatic?**


8. **Why Did Demographic Change Happen? How did this affect families, women and children?**


9. **How did consumer goods and changes in marketing and retailing change everyday life?**


10. **Why did people lose their swords and start worrying about politeness?**


12. What Were the Social and Cultural Preconditions of the Industrial Revolution?


13. Who Were The Middle Class? Why Were The Middle Class?


14. Was There A Decline In Popular Culture? If no, why do we think there was?


The Triumph and Tragedy of Capitalist Organizations: Britain in the Long 19th Century (61 Books)

**Big Picture: Capitalism Takes The Stage**

Capitalism & Political Economy – What is Capitalism and why did it become ascendant in the 19th century? – OR – Is there more to capitalism than factories and machines? (Could add more classics—Schumpeter and Polanyi and so on)


2. **The Rise of Finance** – What made London the global financial center of the world and why does it matter?


**Mid-Range: Organizations**

3. **The Counted World** – How did the rise of statistics and numeration affect society, government and culture


4. **Families, Sex and the Bourgeois** – Was there a ‘domestic sphere’? Why does this matter?


5. Voluntary Associations and Social Movements – What happened to the Associational World in the 19th century?


6. Technologies of Bureaucracy – How did abstract organizations manage their workers and operations at distance over the 19th century?


6.5. Technology and innovation in encyclopedia.


7. **Sovereignty and Suffrage**

8. **Class and Work – Did the experience of working create the category of class?**

9. **Were People Better Off?**
   Why did women leave the workforce?

Beyond

10. **White Settler Colonies**
   10.3. SOMETHING ON SOUTH AFRICA?
   10.4. SOMETHING ON CANADA?

11. **Britain Loses Its Edge: The Second & Third Industrial Revolutions Pass Britain By**

12. **Epilogue: Good Bye To All That—and it all ends with a .**
Iron Cages, Steel Filing Cabinets: Organizational History

Background: Historical Sociology

Bureaucratization—Weber and his disciples

Business History—Chandler and his Imitators

Organizational Sociology Approaches

Organizational History Approaches: Why?

Organizational History Approaches: How

Organizational History Approaches: Examples

Basics of org theory
How they apply to the past

Civic Capital as the Missing Link
Freedom Versus Organization, Bertrand Russell
Rogers, Diffusion of Innovations
Coleman, Asymmetric Society
The Organizational Society
The Bureaucratization of the World
Meyer on Organizations
Organizing Control