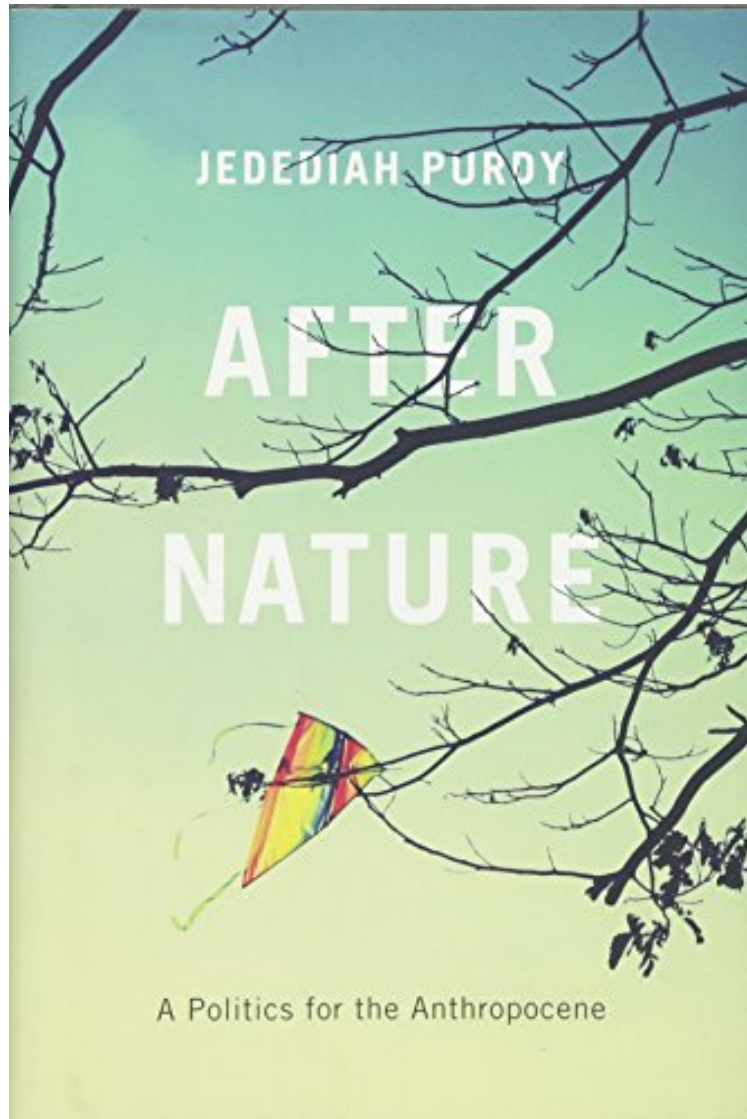


## After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene

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 a 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 suburbia 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.