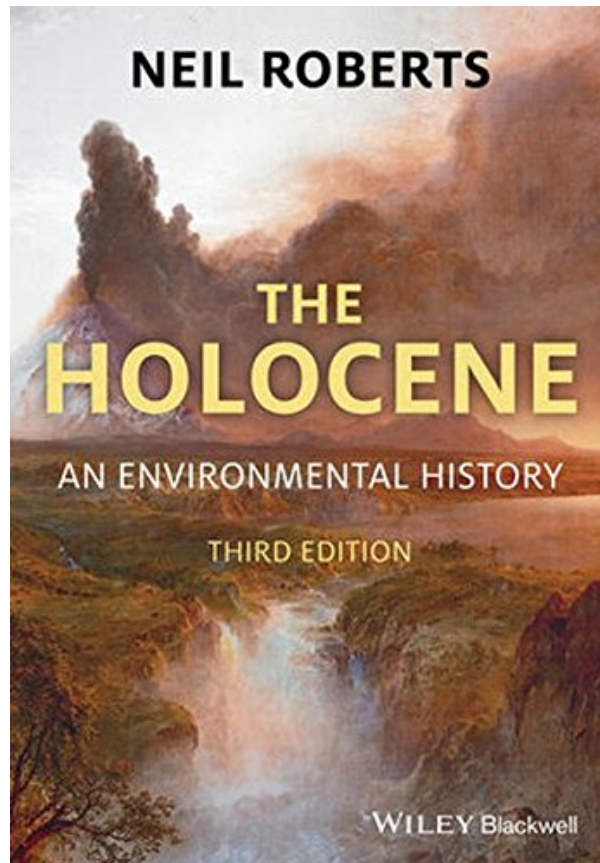
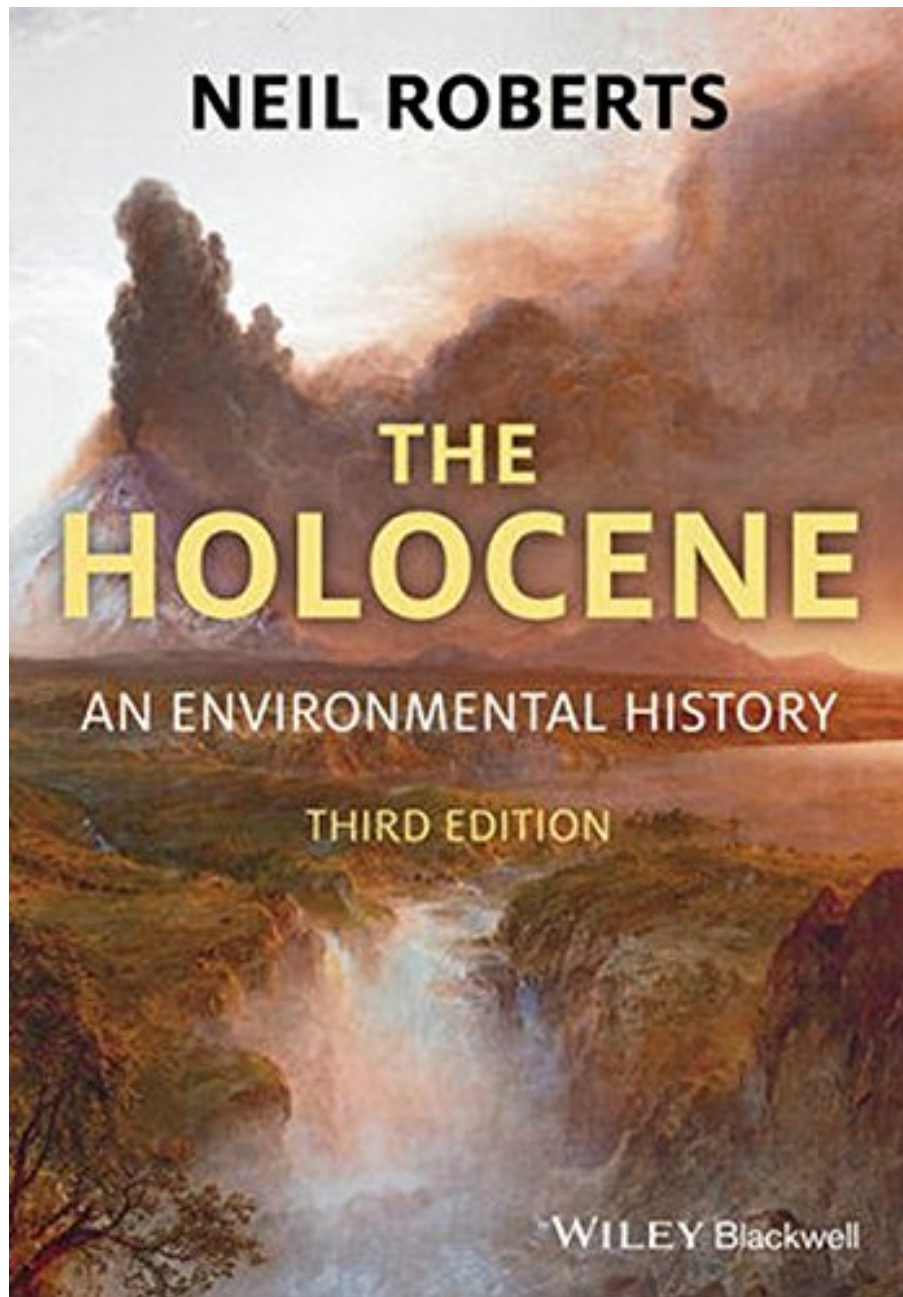


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Review

“In conclusion, we find the new edition highly recommendable to students and researchers but to those who are interested in how our modern environment came about and how human kind interacts with nature.” (Geologos Journal, 1 August 2015)

“All the sections are very well referenced, making this a good book for serious research or to dip into a particular area of interest to the reader. For a reference work it is surprisingly easy to just sit and read, which I did, and found it interesting through to the last page. I particularly liked the way a wide range of ideas and disciplines were brought together to form a coherent thread throughout the book.” (Proceedings of the Open University Geological Society, 1 April 2015)

“The text makes enjoyable reading, and although the author introduces many technical terms, they are all covered in a glossary at the end and included in the index. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above; general readers.” (Choice, 1 October 2014)

“This excellent book should be mandatory reading for any student taking a palaeobased environmental change module, and academics will also very much enjoy reading Neil Roberts’ fine prose.” (The Holocene, 1 October 2014)

From the Back Cover

The Holocene provides students, researchers and lay-readers with the remarkable story of how the natural world has been transformed since the end of the last Ice Age around 15,000 years ago. This period has witnessed a shift from environmental changes determined by natural forces to those dominated by human actions, including those of climate and greenhouse gases. Understanding the environmental changes - both natural and anthropogenic - that have occurred during the Holocene is of crucial importance if we are to achieve a sustainable environmental future.

Revised and updated to take full account of the most recent advances, the third edition of this classic text includes substantial material on the scientific methods that are used to reconstruct and date past environments, as well as new concepts such as the Anthropocene. The book is fully-illustrated, global in coverage, and contains case studies, a glossary and more than 500 new references.

About the Author

Neil Roberts is Professor of Geography at Plymouth University in the UK and has been Visiting Senior Researcher at Stanford University, CA. His main research interests are in Holocene environmental change, especially lake sediment records of climate and human impact in Mediterranean regions. He is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and served on the US National Academies Committee on climate changes of the last 2,000 Years.

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Want to be educated on climate change? Start here.

By Darrick Heyd

Roberts's Holocene is an excellent starting point for anyone wishing to learn about recent climate change. Roberts is a skilled writer, and has rendered some very technical, scientific content (e.g. using isotope ratios as a proxy for temperature) readable for the general public. His scholarship is remarkable: Each chapter is backed up by at least a hundred references to the primary literature. I am unsure whether the book was intended for a technical audience or for general consumption, but, with the wealth of references, it would be very suitable as a text for a specialised course in environmental science, as well as a nice addition to anyone's library. The author presents a very balanced view of the limitations of the scientific data (e.g. the use of pollen profiles to reconstruct past vegetation) and presents hypotheses of climate change in the context of the available data, often rendering his opinion (never overstated) of whether the hypotheses are adequately supported. The third edition is right up-to-date, with many recent references and revised ideas about human impact on the environment.

Although this book is not a narrative, it has woven into it the story of modern humans and their experiences with a changing (and, in the last 6000 years, stable) environment. As you read, you will be transported back to villages lost beneath the waves of the North Sea and the waters of Indonesia and China, and to lost lake-side communities of the Sahara. It is the human connection that is especially gripping. 'The Holocene' also helps put modern climate change into perspective: The natural changes that occurred between 12 and 6 thousand years ago may serve as a standard of comparison for the changes that climate scientists expect the world to experience in the next few hundred years--drowned landscapes, increased rainfall in some areas and

desertification in others--and their probable consequences for plant, animal and human life. In addition, the book can help the reader better understand the scientific basis for declaring the most recent environmental changes anthropogenic.

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