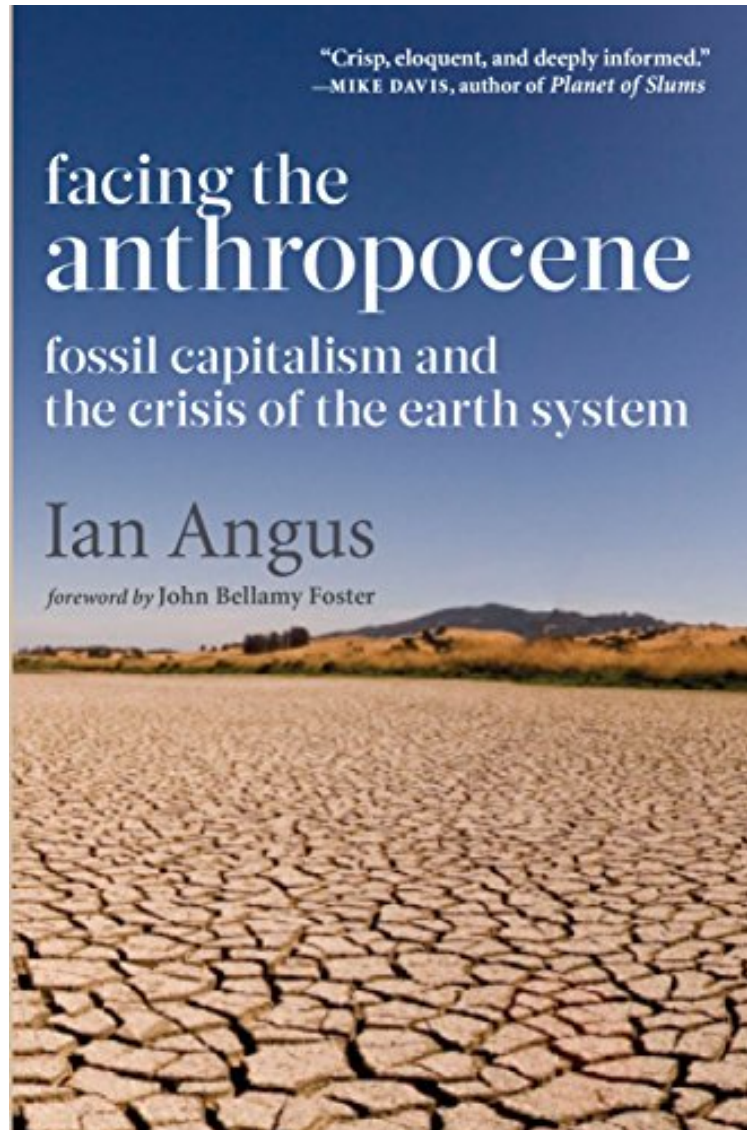


[Ebook pdf] Facing the Anthropocene: Fossil Capitalism and the Crisis of the Earth System

Facing the Anthropocene: Fossil Capitalism and the Crisis of the Earth System

Ian Angus

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Ian Angus : Facing the Anthropocene: Fossil Capitalism and the Crisis of the Earth System before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Facing the Anthropocene: Fossil Capitalism and the Crisis of the Earth System:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Crucially important book on climate change and the ecological crisis By Autonomieus This short (232-page), accessible book makes a unique contribution among all the books now written on climate change and the ecological crisis. Ian Angus summarizes for a popular audience the developments

leading to the designation of our time by leading earth scientists as the "Anthropocene," a new geological epoch shaped by the destructive actions of human society. Paul Crutzen, the atmospheric chemist who won a Nobel Prize for his work identifying the hole in the ozone layer and its cause, coined the term "Anthropocene" in 2000, and it rapidly spread. It has now been recommended to the International Geological Congress and is pending official adoption. The work leading to this new scientific periodization was carried out by earth scientists in the IGBP (the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program), formed in 1986 by the International Council of Scientific Unions, and published in 2004 as *Global Change and the Earth System*, edited by Steffen et al, published by Springer. The first section of the book, "A No-Analog State," summarizes the earth science in a concise and gripping fashion, making clear that the placid, stable period of the Holocene, which made the growth of the human population and the rise of human "civilization" possible, has now come to an end. There will be no new Ice Age -- the massive CO2 emissions since WWII make that impossible. There will be only global warming and potentially catastrophic climate change unless we reverse course. The final piece of the analysis of the "Anthropocene" is to date its beginning. Some have argued for an early date corresponding to the start of capitalism, but Angus conveys the earth scientists' conclusion that it was in fact the "Great Acceleration" after World War Two that clearly marks the beginning of the Anthropocene. The second section of the book, "Fossil Capitalism," documents the Great Acceleration in the U.S. and then elsewhere, the development of an automobile-centered, fossil fuel-driven capitalist society, and a massive, oil-driven military used to assert control of the globe. The last section of the book, "The Alternative," is inevitably the weakest. Angus argues for ecosocialism, but of course no one knows exactly what that is or how to create it starting from our current doomed society. Angus, along with John Bellamy Foster of Monthly Review Press, advocates a Marxism with an ecological component that was overlooked by most Marxists until recently and that would avoid the ecological disaster of the Soviet Union. Clearly, based on the alarming conclusions of earth science, radical change is urgently required, and we need to act against the Fossil Fuel Industry and "fossil capitalism" while we debate the contours of the new ecological society!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Stephen J. Shlafer
Excellent
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent critical analysis of the most important we face as a species
By Customer
One of the most significant strengths of this book is the way in which it brings together an enormous diversity of insights into a comprehensive synthesis of the Anthropocene. The analysis traverses not only the basic science of climate change and other planetary boundaries such as ocean acidification, the nitrogen cycle, and biodiversity decline, but links this fundamentally to the history of "fossil capitalism" and the complex political economy which enabled the Great Acceleration of post-Second World War economic growth. There is much to learn in reading this book! Essential reading for all those concerned about the climate crisis and what we need to do to limit catastrophe. (You can read my full review of this book here: [...])

Science tells us that a new and dangerous stage in planetary evolution has begun—the Anthropocene, a time of rising temperatures, extreme weather, rising oceans, and mass species extinctions. Humanity faces not just more pollution or warmer weather, but a crisis of the Earth System. If business as usual continues, this century will be marked by rapid deterioration of our physical, social, and economic environment. Large parts of Earth will become uninhabitable, and civilization itself will be threatened. Facing the Anthropocene shows what has caused this planetary emergency, and what we must do to meet the challenge.

"A crisp, eloquent and deeply informed call to arms by a leading eco-socialist." —Mike Davis
About the Author
Ian Angus is editor of the online ecosocialist journal *Climate and Capitalism*. He is also the author of *Facing the Anthropocene*.