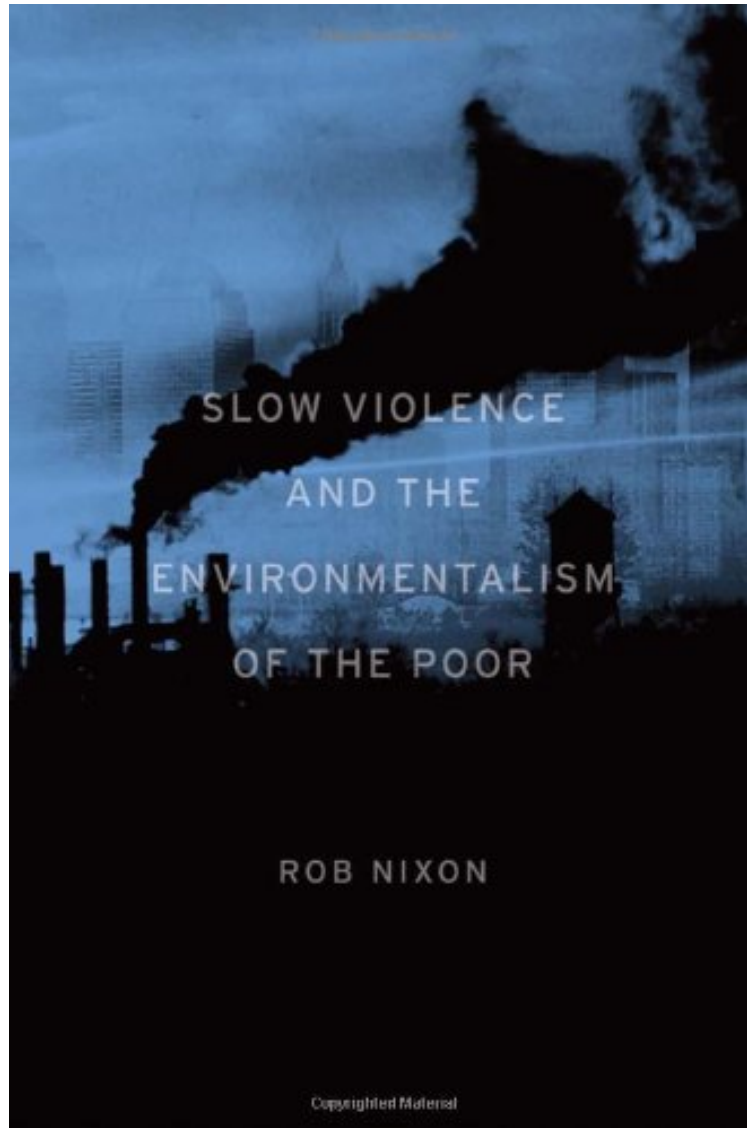


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Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor

Rob Nixon

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Rob Nixon : Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. a masterpiece By mhwoost A deeply important book--not only for its precise and timely intervention at such a tenuous political/ecological moment, but for the accessibility, thoughtfulness, and grace of its delivery. Not only does this work broaden our thinking about the environmental politics in the sphere of the postcolonial, it allows us to think about violence itself in new ways. Specifically, violence not simply as an

effect of imbalanced political histories, but violence as a text we have to learn (and relearn!) how to read. This is a contribution that directly faces the entanglement of neoliberalism, deepening toxification of natural spaces/resources, growing economic disparities, and a widespread cultural illiteracy about questions of global crisis itself. For this reason, it's a book that speaks across disciplinary contexts more effectively than any other, in recent environmental studies. *Slow Violence* is a text written in and for a cultural moment that struggles to see beyond the politics of the momentary. As such, it is an opportunity to learn to think differently about global crisis, not only in a variety of disciplinary contexts, but in the course of the everyday. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... must - our planet is our only home so love it and care for it like you love yourself By magnoliathank you - this book is a must - our planet is our only home so love it and care for it like you love yourself 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic book. Engaging writing By Noodles Bhai Fantastic book. Engaging writing, self-reflective and not self-congratulatory, and important call to action to resist the most elusive problems of our time.

The violence wrought by climate change, toxic drift, deforestation, oil spills, and the environmental aftermath of war takes place gradually and often invisibly. Using the innovative concept of slow violence to describe these threats, Rob Nixon focuses on the inattention we have paid to the attritional lethality of many environmental crises, in contrast with the sensational, spectacle-driven messaging that impels public activism today. Slow violence, because it is so readily ignored by a hard-charging capitalism, exacerbates the vulnerability of ecosystems and of people who are poor, disempowered, and often involuntarily displaced, while fueling social conflicts that arise from desperation as life-sustaining conditions erode. In a book of extraordinary scope, Nixon examines a cluster of writer-activists affiliated with the environmentalism of the poor in the global South. By approaching environmental justice literature from this transnational perspective, he exposes the limitations of the national and local frames that dominate environmental writing. And by skillfully illuminating the strategies these writer-activists deploy to give dramatic visibility to environmental emergencies, Nixon invites his readers to engage with some of the most pressing challenges of our time.

Slow Violence is inspiring, innovative, and passionate. Nixon forces us to confront some of the most urgent issues facing the continued existence of humans on the planet. He re-energizes environmental literature, infusing the field with the transnational concerns of world literature, and creatively reinvigorates post-colonial studies. (Hazel Carby, Yale University) Nixon jumpstarts a conversation between the fields of eco-criticism and postcolonial studies, and the outcome is brilliant. A landmark achievement, directed with great care, lucidity, and no end of foresight. (Andrew Ross, New York University) How can we dramatize slow violence? This beautifully written book shows how writers have conjured the invisible environmental calamities that have come to be the hallmark of modern times. The damage in question is out of sight--and out of mind for the global elites who command center stage. Nixon's evocative prose redoubles the charge of the writers who fight to show us the central challenge of our era. Everyone should read this book. (Anna Tsing, author of *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*) This is a fine book, disturbing and revealing in content, and worthy of lengthy study. (Jules Pretty Times Higher Education 2011-09-15) The work is groundbreaking in its call to reconsider our approach to the slow rhythm of time in the very concrete realms of environmental health and social justice, as well as its investigation of both the power and challenges inherent in creative representation... *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* challenges readers to new modes of thinking through grave realities. In so doing, it makes a fundamental contribution to contemporary debates. (Monica Seger World Literature Today 2012-07-01) The previously published sections of *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* placed Nixon in the vanguard of a movement to make ecocriticism and environmentalism more attuned to imperialism (past and present), to related global injustices, and to postcolonial literatures. The book itself ensures his position among the most prominent voices of what has come to be known as postcolonial ecocriticism, part of a larger effort to open "up paths, inside the academy and beyond, to more diverse accommodations of what counts as environmental." Yet, even by the standards of this field, *Slow Violence* is impressively interdisciplinary and activist. Not only does it draw extensively on environmental history, the social sciences, and various kinds of journalism, it also offers keen historical and sociological insight into pressing contemporary issues. *Slow Violence* will be engaging and accessible to all those working in academia and beyond who are interested in social justice and its relationship with environmental change. In fact, in his role as a public intellectual, in his clear and elegant prose, and in his commitment to anti-imperial scholarship and activism, Nixon effectively follows in the footsteps of Edward Said, even as he moves to address a blind spot in Said's writing and (until relatively recently) in postcolonial literary studies: the significance of slow environmental violence for understanding imperial relationships and the often repressed ways they have shaped and continue to shape the globe. (Byron Caminero-Santangelo Research in African Literatures 2012-05-01) I thought the book was worth buying for its introduction alone, which presented the idea of slow violence and the practical and political challenges behind fighting it. The chapters that follow are a gallery of horrors: one scene of violence after another, each seemingly insurmountable and somehow less surprising than the last. Yet, remarkably, this is the least depressing environmental book I've read in years. By presenting these disasters alongside the writer-activists working to counteract them, Nixon

leaves no room for despair. Instead I'm left buoyed, hopeful and--after 300 pages--impatient to learn more. (Blair Braverman Waging Nonviolence 2012-04-04)Slow Violence will, I think, become what it aspires to be: a foundational text of an "environmental humanities" that also conjugates ecologism, anti-imperialism and anti-capitalism, to be achieved through a "creative alliance" between environmental and postcolonial studies, two protagonists accustomed to ignoring each other. (Mary Louise Pratt Interventions 2012-06-01)Slow Violence is an important contribution to the growing field of ecocriticismNixon further broadens the scope of ecocriticism by bringing postcolonial studies to the table Nixons Slow Violence is the first book in environmental literary studies to explore the connection between natural resource extraction and petro-imperialismSlow Violence eschews dense prose and indecipherable academic jargon for the rigorous, clear writing of someone with the mind of a critic and the heart of a humanist. From now on, thanks to this book, no discussion on environmentalism would be complete without taking slow violence into account. (Subhankar Banerjee Los Angeles of Books 2013-11-22)About the AuthorRob Nixon is Rachel Carson Professor of English, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Among his many books is Dreambirds: The Natural History of a Fantasy. He is a frequent contributor to the New York Times.