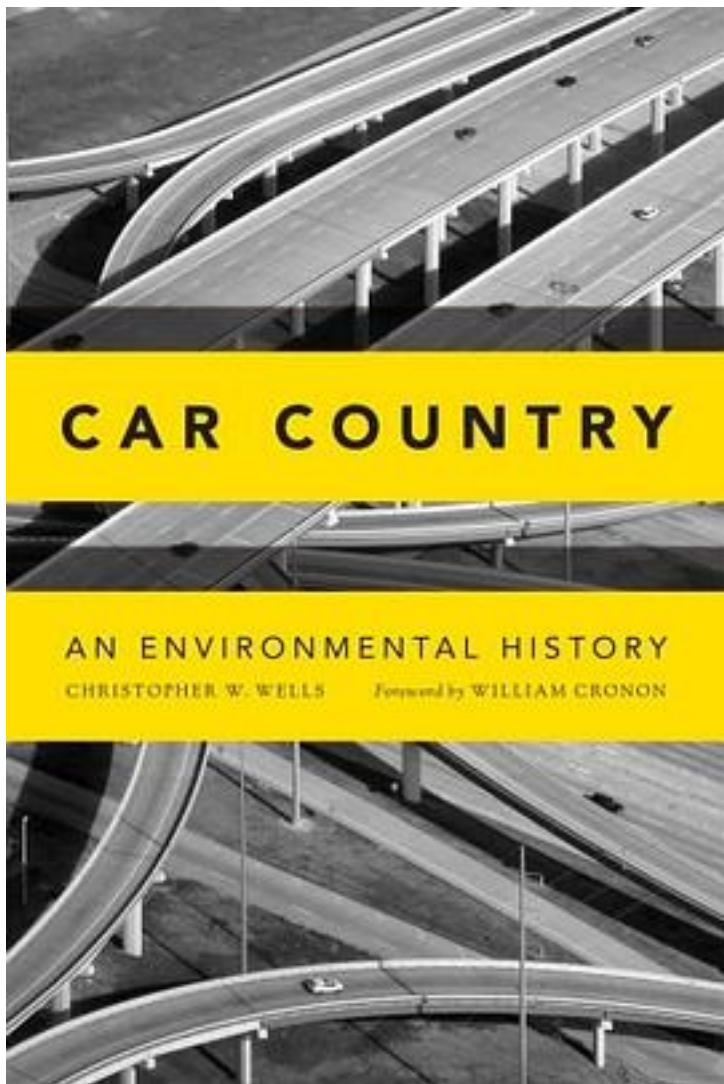


# Car Country



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出版者:University of Washington Press

出版时间:2013-1

装帧:

isbn:9780295992150

For most residents of the United States, getting almost anywhere begins with reaching for the car keys. This is true, Christopher Wells argues, because the United States is car country: a nation whose landscapes are so completely oriented around personal vehicles that other forms of transportation tend to be inconvenient at best and nearly impossible at worst. Car-dependent landscapes seem perfectly natural to us today, but they are a relatively new historical development. In *Car Country*, Wells explains how, over the course of just a few decades, entrepreneurs demonstrated the profitability, practicality, and political attractiveness of remaking the nation around the easy movement of automobiles. He also shows how government policies, from the federal to the local, created a dense thicket of new regulations, incentives, and practices surrounding both transportation and land use, which together redefined "development" as "car-oriented development." With these changes, the United States became Car Country. From the dawn of the motor age to the establishment of the interstate highway system and the rise of the suburbs, Wells untangles the complicated relationships between automobiles and the environment, charting a history essential for understanding American transportation and land-use issues today. Christopher Wells is associate professor of environmental history at Macalester College.

作者介绍:

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