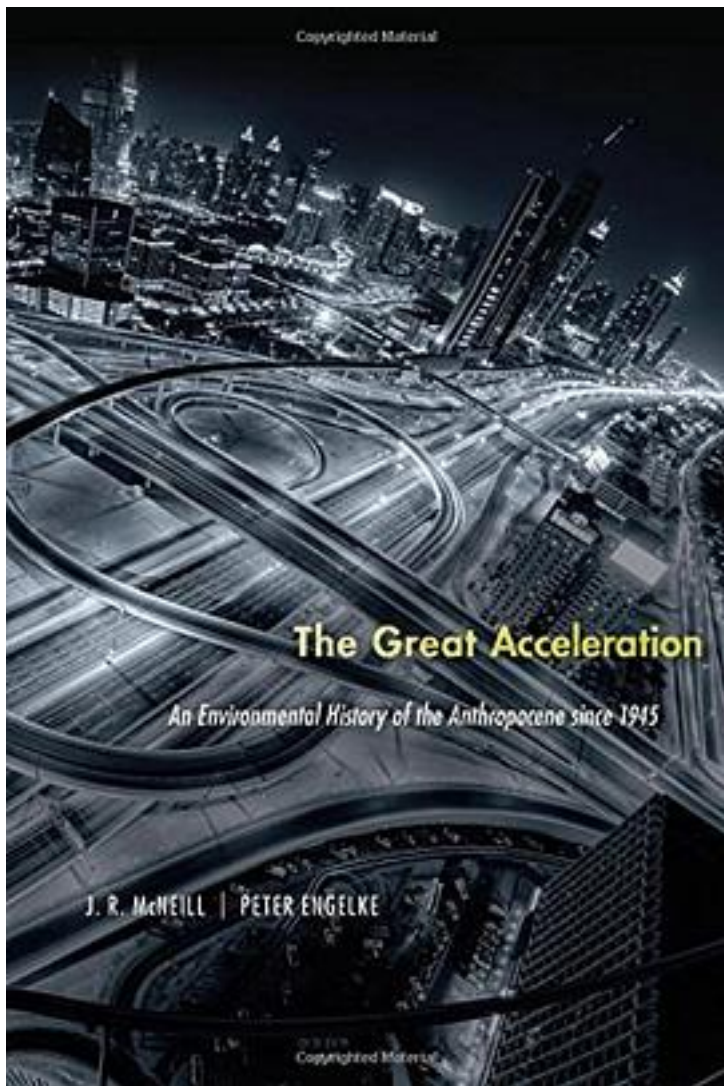


# The Great Acceleration



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著者:J. R. McNeill

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The Earth has entered a new age—the Anthropocene—in which humans are the most powerful influence on global ecology. Since the mid-twentieth century, the accelerating pace of energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and population growth has thrust the planet into a massive uncontrolled experiment. The Great Acceleration explains its causes and consequences, highlighting the role of energy systems, as well as trends in climate change, urbanization, and environmentalism.

More than any other factor, human dependence on fossil fuels inaugurated the Anthropocene. Before 1700, people used little in the way of fossil fuels, but over the next two hundred years coal became the most important energy source. When oil entered the picture, coal and oil soon accounted for seventy-five percent of human energy use. This allowed far more economic activity and produced a higher standard of living than people had ever known—but it created far more ecological disruption.

We are now living in the Anthropocene. The period from 1945 to the present represents the most anomalous period in the history of humanity's relationship with the biosphere. Three-quarters of the carbon dioxide humans have contributed to the atmosphere has accumulated since World War II ended, and the number of people on Earth has nearly tripled. So far, humans have dramatically altered the planet's biogeochemical systems without consciously managing them. If we try to control these systems through geoengineering, we will inaugurate another stage of the Anthropocene. Where it might lead, no one can say for sure.

作者介绍:

J. R. McNeill is University Professor in the Department of History and School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

Peter Engelke is a Senior Fellow at the Strategic Foresight Initiative at the Atlantic Council in Washington, DC.

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标签

环境史

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英语

英文原版

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## 评论

翻到書後致謝部分看到我的名字，才想起來6年前環境史的課上一起討論過這本書的書稿。。印象中好像內容有很大差異啊。。已經答應要以此書為例，寫一篇文章來介紹目前環境史研究最熱門的“Anthropocene”概念。PS: 讀完之後，有幾個學術史和概念定義的困惑，向麥老師本人請教之後，才得以理解。。（資質愚鈍的我，能夠有機會跟領域的大牛學習，實在是很幸運。馬上要畢業走人，要是做不出什麼成績來，真的會很慚愧）

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Emily

Hill（邱燕凌）助教授于2016年秋季学期在复旦大学历史系开设的《环境史》一课中，带领我们对该书进行分章节的精读。感觉继承了麦克尼尔老师一贯的风格，但由于是新近出版，使用了更多新材料，从而令他的理论更加吸引人。对大众消费、人类纪、冷战下的社会运动与生态环境变迁等相对“时髦”的概念和现象都进行了描述和归纳，不过总体而言像是一部环境史的入门著作，不知道是不是我的错觉。如果能被翻译成中文，对中国的环境史研究将会有很大的助益。不过术业有专攻啊，上述的简介还留待前辈们纠正（QAQ

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读起来很轻松，可以算是休闲科普读物。

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虽然作者大牛，但。。。考虑到这么大的题目，写起来很容易驳杂浅显。而且感觉总是在cue中国，最好玩的是one-child policy 到时没有怎么批评。看来作者受到罗马俱乐部那套影响很大。我不知道该怎么写1945年后的全球环境史，但是觉得不是书里面这样的。有时候给我的感觉就是一堆事实，背后的就没啥啦。冷战那章还可以。

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好看的科普入门书。尤其喜欢第四章，冷战与environmental culture。冷战时各国经济的快速发展，核武器的制造和实验，中国的大跃进和三线建设等等对于环境的影响，“铁幕”对于边境线的控制反而形成了“绿带”，对于核辐射的恐惧产生了现代环境主义等等。

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