Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Books & Profiles

Roundtable Review of *Mosquito Empires* by John R. McNeill

Hamblin, Jacob D., ed.

Hamblin, Jacob D., ed., Roundtable Review of *Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1620–1914* by John R. McNeill. *H-Environment Roundtable Reviews* 1, no. 1 (January 2011), www.h-net.org/~environ/roundtables/env-roundtable-1-1.pdf .

Mosquito Empires is a book that spans nearly three centuries and the histories of many peoples, nations, and empires in the American tropical world. As the title suggests, it places considerable responsibility for the course of events upon mosquitoes (*Aedes* and *Anopheles*), those formidable vectors of yellow fever and malaria. McNeill's focus is on differential resistance—an inequality in disease susceptibility that killed off some humans while others soldiered on unperturbed. It not only reinforced the status quo before the late eighteenth century, disallowing serious imperial reconfigurations, but also strengthened independence movements from the 1770s onward.

(Text adapted from Jacob D. Hamblin's introduction to the Roundtable Review.)

H-Environment's Roundtable Book Reviews provide multiple perspectives on books and allow the authors the opportunity to respond. This unique dialogue can be a valuable insight into recent scholarship.

Copyright © 2011 H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online. H-Net permits the redistribution and reprinting of this work for nonprofit, educational purposes, with full and accurate attribution to the author, web location, date of publication, H-Environment, and H-Net: Humanities & Social Sciences Online.

Download:
PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/henv-roundtable-1-1.pdf

Related links:

- H-Environment Roundtable Reviews
  http://www.h-net.org/~environ/roundtables.html
- *Mosquito Empires* on the Cambridge University Press website
  http://www.cambridge.org/en/knowledge/isbn/item2708341/

Websites linked in this text:

- https://networks.h-net.org/system/files/contributed-files/env-roundtable-1-1_0.pdf
- http://eol.org/pages/26936/overview
- http://eol.org/pages/54865/overview

Books & Profiles Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
Roundtable Review of *Mosquito Empires* by John R. McNeill
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/3611
Print date: 26 November 2026 15:01:20