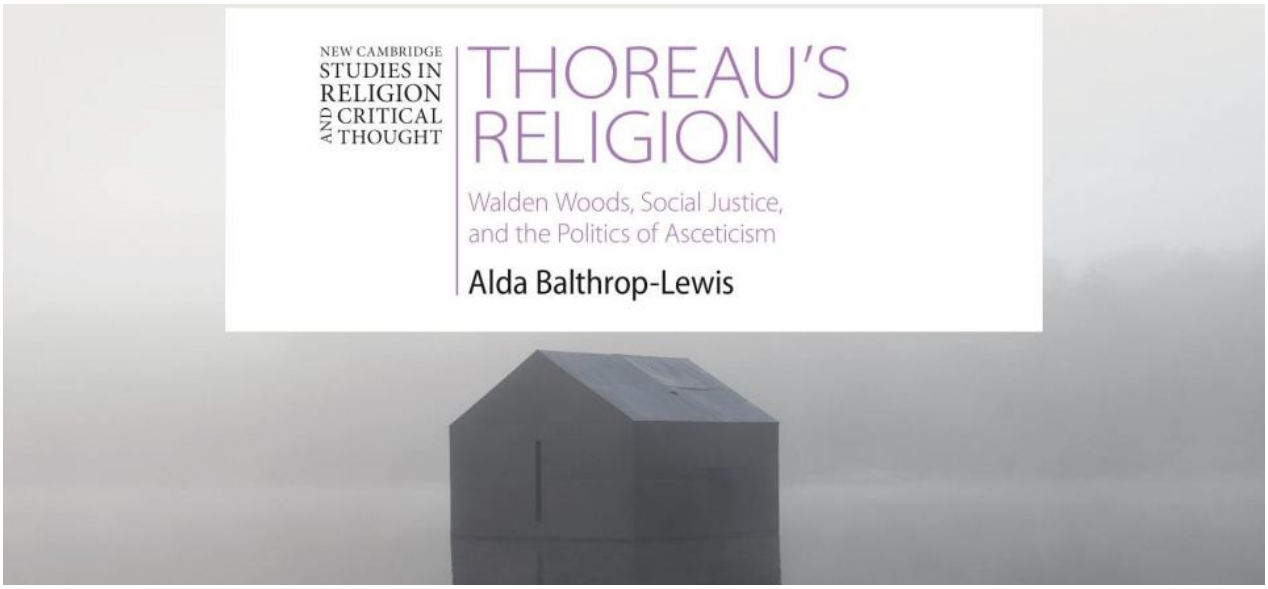
Multimedia Library Collection: Books & Profiles

Thoreau's Religion: Walden Woods, Social Justice, and the Politics of Asceticism

Balthrop-Lewis, Alda



Thoreau's Religion.

© 2021 Cambridge University Press

The copyright holder reserves, or holds for their own use, all the rights provided by copyright law, such as distribution, performance, and creation of derivative works. https://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/?language=en .

Balthrop-Lewis, Alda. *Thoreau's Religion: Walden Woods, Social Justice, and the Politics of Asceticism.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.

Thoreau's Religion presents a ground-breaking interpretation of Henry David Thoreau's most famous book, *Walden*. Rather than treating Walden Woods as a lonely wilderness, Balthrop-Lewis demonstrates that Thoreau's ascetic life was a form of religious practice dedicated to cultivating a just, multispecies community. The book makes an important contribution to scholarship in religious studies, political theory, English, environmental studies, and critical theory by offering the first sustained reading of Thoreau's religiously motivated politics. In Balthrop-Lewis's vision, practices of renunciation like Thoreau's can contribute to the reformation of social and political life. In this, the book transforms Thoreau's image, making him a vital source for a

world beset by inequality and climate change. Balthrop-Lewis argues for an environmental politics in which ecological flourishing is impossible without economic and social justice. (Source: Cambridge University Press)

© 2021 Cambridge University Press. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Download:

Introduction https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/introduction_0.pdf
Chapter 1. Thoreau's Social World https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/chapter_1.pdf

Related links:

- Book profile at Cambridge University Press https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/thoreaus-religion/F3EE962BE32E911D768AD4FC50DE7793
- Balthrop-Lewis, Alda. "Multispecies Walden Woods: Reevaluating Thoreau's Religion." *Arcadia* 2022. https://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/9406

Websites linked in this text:

- https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/thoreaus-religion/F3EE962BE32E911D768AD4FC50DE7793#fndtn-information

Websites linked in image captions:

- https://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/?language=en