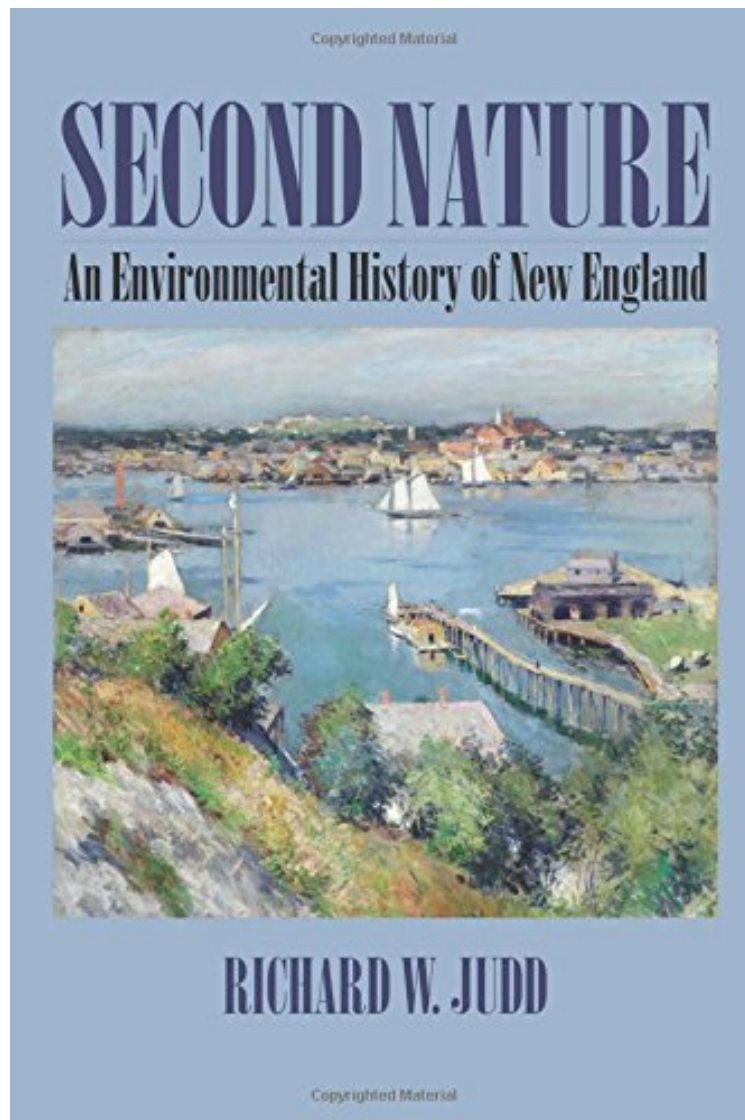


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Second Nature: An Environmental History of New England (Environmental History of the Northeast)

Richard W. Judd

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Richard W. Judd : Second Nature: An Environmental History of New England (Environmental History of the Northeast) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Second Nature: An Environmental History of New England (Environmental History of the Northeast):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Martin Frasergood book, well researched.

Bounded by the St. Lawrence Valley to the north, Lake Champlain to the west, and the Gulf of Maine to the east, New England may be the most cohesive region in the United States, with a long and richly recorded history. In this book, Richard W. Judd explores the mix of ecological process and human activity that shaped that history over the past 12,000 years. He traces a succession of cultures through New England's changing postglacial environment down to the 1600s, when the arrival of Europeans interrupted this coevolution of nature and culture. A long period of tension and warfare, inflected by a variety of environmental problems, opened the way for frontier expansion. This in turn culminated in a unique landscape of forest, farm, and village that has become the embodiment of what Judd calls "second nature" culturally modified landscapes that have superseded a more pristine "first nature." In the early 1800s changes in farm production and industrial process transformed central New England, while burgeoning markets at the geographical margins brought rapid expansion in fishing and logging activities. Although industrialization and urbanization severed connections to the natural world, the dominant cultural expression of the age, Romanticism, provided new ways of appreciating nature in the White Mountains and Maine woods. Spurred by these Romantic images and by a long tradition of local resource management, New England gained an early start in rural and urban conservation. In the 1970s environmentalists, inspired by a widespread appreciation for regional second-nature landscapes, moved quickly from battling pollution and preserving wild lands to sheltering farms, villages, and woodlands from intrusive development. These campaigns, uniquely suited to the region's land-use history, ecology, and culture, were a fitting capstone to the environmental history of New England.

"Beautifully written, *Second Nature* manages to be both scholarly and accessible, deeply rooted in a very broad array of both primary and secondary sources." Dona Brown, author of *Back to the Land: The Enduring Dream of Self-Sufficiency in Modern America* "There is a plethora of fascinating material in *Second Nature*." *Portland Press Herald* "A sweeping new synthesis of New England environmental history [which aims to be more balanced than previous ecological surveys]. . . . *Second Nature* is a much-needed ecological overview of New England's history and will be a useful resource for students, teacher, and other readers alike." *H-Net* sAbout the Author Richard W. Judd is the Col. James C. McBride Professor of History at the University of Maine and author, most recently, of *The Untilled Garden: Natural History and the Origins of Modern Conservation, 1730-1850*.