

Contents

List of Figures	vii
Acknowledgments	ix
I Introduction: Transforming the Lower Mississippi River Valley	
<i>Craig E. Colten</i>	I
Part 1: Transformation before Urbanization	
Introduction	7
2 Making the City Inevitable: Native Americans and the Geography of New Orleans	
<i>Tristram R. Kidder</i>	9
3 Impenetrable but Easy: The French Transformation of the Lower Mississippi Valley and the Founding of New Orleans	
<i>Christopher Morris</i>	22
Part 2: Environment in Service of the City	
Introduction	43
4 Forests and Other River Perils	
<i>Ari Kelman</i>	45
5 Subduing Nature through Engineering: Caleb G. Forshey and the Levees-only Policy, 1851-1881	
<i>George S. Pabis</i>	64
6 Historical Perspective on Crevasses, Levees, and the Mississippi River	
<i>Donald W. Davis</i>	84

Part 3: Growing Demands of the City

Introduction	107
--------------	-----

- 7 Perspective, Power, and Priorities: New Orleans
and the Mississippi River Flood of 1927

<i>Gay M. Gomez</i>	109
---------------------	-----

- 8 In the Wake of Hurricane Betsy

<i>Todd Shallat</i>	121
---------------------	-----

Part 4: Response to Environmental Change

Introduction	139
--------------	-----

- 9 Too Much of a Good Thing: Industrial Pollution
in the Lower Mississippi River

<i>Craig E. Colten</i>	141
------------------------	-----

- 10 Baton Rouge: The Making (and Breaking) of
a Petrochemical Paradise

<i>Raymond J. Burby</i>	160
-------------------------	-----

- 11 The Popular Geography of Illness in the Industrial Corridor

<i>Barbara Allen</i>	178
----------------------	-----

- 12 Fish Diversity in a Heavily Industrialized Stretch of
the Lower Mississippi River

<i>H. L. Bart</i>	202
-------------------	-----

Notes	219
-------	-----

Contributors	267
--------------	-----

Index	269
-------	-----