



An Environmental History of Ancient Greece and Rome

In ancient Greece and Rome an ambiguous relationship developed between man and nature, and this decisively determined the manner in which they treated the environment. On the one hand, nature was conceived as a space characterised and inhabited by divine powers, which deserved appropriate respect. On the other, a rationalist view emerged, according to which humans were to subdue nature using their technologies and to dispose of its resources. This book systematically describes the ways in which the Greeks and Romans intervened in the environment and thus traces the history of the tension between the exploitation of resources and the protection of nature, from early Greece to the period of late antiquity. At the same time, it analyses the comprehensive opening up of the Mediterranean and the northern frontier regions, both for settlement and for economic activity. The book's level and approach make it highly accessible to students and non-specialists.

LUKAS THOMMEN is a professor in the Historical Institute at the University of Zurich and is also a member of the Sospolis International Institute of Ancient Hellenic History in Greece.

Cover image: view from Delphi over the Bay of Itea. Photograph by L. Thommen.

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