



Human settlement of the Lower Mississippi River Valley—especially in New Orleans, the region's largest metropolis—has produced profound and dramatic environmental change. *Transforming New Orleans and Its Environs* traces the environmental history of this fascinating and unpredictable region from prehistoric midden building to late twentieth-century urban and industrial development.

"Although all cities are reshaped nature, the intensity and scale of the reshaping of New Orleans, from a swampy floodplain to a modern metropolis, and the development of the petrochemical industry with resulting water and air pollution, environmental racism, and conflicts over state and federal regulation, make it an important place to study. *Transforming New Orleans and Its Environs* should provoke interest among environmental historians and geographers as well as those interested in the history of the region."

—John Cumbler, University of Louisville

"This book will change the way we think about New Orleans and about cities in general. The inhospitality of the landscape for human settlement, the critical role of the river in the city's growth, and the severity of pollution from petrochemical firms make New Orleans an ideal place to explore the relationship between city building and environmental transformation . . . and move us closer to an understanding of urbanization as an environmental process."

—Andrew Hurley, University of Missouri, St. Louis

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Cover art: Top, Thomas Jeffreys, *The Course of the Mississippi River from Bayougoulas to the Sea*, 1759. Courtesy Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Bottom, excerpt from Louisiana Oil Spill Contingency Plan Map, Landsat Thematic Mapper Satellite Image, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1996–99. Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator, Office of the Governor.

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