

Glotfelty, Cheryll and Harold Fromm, editors. *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1996.

<http://books.google.it/books?id=eJj4RlFKWCoC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Lynn White, Jr. "The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis." P. 3

A conversation with Aldous Huxley not infrequently put one at the receiving end of an unforgettable monologue. About a year before his lamented death he was discoursing on a favorite topic: Man's unnatural treatment of nature and its sad results. To illustrate his point he told how, during the previous summer, he had returned to a little valley in England where he had spend many happy months as a child. Once it has been composed of delightful glassy glades; now it was becoming overgrown with unsightly brush because the rabbits that previously kept such growth under control had largely succumbed to a disease, myxomatosis, that was deliberately introduced by local farmers to reduce the rabbits' destruction of crops. Being something of a Philistine, I could be silent no longer, even in the interests of great rhetoric. In interrupted to point out that the rabbit itself had been brought as a domestic animal in England in 1176, presumably to improve the protein diet of the peasantry.

All forms of life modify their contexts. The most spectacular and benign instance is doubtless the coral polyp. By serving its own ends, it has created a vast undersea world favorable to thousand of other kinds of animals and plants. Ever since man became a numerous species he has affected his environment notably. The hypothesis of his fire-drive method of hunting created the world's great grasslands and helped to exterminate the monster mammals of the Pleistocene from much of the globe is plausible, if not proved. For six millennia at least, the banks of the lower Nile have been a human artifact rather than the swampy African jungle which nature, apart from man, would have made it.

...