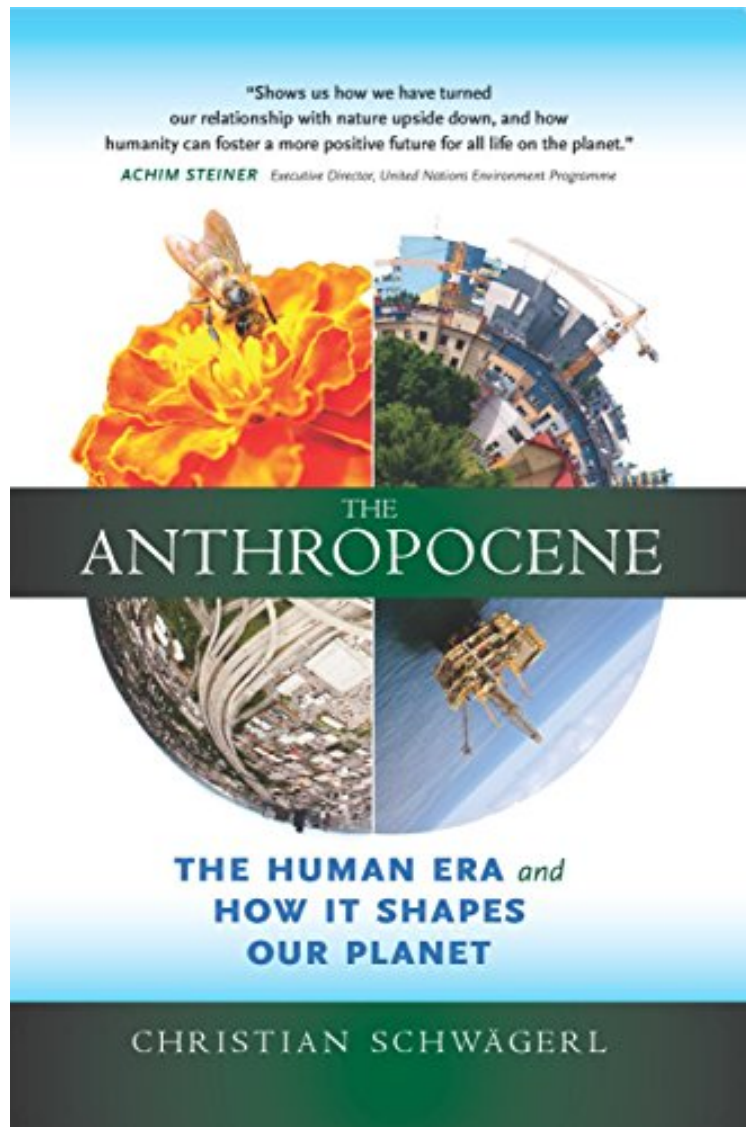


[Get free] The Anthropocene: The Human Era and How It Shapes Our Planet

# The Anthropocene: The Human Era and How It Shapes Our Planet

*Christian Schwägerl*

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**Christian Schwägerl : The Anthropocene: The Human Era and How It Shapes Our Planet** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Anthropocene: The Human Era and How It Shapes Our Planet:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. As if organic gardening needs 'help' like that. Its been proven gardening methods that mimic ...By CustomerThough i feel aligned with the author on our common environmental concerns, and he does present many of them well, we go two very different ways on the solution(s). His, a very techno heavy, manipulative path (robots, genetic engineering, control and dominion over nature) that many energy addicted

"westerners" might appreciate. My own, and many others (he calls "Eco Freaks") view, (including most native/indigenous peoples, also known as the "poor" of the planet) choosing a path in harmony with this planet system that has given us this glorious dancing place now. He tries to coin a few new words or phrases: Organic Gardening will become "High Tech" Organic Gardening with the use of GMO's is one prime example. As if organic gardening needs 'help' like that. It's been proven gardening methods that mimic nature's natural cycles could, and would produce much more food than our current chemical agriculture and its insidious industrial monocropping which is destroying the forests and soils of our planet at breakneck speed. All this technological 'help' we've been getting is directly responsible for the condition we now find ourselves in today, as we plateau and start sloping downward to the end of our fossil carbon age. The author is really big on how science and technology will save us, and how we need to pour much more money into research and development. To me, this was a real oversight, for I feel we already have all the knowledge and tools we need to get going full steam ahead in turning this anthropogenic climate change around. It's will, and political will that is sorely needed. More of humanity, especially the more affluent ones, need to open their eyes to the benefits (the Joy, actually) from our work and cooperation, even though much of it will be mitigation and adaptation. So, to not make this too long, a few short observations. I gave his book 2 stars because I enjoyed it, though it was a bit scary. His ability to describe research findings was very good. He's a good rhetorician (possibly for the wrong causes), but also uses many of his own articles to back up the case he's making, and I feel, bends others' views that he footnotes. We, human beings, I believe, aren't really anywhere close to being accomplished enough to "play God" as the author would love to do with creating new species, and genetic engineering, etc.. Look at the state of affairs we've gotten our planet, and ourselves into with our 'good intentions' and inventions so far. True, a lot of them have helped, but many have us headed toward the yawning maw of extinction for an exponentially increasing number of our fellow 'travelers' here, including ourselves. And the bottom line is, we already have everything we need to go forward into finding our true harmony with our planet and ourselves, and positive solutions for our 'climate crisis'. Each one of us has a responsibility to understand what deep doo doo we're in, turn our own lives toward getting to know our planet, ourselves and our "God", whatever or however we relate to that mysterious life force energy that science will never be able to put its finger on. I'd recommend reading Vandana Shiva...Soil, not Oil, or maybe her newly released book I don't know the name of. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This book takes you beyond gloom and doom to learn to thrive in the Human Era. By Steve Heimel. If you want to do more than explore the world but want to understand it, "The Anthropocene: The Human Era and How it Shapes our Planet" is your book. Christian Schwagerl goes beyond amazement and wonder to present readers with the tools for understanding our new relationship with nature so we can both survive and thrive on the planet we are busy shaping and changing. Because it does go beyond describing the forces at work, "The Anthropocene" becomes the best book written on the subject to date by presenting a new rubric for our relationship with nature where we are neither in it or outside of it. He shows us how we are one, and there is no inside or outside, how influences flow both ways between humankind the world we inhabit, how nature is part of us: the way the clothes we wear, the air we breathe and the food we eat become part of who we are, and how we could be shaping the nature we have already shifted to better meet our needs. He gives us a glimpse of our potential role as gardeners, caretakers, designers, inventors and creators. He goes beyond both the vision of apocalypse and the tensions between exploitation and preservation. In a thoroughly documented way, he points to the roles corporations and global industrial forces play in the worsening environmental crisis, while at the same time challenging us as individuals with the possibility that changes we make in the way we live could shift the balance. He also introduces readers to the individuals who invented the technologies that have reshaped the planet. He puts us in their labs. He sits us down in the room where the name of our geologic age "Anthropocene" was first uttered by a frustrated scientist trying to convince his fellow geologists and geophysicists that the documentation already existed in the geologic record to show how humans have grown to such numbers and technological powers that we have changed the earth's fundamental systems and cycles. This is a book for realists who love their planet, and want to help shape sustainable attainable biospheric futures that are beautiful and inspirational. Johanna Eurich - resident of the Arctic, a cross cultural communicator, journalist and gardener. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant exposition of the new paradigm!! By Mark Nelson. This is the book I was hoping would someday be written! Christian Schwagerl's account of how our modern biosphere is extensively impacted and shaped by human technology will surely become a primary sourcebook. He not only traces the history of the concept and the controversies about how to define and date its advent. But the book goes further and is an inspired and inspiring investigation of how new ways of thinking about our relationship with the biosphere can lead to more positive outcomes. The book is richly footnoted and extensively researched, providing readers with the tools to follow topics of particular interest. He decisively rejects the position of pessimism which too many environmentalists adopt, showing that we are only at the opening of this new chapter in geologic and human history. The book offers fresh thinking about our biosphere, human culture and technology, and where we are in the grand schemes of all. Down to earth and uplifting at the same time, the book does not gloss over the magnitude and depth of our current situation. It provides a clear exposition of a new framework for re-thinking what Vernadsky and the Russian biospheric thinkers see as the grand challenge of our times: harmonizing our technosphere with the biosphere.

In *The Anthropocene*, environmental journalist Christian Schwgerl investigates our current ecological circumstances, and discovers something hopeful: that we already possess the scientific, philosophical, spiritual and governmental tools needed to correct our current trajectory toward a positive and sustainable future. Schwgerl asserts, *The Anthropocene* is more than the sum of the parts of environmental havoc. It can be the arena in which humanity decides to wisely integrate into the planet's workings, enriching itself by its actions as a result. Smart cities, cultivated life-forms and landscapes with a human-induced biodiversity, are examples of how we can create a positive geological record. Human creativity, community spirit and conscious thought can lead to changes that might make our species look back at current behavior as sheer ecological barbarism. We can go from today's crises to an enlightened planet. Drawing on his own experiences and research as a journalist with rigorous scientific training, Schwgerl offers readers the means to envision and create realistic solutions to our current ecological crises. He shares a planetary vision of an attainable world that balances ecological sustainability, economic prosperity, political justice and cultural vibrancy.

"This is a splendid introduction to the Anthropocene by one of its most eloquent celebrants." -- Diane Ackerman, author of *The Human Age* "...authoritative and engaging. Read, enjoy and recommend..." --Frank Oldfield, *The Anthropocene*  
About the Author Christian Schwgerl is a Berlin-based journalist, author and biologist. After many years as a science and environment staff correspondent for *Frankfurter Allgemeine Newspaper* and *DER SPIEGEL* magazine, he now works as a freelance writer for *GEO*, *Cicero* and *DIE ZEIT* science magazine as well as other leading media. He is a past winner of the "Georg von Holtzbrinck Prize for Science Journalism," and the "Econsense Journalism Award." Schwgerl is a co-creator and project leader of *The Anthropocene Project*, a three-year collaboration at *Haus der Kulturen der Welt* cultural center in Berlin.