Our Limits Transgressed
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Our Limits Transgressed: Environmental Political Thought in America.

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With a New Preface by the Author

“The contemporary environmental movement needs to step back from the hurly-burly of its political struggles to do some deep thinking about ends and means. This book is a useful tool for doing that. It is a clearly written, well-organized, and thoughtful guide to many of the more important thinkers who have appeared in recent decades on environmental issues and ethics. Best of all, the author points us to what may be the central question of our times: how can we achieve a society that is at once true to our democratic traditions and yet recognizes in nature an intrinsic set of values?” —Donald Worster, author of Nature’s Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas

“This book is must reading for all serious students of environmentalism and environmental politics. It is also a major contribution to the understanding of contemporary American political ideas. It is one of the most important and successful attempts to analyze and synthesize the major themes and trends of modern environmental thought. In order to discover the central fault line among environmental thinkers, Taylor replaces the conventional distinction between preservationism and conservationism with the far more satisfactory distinction between pastoralism and progressivism. Most importantly, he recognizes that environmental thought cannot be understood apart from its broader political underpinnings and implications. He deftly and sympathetically strives to understand the political vision contained in the work of each of the major American environmental thinkers and how it informs their understanding of the relationship between persons and nature.” —Marc Landy, coauthor of The Environmental Protection Agency: Asking the Wrong Questions, from Nixon to Clinton

“This is a valuable book. Taylor economically and fairly categorizes and critiques most of the major environmental writers of [the twentieth] century and offers a compelling set of political criteria for evaluating their contribution.” —Environmental History Review

“Bob Pepperman Taylor, in his fine new book, has uncovered a series of awkward fits between words and deeds, troubling discrepancies that have shaped how twentieth-century American environmentalists have struggled to make sense of humanity’s complex relationship with nature.” —Journal of American History

“Taylor’s central message, that environmental thought is political, provides needed historiographic insight into the history of American environmentalism and offers an important perspective for approaching contemporary environmental problems.” —American Historical Review

Bob Pepperman Taylor is Elliott A. Brown Green and Gold Professor of Law, Politics and Political Behavior at the University of Vermont. He is the author of six books, including Horace Mann’s Troubling Legacy: The Education of Democratic Citizens.