Supplementary Materials: The Trouble with Wilderness Brief Summary

The aesthetic trend to present nature as something separate from human civilization and urban-industrial modernity has roots within eighteenth-century Romantic theories. Alternatively, Cronan demonstrates that wilderness is a human construction; it’s not natural. The belief in its existence sets up a challenge to resolving environmental or social injustices. Protection of wilderness from people often means cultural imperialism and the escape from discovering what a sustainable and ethical human place in nature looks like. (Cronan, p. 81) Cronan further critiques some late-twentieth-century environmental activists for basing their so-called radical agendas on the age-old nature/culture dualism.