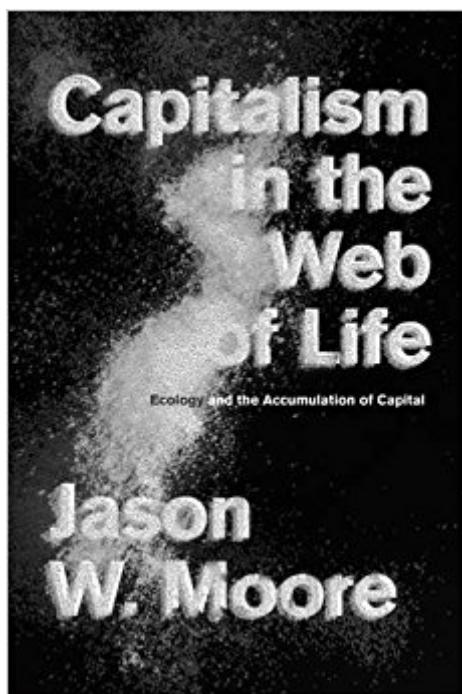


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# Capitalism In The Web Of Life: Ecology And The Accumulation Of Capital



## Synopsis

Finance. Climate. Food. Work. How are the crises of the twenty-first century connected? In *Capitalism in the Web of Life*, Jason W. Moore argues that the sources of today's global turbulence have a common cause: capitalism as a way of organizing nature, including human nature. Drawing on environmentalist, feminist, and Marxist thought, Moore offers a groundbreaking new synthesis: capitalism as a "world-ecology" of wealth, power, and nature. Capitalism's greatest strength—and the source of its problems—is its capacity to create Cheap Natures: labor, food, energy, and raw materials. That capacity is now in question. Rethinking capitalism through the pulsing and renewing dialectic of humanity-in-nature, Moore takes readers on a journey from the rise of capitalism to the modern mosaic of crisis. *Capitalism in the Web of Life* shows how the critique of capitalism-in-nature—rather than capitalism and nature—is key to understanding our predicament, and to pursuing the politics of liberation in the century ahead.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Capitalism in the Web of Life is a menace! It is a menace to all those who think that there is only one Marxist understanding of the capital-nature relation. It is a menace to all those academic writers who think there is no place for colorful prose. It is a menace to the abuse of a hard-headed poststructuralist world-view where there is no system worth talking about. It is a menace to the socially constructed divide between what is a part of nature (non-human) and a part of society (human). It is certainly a menace to binary views of humanity 'and' nature. But most of all, it is a

menace to all those analyses of the global ecological crisis matrix that so easily blame humanity undifferentiated (read: the Anthropocene) for bringing on the demise of the planet. Moore asks us to do the hard work of understanding not how capitalism degrades nature, but how capital puts nature (human and extra-human) to work for it. This book is not an answer. It is an analysis that is meant to spawn new questions about the main problem of humanity since the 15th century: how, why, where, and when does capital expand, and what is really at stake in challenging it. Viewing capitalism as a system for organizing all of nature in service to endless accumulation of capital, we can slowly learn to see capitalism as world-ecology. The book clearly is not for everybody. For example, the discussions of 'value', 'accumulation', 'modernity', and 'appropriation', among other things, are extremely nuanced and do require some previous understanding of this kind of thinking.

Capitalism in the Web of Life is not for the faint at heart. It will challenge some of your fundamental ideas about the world in which we live, or, as Moore puts it, the web of life. He finds a way to bring together Marxist theory of value with Marxist feminist thought with Marxist ecological thoughts. Moore does this in a way that gives balanced weight to all three prongs. He advocates for a new way of thinking about the world, world-ecologically, which is set up against Cartesian dualism as the historical, ideologically dominate perspective. As such, he argues (convincingly) that we need new vocabulary, a new way of talking about a non-dualist world, in much the same vein that the way in which we view the problem (in this case, capitalism) shapes all possible solutions. Unlike many other "environmentalists" - be they sociologists, geographers, or historians - I found Moore's work to be well researched, well argued (though perhaps there is a bit of redundancy here and there), grounded historically, and most refreshing, hopeful. Not simply for Marxists, feminists, and/or environmentalists, CWL is a must have for the bookshelf for any serious scholar or thinker of the modern world. This is the kind of book that we will "read at", over and over, picking up nuances and new tidbits each time. Sure, he critiques some schools of thought (as mentioned in other reviews), after all, he is a serious scholar. That's his job. And, he also gives serious props for their contributions. Yes, this is an academic book and won't go down easy to those unfamiliar with the perspectives addressed. There are several interviews of Moore that will help those who are reading this book without the benefit of a class or reading group.

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