

Conservation, Preservation, and the
Sanitary City: Antecedents to
Modern Environmentalism

Colonialism and roots of modern conservation	Urban Hygiene
Colonial economy and degradation	Motives
Island Edens	Modern life
Environmental services	Urban inequality
Desiccation Narrative	Conquest
Alexander Von Humboldt	Nature-culture
Conservation and Preservation in The United States	
Motives/context of movements	
John Muir	
Gifford Pinchot	
Gospel of Efficiency	
Hetch-Hetchy Controversy	
How these ideas measure up	
Conquest	
Nature-culture	
Social inequality	

When we discuss different environmental paradigms, we will often be evaluating them vis a vis the conquest mentality from last week

This means:

1. To what extent does the paradigm under study challenge or reproduce the conquest and utilitarian concept?
2. To what extent does the paradigm under study challenge or reproduce the nature-culture binary?
3. To what extent does the paradigm under study undermine or reproduce unequal power relations and global social inequalities created since about 1500?

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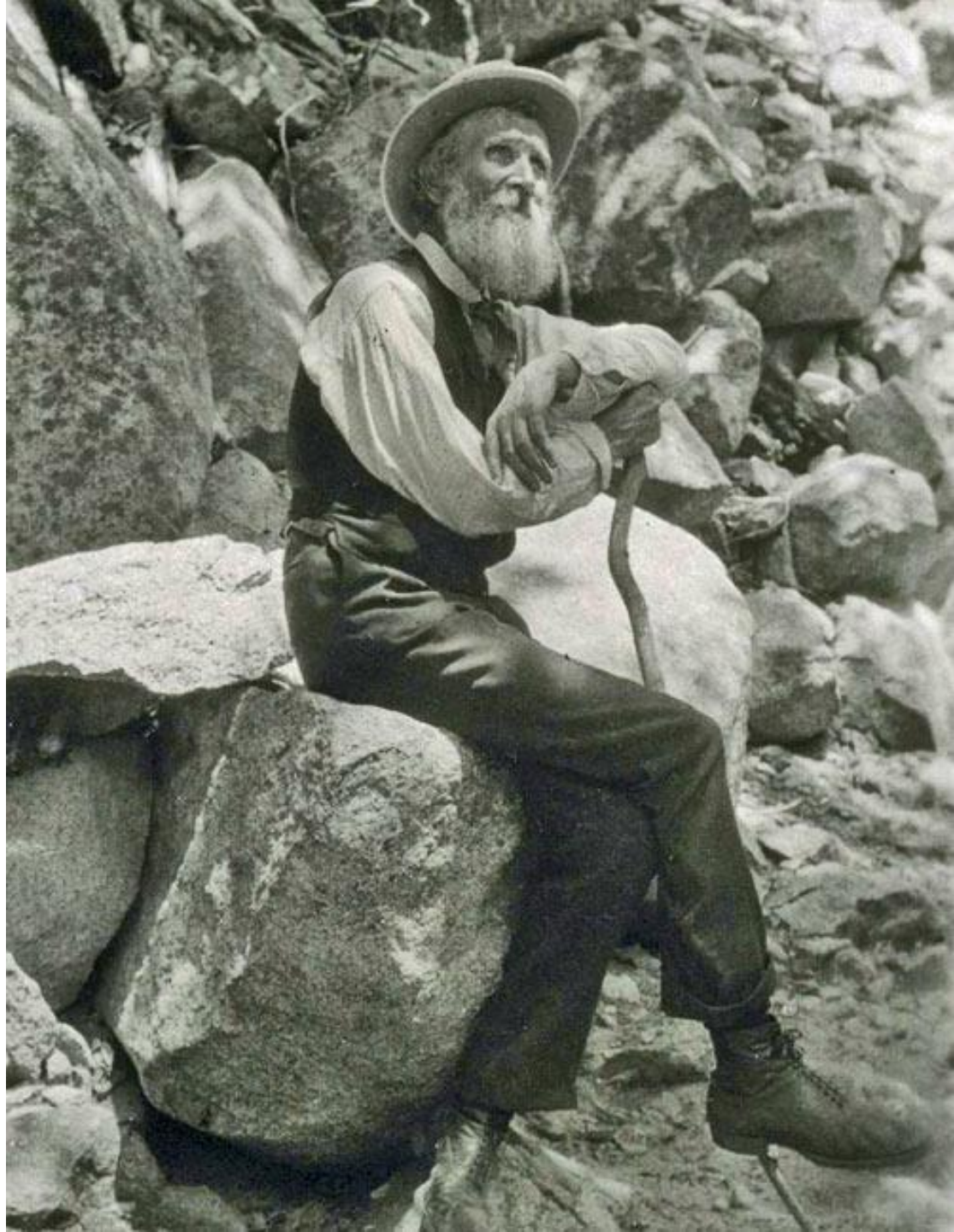


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Context and Causes of conservation and preservation in U.S.A

1. Urban Industrialization
2. Pioneer Mentality
3. Romanticism
4. Material reality of deforestation

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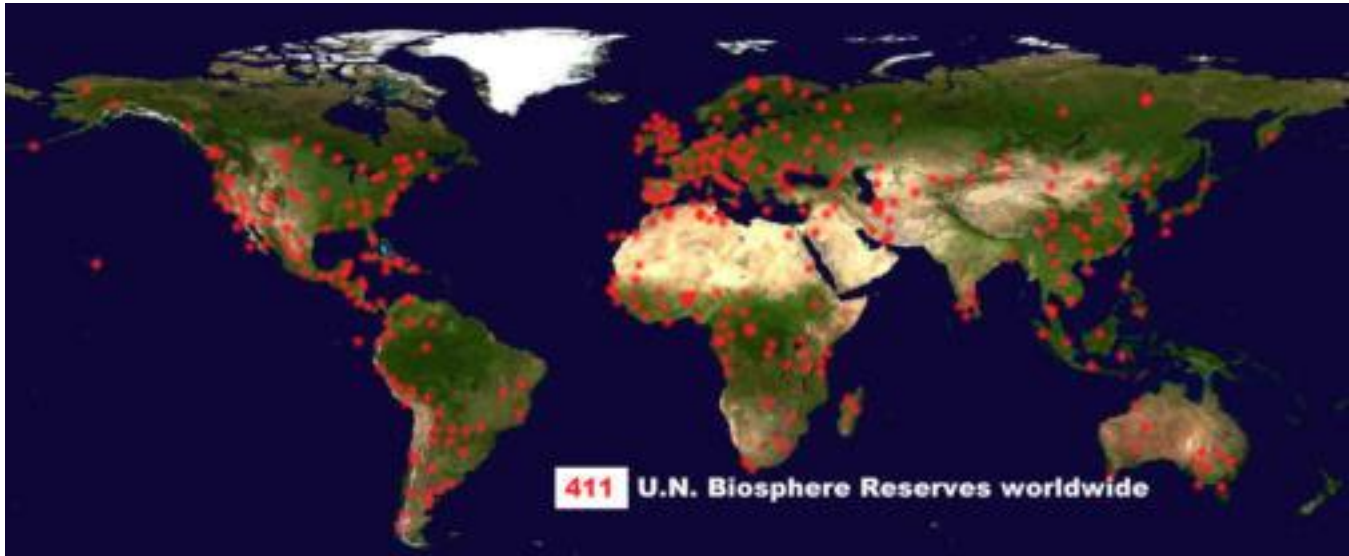


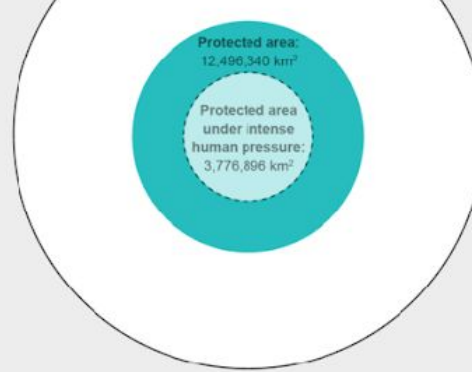




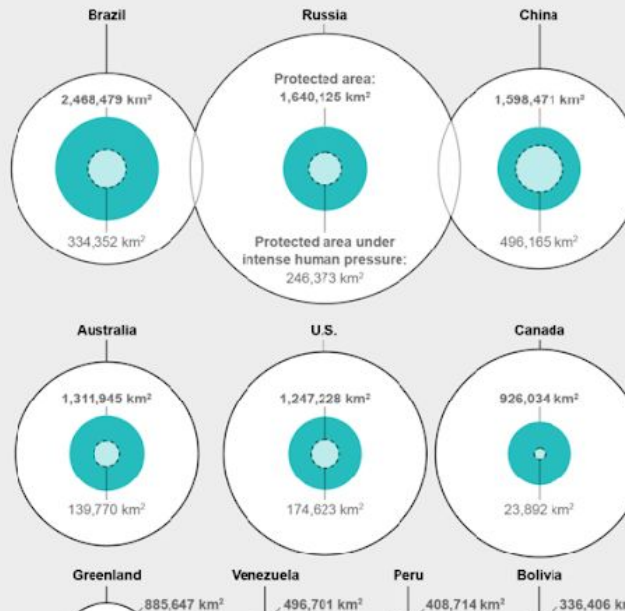
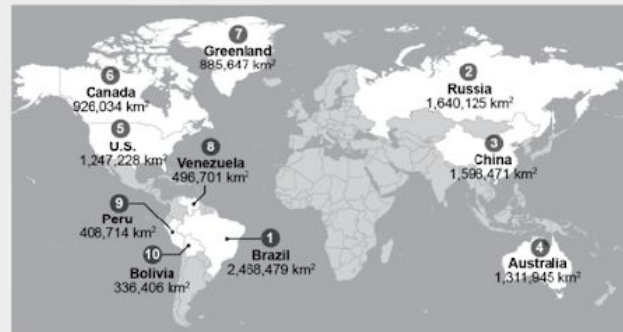
Preservation and conservation success stories

1. National Parks around the world that protect lands from resource plunder
2. Places that are protected are constantly under threat, although new Protected sites are also being declared

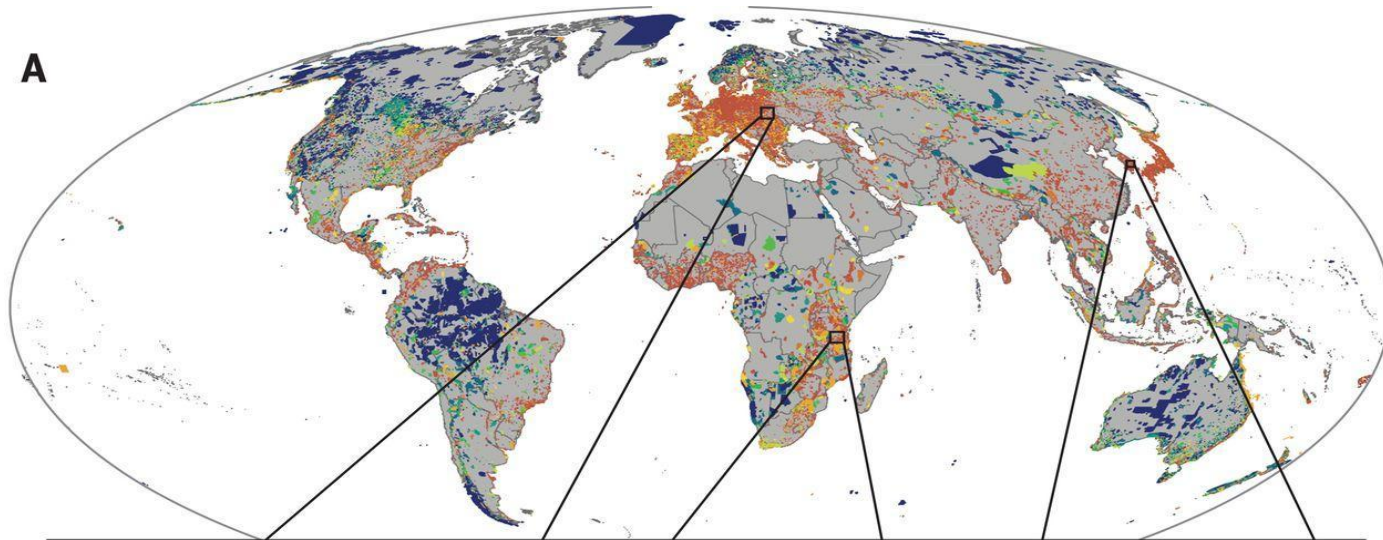




Countries with the Most Land Designated as Protected Areas



A



Area under intense human pressure (%)



0

100



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How do preservation and conservation measure up?

1. The conquest concept and nature-culture binary?

Yes and no

2. Power relations and global inequality?

Often served to shore up/buttress unequal power relations, even colonial power. Reinforce unequal distribution of natural resources.

Referred to by many as “fortress conservation”

Origins of the elitism often found within environmentalism. Certain people (wealthy or even white) know how to manage and use nature.

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WARNING

ANY ONE SEEN OR SUSPECTED
OF

POACHING ACTIVITIES

MAY BE SHOT ON SIGHT.

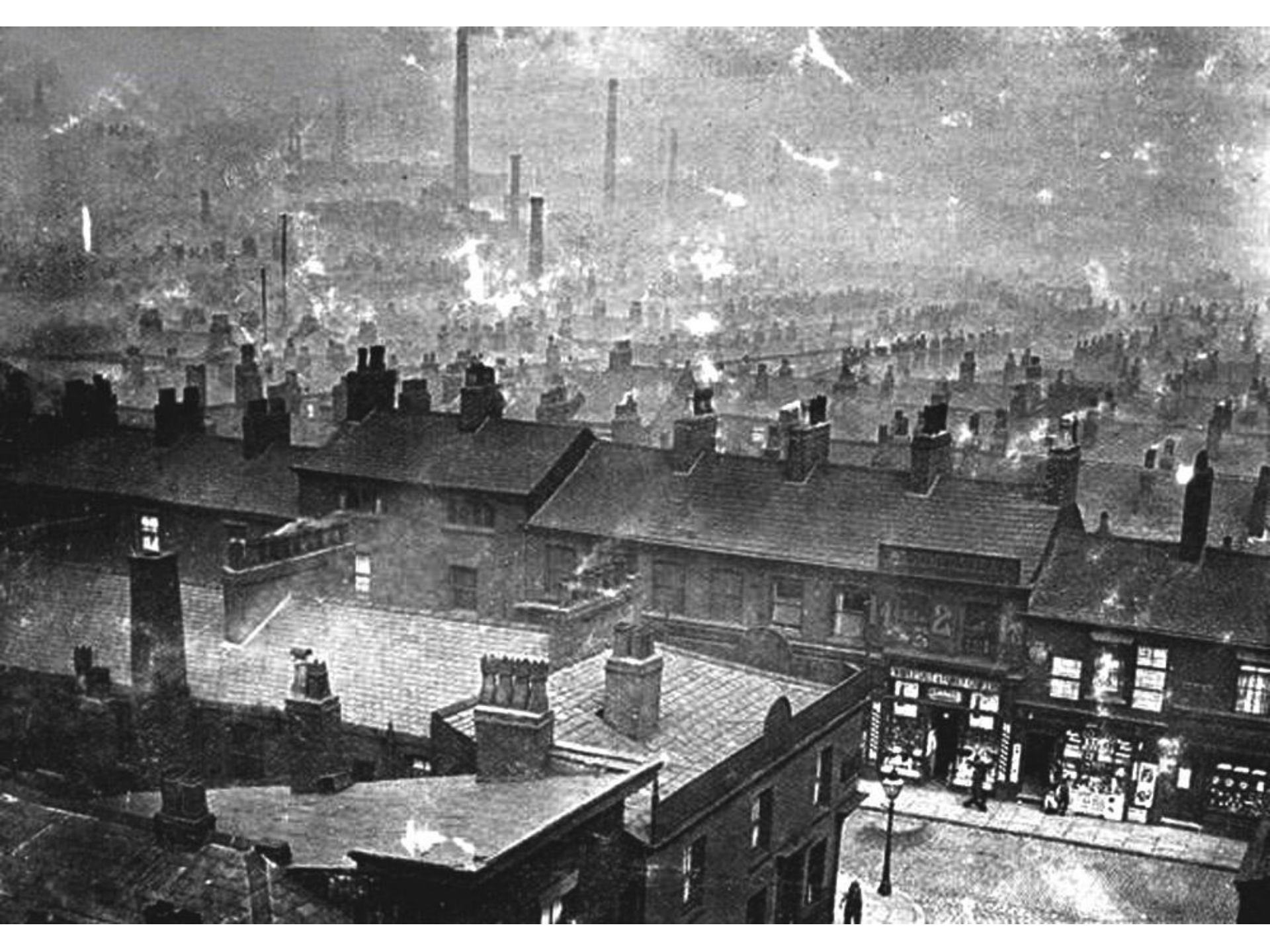
Attendance question:

Why did many middle class and wealthy elites around the world begin to concern themselves with the conservation and/or preservation of forestland?

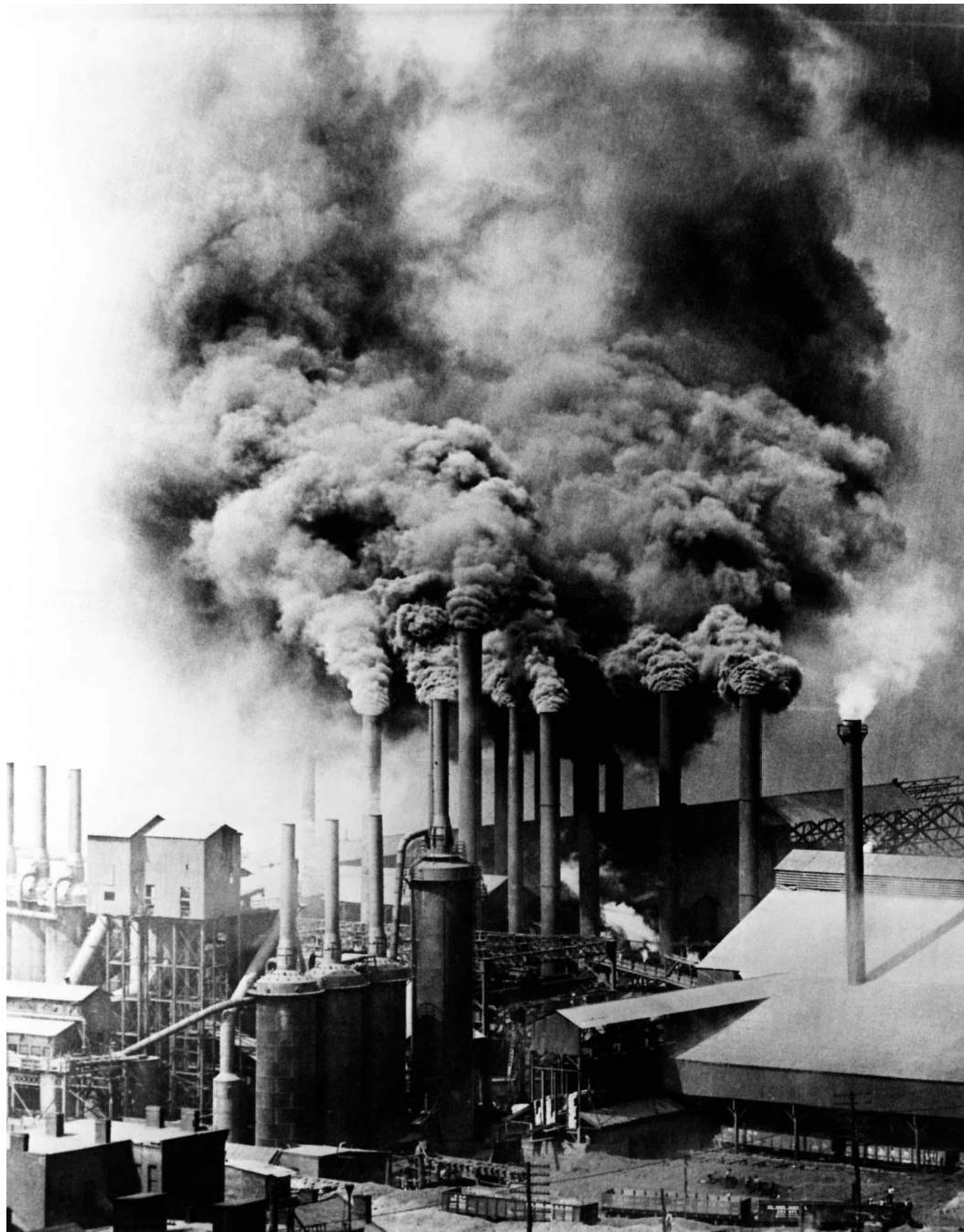
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Motives and causes of the quest for the sanitary city, 1860-1920

1. Deterioration of living conditions in growing cities due to industrialization
2. Miasma fears, then bacteria (bacteriological revolution)
3. A group of professional urban experts and reformers who wanted to improve living environments for workers
 - a. Capitalism required healthy work force
 - b. Workers were beginning to protest living conditions in cities
4. Urban infrastructure (water, sewerage, paved streets, garbage pick-up, better housing)







Same questions:

1. Challenge urban inequalities

Yes and no

2. Conquest mentality and nature-culture binary

Again, it's a bit of both. Nurturing and crafting urban nature but adhered to conviction of management. Management through massive technology

Alleviated most egregious and mortal effects of capitalist urbanization, but not challenge in any way growing urban metabolisms: environmentally unsustainable metabolisms and the often unequal labor relations behind the production of inputs and outputs.

Did not capture full extent of nature-culture interactions: e.g those connections within cycles of production and consumption.
(This comprehension comes later)