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Environment

ECOLOGY/ENVIRONMENT & THE MILITARY

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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Marings (New Guinea); Igan (Sarawak); Maoris (New Zealand)

Weisberg, Barry. Ecocide In Indochina: The Ecology of War. San Francisco: Canfield, 1970. 241 p. DS557.7.C5.W4.

See also:

-Bibs on the ALCAN Highway in Alaska; Biological Warfare; CCC; Chemical; Engineers; Forestry; Geography/Geology; Nuclear; Rivers; Roads; Sanitation/Hygiene in Medical; Trenches in Fortifications; Landmines in Weapons; Weather; & Winter Warfare.

NOTES ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF WAR

Some examples:

1. Turkish Invasion/Occupation of Balkans and Central Europe, 14th-19th centuries, not only altered political and social institutions, but also initially destroyed the booming agriculture and animal husbandry of the Balkans and Hungary. By the end of the 16th century the land between the Danube and the Tisza, as a result of the Turks' scorched earth tactics, was 80-90 percent depopulated and cultivated land had returned to wilderness conditions. See:

Coles, Paul. The Ottoman Impact on Europe. London: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1968. R472.C62.

Stoye, John. The Siege of Vienna. NY: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1965. DR536.S7.

2. Thirty Years War, 1618-1648, wrought destruction in Bohemia and Saxony. The scars left by Wallenstein's mass armies in Bohemia were still visible in the 1650's. Towns had been burned and deserted, accompanied by massive shifts of populations. See:

Pages, Georges. The Thirty Years War, 1618-1648. NY: Harper & Row, 1970. D258.P313.

3. US Civil War, 1861-65, included these environmental effects:

- a. Forest fire during Battle of the Wilderness, 6 May 1864.
- b. New canals, such as Dutch Gap canal on the James River and Thomas Williams canal dug opposite Vicksburg, which shifted the Mississippi River.
- c. Harbor and river obstructions at Charleston, SC; Mobile Bay, AL; and Trent's Beach on the James River, VA.
- d. Agricultural land abandoned as a result of the war, e.g. Sea Islands, SC.
- e. Iron ore mining in southwest Virginia and Central Alabama because of CSA iron shortage.

4. On chemical, biological and nuclear warfare, See:

U.S. Army. Chemical Corps. Gas Warfare in World War I. 20 studies. Wash, DC: Chemical Corps Historical Office, various dates. UK23.A5.C64.

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Neilands, J.B., et al. Harvest of Death: Chemical Warfare in Vietnam and Cambodia. NY: Free Press, 1972. DS557.7.C5.H3.

5. Other possibilities:

- a. Extensive spruce logging, Pacific Northwest, as a result of the sudden use of wooden aircraft in World War I.
- b. Japanese incendiary balloons causing minor forest fires in Pacific Northwest, WWII.
- c. Rampant logging by the Army in the vicinity of Western posts during the Indian Wars.
- d. Indian use of prairie fires as military tactic.
- e. Plagues introduced by alien invading armies. Also polluted water supplies.
- f. 19th century introduction of transportable canned rations reduced the urgency of agricultural pillage.
- g. Long-term effects on the land of military operations in especially dry or cold environments. For example, tank warfare in the Sahara and naval air stations in the Arctic.
- h. The many civil and defensive works of military engineers, from the China and Hadrian Walls to the canals, harbors, dams and beach erosion projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (e.g., Panama Canal, Cam Ranh Bay Harbor, Bonneville Dam, Cape Hatteras beaches).

- i. The scorched earth tactics of:
 - 1. Saladin against Richard I of England, 1191;
 - 2. Persians against the Ottoman sultan, Selim I, in 1515;
 - 3. Russians against Napoleon, 1812.