



# The Social Metabolism: A Socio-Ecological Theory of Historical Change (Environmental History)

*By Manuel González de Molina, Víctor M. Toledo*

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## **The Social Metabolism: A Socio-Ecological Theory of Historical Change (Environmental History)** By Manuel González de Molina, Víctor M. Toledo

Over this last decade, the concept of Social Metabolism has gained prestige as a theoretical instrument for the required analysis, to such an extent that there are now dozens of researchers, hundreds of articles and several books that have adopted and use this concept. However, there is a great deal of variety in terms of definitions and interpretations, as well as different methodologies around this concept, which prevents the consolidation of a unified field of new knowledge. The fundamental aim of the book is to conduct a review of the past and present usage of the concept of social metabolism, its origins and history, as well as the main currents or schools that exist around this concept. At the same time, the reviews and discussions included are used by the authors as starting points to draw conclusions and propose a theory of socio-ecological transformations.

The theoretical and methodological innovations of this book include a distinction of two types of metabolic processes: tangible and intangible; the analysis of the social metabolism at different scales (in space and time) and a theory of socio-ecological change overcoming the merely “systemic” or “cybernetic” nature of conventional approaches, giving special protagonism to collective action.

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**The Social Metabolism: A Socio-Ecological Theory of Historical Change (Environmental History) By Manuel González de Molina, Víctor M. Toledo Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #755472 in Books
- Published on: 2014-07-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .88" w x 6.14" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 355 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

From the Back Cover

Today, the most notable feature of the modern world is the growing concern for the future, since human society is immersed in a “giant, uncontrolled experiment” (McNeill, 2000), which it has caused, where natural and social processes are connected in an unprecedented way, generating new unpredictable and surprising dynamics and synergies that are threatening the human species, planetary equilibrium and the whole of life itself. Faced with the above situation, science as a whole is compelled to look back in order to learn from the past (lessons), and to adopt a rigorous historical perspective that will provide a thorough understanding of current situations from a socio-ecological perspective, capable of orchestrating interdisciplinary research into relations between society and nature.

Over this last decade, the concept of social metabolism has gained prestige as a theoretical instrument for the required analysis, to such an extent that there are now dozens of researchers, hundreds of articles and several books that have adopted and use this concept. However, there is a great deal of variety in terms of definitions and interpretations, as well as different methodologies around this concept, which prevents the consolidation of a unified field of new knowledge. The fundamental aim of the book is to conduct a review of the past and present usage of the concept of social metabolism, its origins and history, as well as the main currents or schools that exist around this concept. At the same time, the reviews and discussions included are used by the authors as starting points to draw conclusions and propose a theory of socio-ecological transformations.

The theoretical and methodological innovations of this book include: a. the rigorous definition of a basic model for the process of social metabolism; b. the distinction of two types of metabolic processes: tangible and intangible; c. detailed discussion regarding the concept of nature appropriation; d. analysis of the social metabolism at different scales (spatial dimension); e. historical analysis of the social metabolism (temporal dimension and socio-ecological change); f. overcoming the merely “systemic” or “cybernetic” nature of approaches, giving protagonism to collective action; and consequence and explanation of the above: g. integration of an ethical and political dimension to the theory.

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Bernadine Williams:**

Now a day people who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources in it can be true or not call for people to be aware of each info they get. How individuals to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Reading a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information especially this The Social Metabolism: A Socio-Ecological Theory of Historical Change (Environmental History) book because book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

**Erica Dennis:**

The reason why? Because this The Social Metabolism: A Socio-Ecological Theory of Historical Change (Environmental History) is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will zap you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such amazing way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book possess such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

**Linda Doyle:**

This The Social Metabolism: A Socio-Ecological Theory of Historical Change (Environmental History) is brand-new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information because it relief your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you into it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having little bit of digest in reading this The Social Metabolism: A Socio-Ecological Theory of Historical Change (Environmental History) can be the light food for you personally because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get by simply anyone. These books create itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in guide form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this reserve is the answer. So there is no in reading a book especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for a person. So , don't miss the item! Just read this e-book kind for your better life as well as knowledge.

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