

From the Planners' Bookshelf...

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES, NONFICTION...

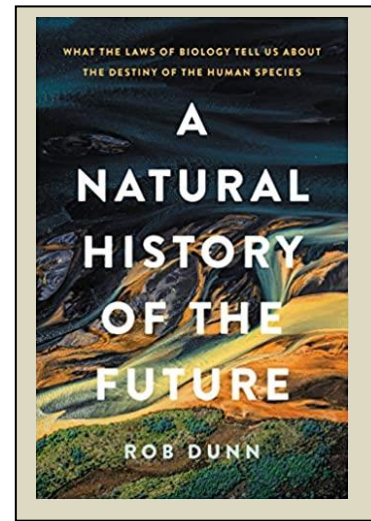
To Understand Our Future on Earth, Look to the Laws That Govern Nature.

A Review By Peter Brannen, Dec. 9, 2021

A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE FUTURE

*What the Laws of Biology Tell Us About the Destiny
of the Human Species*

By Rob Dunn, 2021.



From Mr. Brannen: “Levees surround us. Yes, some hold back rivers that strain against their embankments. But others hold back diseases, which are ready to saturate and overwhelm the fragile walls of antibiotics we’ve erected. And sometimes levees fail. The metaphor extends beyond epidemiology. Nature ceaselessly advances, trespasses, embarrasses our every effort to keep it at bay, and ultimately bursts through. Its rivers will not be contained.

“In ‘A Natural History of the Future,’ the ecologist Rob Dunn sketches an arresting vision of this relentless natural world — a world that is in equal measures creative, unguided and extravagant. Fog a tree with pesticides and watch new beetle species tumble from the canopy by the hundreds, a “riot of unnamed life.” Chlorinate your water and, though you might wipe out most parasites, you’ll soon bedew your shower head with chlorine-resistant mycobacteria. Make a world fit for bedbugs, then try to kill them with chemicals, and you’ll end up — not in a world *without* bedbugs, but one in which they’ve ‘evolved resistance to half a dozen different pesticides.’

“Life is not a passive force on the planet, and much as we might presume to sit in judgment of Creation — even sorting species by their economic value to us — we live on nature’s terms. The sooner we recognize this, Dunn argues, the better.”

Read the full review at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/09/books/review/a-natural-history-of-the-future-rob-dunn.html>

From CT.org... We all know that the Earth will survive whatever abuse it is given; the question is the survivability of the human species. The relentlessly adaptive force of nature is upon us and will continue to determine our quality of life as natural systems evolve in response to our attempt to solve problems. Professor Dunn’s discussion is useful.