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Salem Press Announces the Newest Addition to the Popular *Defining Documents in History Series:* *Environment & Conservation (1791-2015)*

Defining Documents in American History: Environment & Conservation offers in-depth analysis of a broad range of historical documents and historic events that shaped such pivotal themes such as the preservation of wilderness areas, species protection, the establishment of national parks and forests, the rise of environmental action groups, the impact of climate change, and the protection of clean air and water, beginning at the same time as the nation's founding and continuing on to the present day. Through the close study of 45 primary source documents, this text delivers a thorough examination of important environmental and conservation movements and trends in the U.S. from 1791 to 2015.

A number of different philosophies, or perspectives, have guided Americans' interactions with the natural environment since the arrival of the first European settlers on the continent. Prior to the European's arrival, the indigenous peoples of North America conserved the land and the plants and animals living upon it through small-scale hunting and gathering that left habitats largely intact, in large part because of a philosophy of reverence for Mother Earth and the animal and natural spirits that were her offspring. The European explorers' and colonists' worldview was shaped by the Bible and the classics of Western thought. With the arrival of the Europeans and the growing white population in the Colonies appropriating more and more land, the native tribes found themselves with fewer and fewer sustaining resources available, and the conflict between the Indians and the Euro-Americans intensified. Today, the environmental movement consists of an interconnected network of local, state, national, and international bodies working to reduce or reverse the harms caused by human actions.

Defining Documents in American History: Environment & Conservation is organized under three broad categories

- Beginnings
- The Middle Years
- The Modern Era

Each document is supported by a critical essay, written by historians and teachers, that includes a Summary Overview, Defining Moment, Author Biography, Document Analysis, and Essential Themes. Readers will appreciate the diversity of the collected texts, including speeches, treaties, journal entries, political speeches, laws, government reports, international resolutions, letters,

and court opinions, among other genres. An important feature of each essay is a close reading of the primary source that develops evidence of broader themes, such as the author's rhetorical purpose, social or class position, point of view, and other relevant issues. In addition, essays are organized by section themes, listed above, highlighting major issues of the period, many of which extend across eras and continue to shape life as we know it around the world.

Each section begins with a brief introduction that defines questions and problems underlying the subjects in the historical documents. A brief glossary is included at the end of each document, highlighting keywords that are important in the study of the primary source. Each essay also includes a Bibliography and Additional Reading section for further research.

About the Series

Defining Documents consists of a collection of essays on important historical documents by a diverse range of writers on a broad range of subjects in American history. The series offers a broad range of historical documents on important authors and subjects in American history, with primary source documents, in-depth analysis, and comprehensive lesson plans that represent the diversity of ideas and contexts that define social, political and cultural subjects throughout American history. *The Defining Documents* series is perfect for students, those researching a particular era, or anyone interested in American History since 1492.

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In addition, *Defining Documents in American History: Environment & Conservation (1791-2015)* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

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