

The Way—An Ecological Worldview

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‘A unique, extraordinary, and profoundly challenging book . . . destined to disturb the dogmatic slumbers of all the conventional philosophies.’

—[Prof. John Gray](#) (*Times Literary Supplement*)

Why high-technology can't save the world . . .

EDWARD GOLDSMITH argues that there are no technological fixes for the crises facing society and the natural world today — no technology that can restore a family, restabilise society, repair the climate, or regenerate an ecosystem. Only the innate self-organising processes of society and the natural world can restore themselves — if allowed to do so.

Bringing together insights from a broad range of subjects — from ecology, anthropology, and economics, to epistemology and systems theory, along with a wealth of examples and quoted sources — Goldsmith outlines the general behaviour of living systems at all levels of the biosphere, how they naturally maintain their stability and that of the larger living systems of which they are part, and how in turn those larger systems maintain and regulate them.

Noting this tendency of the biosphere to maintain its stability in the face of external challenges, Goldsmith shows how the modern industrial world — or *technosphere* — with its unbridled economic growth and unceasing technological expansion, embodies just such a challenge that is directly threatening the biosphere's survival and hence our own.

From this, the author explains how today's industrial society — contrary to popular opinion — is not the solution to but the very cause of our social, economic, and environmental problems, and which can thereby only fail to sustain itself in the long run. Consequently, the author turns to the wisdom of traditional peoples — rather than to ideological utopias — for the underlying blueprint to our future on this planet.

‘This is simply the most devastating critique we have had in recent years of the mainstream scientific enterprise and of modernism generally . . . should be read by ecologists, environmentalists, and virtually everyone who has an interest in the earth and its future.’

—[Prof. Donald Worster](#) (author of *Nature's Economy*)

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED in 1992, this 2009/14 edition is the third and final version of the author's *magnum opus* (ISBN [9780957631502](#)).

The details below are taken from the third edition — first published by Veltune Publishing, 8th November 2014 (593 pp).

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3. Ecology studies living things in their natural context
4. Ecology explains things in terms of their role within the biosphere
5. Ecology seeks to describe the order of nature
6. Ecology is a unified organisation of knowledge

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9. Primary knowledge is provided by our instincts, intuition, and our innate sense of aesthetics
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The Way – Quotes from reviews

by [Edward Goldsmith](#) · July 1, 1998 · [Leave a Comment](#) · [Share](#) · [Print](#)

A compendium of quotes from reviews of The Way: An Ecological Worldview by Edward Goldsmith (1992–98).

‘This is, simply, the most devastating critique we have had in recent years of the mainstream scientific enterprise and of modernism generally . . . should be read by ecologists, environmentalists, and virtually everyone who has an interest in the earth and its future.’

—Prof. Donald Worster (University of Kansas), 1992. Author of *Nature’s Economy*

‘[a] unique, extraordinary and profoundly challenging book . . . destined to disturb the dogmatic slumbers of all the conventional philosophies.’

—Prof. John Gray (London School of Economics), *Times Literary Supplement*, 1992

‘Edward Goldsmith’s *The Way* is a compendium of fresh insight and incisive criticism of reductionistic mainstream science.’

—Prof. Herman E. Daly (University of Maryland), Senior Economist at the World Bank. Co-author of *For the Common Good*

‘a truly radical analysis of modern science and the way it reflects and reinforces the modern metaphysics.’

—Prof. Jerry Ravetz, 1992. Author of *Scientific Knowledge and its Social Problems*

‘this book is the most profound, most penetrating, most hard-hitting analysis available of why modern society is not sustainable on planet Earth and what will have to change in order to make it so.’

—Willis Harman, President of the Institute of Noetic Sciences, 1992. Author of *Global Mind Change*

‘Goldsmith has written a masterpiece. . . . Every writer of environmental philosophy from now on will have to take Goldsmith’s work into account.’

—Prof. J. Donald Hughes (University of Denver), 1992. Author of *Ecology in Ancient Civilisations*

‘Edward Goldsmith has issued his manifesto. Shattering the scientific and economic paradigms that have created the mess we are in . . . Anyone interested in charting the planet’s survival must read this vital work.’

—Jerry Mander, 1992. Author of *In the Absence of the Sacred*

‘an essential reference book in the debate between the scientific and holistic paradigms.’

—Walter Schwarz, *The Guardian*, 1992

‘A book to ponder on, study, read and reread . . . that changes one’s way of thinking and living.’

—Francis Carr, *Landscape and Art Network*, 1998

‘should be widely read by the public and especially government officials’

—Prof. David Pimentel (Cornell University), 1994

‘*The Way* is an encyclopedic review and critique of ecological thinking. And it is an urgent appeal for a major cultural transition based on a holistic ecological worldview.’

—*TRANET*, 1993

‘[*The Way*] celebrates the richness and diversity of the science, philosophy, and spirituality of ecology.’

—Fritjof Capra, 1993. Author of *The Tao of Physics*

‘Every page sizzles with fervour and intellect.’

—Fred Pearce, *BBC Wildlife Magazine*, 1992

‘Goldsmith has not only the courage to challenge modern science, but the vision to define the ecological alternative.’

—Helena Norberg Hodge, 1992. Author of *Ancient Futures*

‘an inspiring vision of the sane path to a sensible, balanced relationship with nature.’

—Prof. Brian Goodwin (The Open University), 1992. Co-author of *Theoretical Biology: Epigenetic and Evolutionary Order for Complex Systems*

‘[*The Way* explores] just about every idea and concept, not only in ecology, but in the whole range of interfaces between humans and environment.’

—Prof. Eugene Odum (Georgia University), 1993. Author of *Fundamentals of Ecology*

‘an intellectually rigorous and emotionally compelling ecological worldview. May it be widely read—and widely acted on.’

—Bill McKibben, 1992. Author of *The End of Nature*

‘[Goldsmith’s] passionate exposition demonstrates that ecological thinking, far from being vague and limited, is both concrete and comprehensive in its wisdom’

—Charlene Spretnak, 1992. Author of *States of Grace*

‘an important work . . . Teddy Goldsmith has a total view and he expresses it forcefully and directly.’

—Prof. Arne Naess (University of Oslo). Founder of Deep Ecology

'It is a delight to see so many dogmas of the scientific faith thrown to the winds by a mind of such precise critical intelligence and large understanding.'

—Kathleen Raine, 1992. Poet and author of *Blake and Tradition*

'*The Way* is a powerful statement of the philosophy behind Green thinking', 'a splendid book that stirs the imagination. I shall read and re-read it.'

—James Lovelock, 2000 & 1992. Author of *Gaia: a new look at life on earth*

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