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HANNAH HOLLEMAN

Dust Bowls of Empire

Imperialism,
Environmental Politics,
and the Injustice of
"Green" Capitalism

Yale university press

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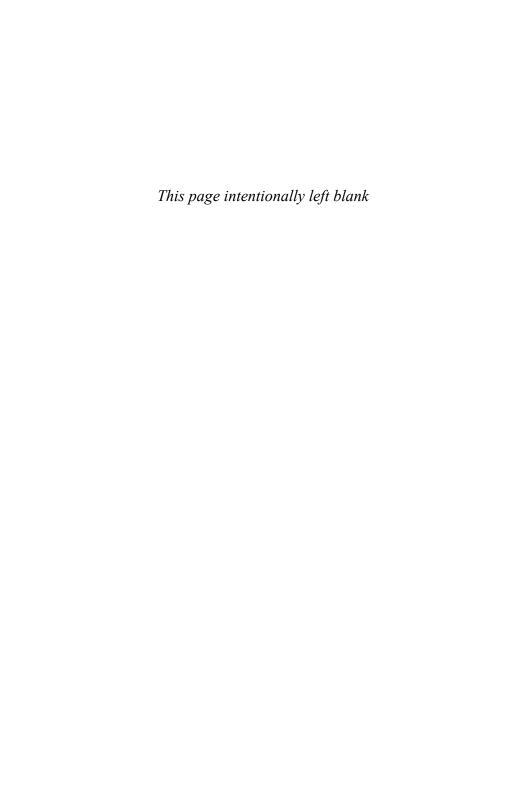
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At the end of the Civil War the US Army hardly missed a beat before the war "to win the West" began in full force. As a far more advanced killing machine and with seasoned troops, the army began the slaughter of people, buffalo, and the land itself, destroying natural tall grasses of the Plains and planting short grasses for cattle, eventually leading to the loss of topsoil four decades later.

—Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, An Indigenous People's History of the United States, 2014

The attitude of capitalism—industrial and pre-industrial—toward the earth was imperial and commercial; none of its ruling values taught environmental humility, reverence, or restraint. This was the cultural impetus that drove Americans into the grassland and determined the way they would use it.

—Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains* in the 1930s, 1979

Man-induced soil erosion is taking place today in almost every country inhabited by civilized man, except northwestern Europe. It is a disease to which any civilization founded on the European model seems liable when it attempts to grow outside Europe. . . .

The white man's burden in the future will be to come to terms with the soil and plant world, and for many reasons it promises to be a heavier burden than coming to terms with the natives.

—G. V. Jacks and R. O. Whyte, *The Rape of the Earth:*A World Survey of Soil Erosion, 1939

