



Acknowledgments

This project was conceived when the editors exchanged views about what they both saw as the relative lack of awareness about premodern or preindustrial environmental history in popular and academic circles. In fact, a similar lack of awareness is still often prevalent among those who specialize in the cultural, intellectual, and political history of early periods, even if such specialists may be assumed to have at least some interest in the environmental history of the times and places they study. We hope the present volume serves to make some aspects of preindustrial European environmental history more well-known across these and other scholarly communities and perhaps, too, among the wider public.

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We also owe thanks to all the contributors to the volume who signed on when the project was still just in a formative stage. We have learned an enormous amount not only from their essays, but also from their responses to our queries, as we became more aware of the variety of sources, historiographical traditions, and approaches to conserving or sustaining resources across preindustrial Europe. As we took on

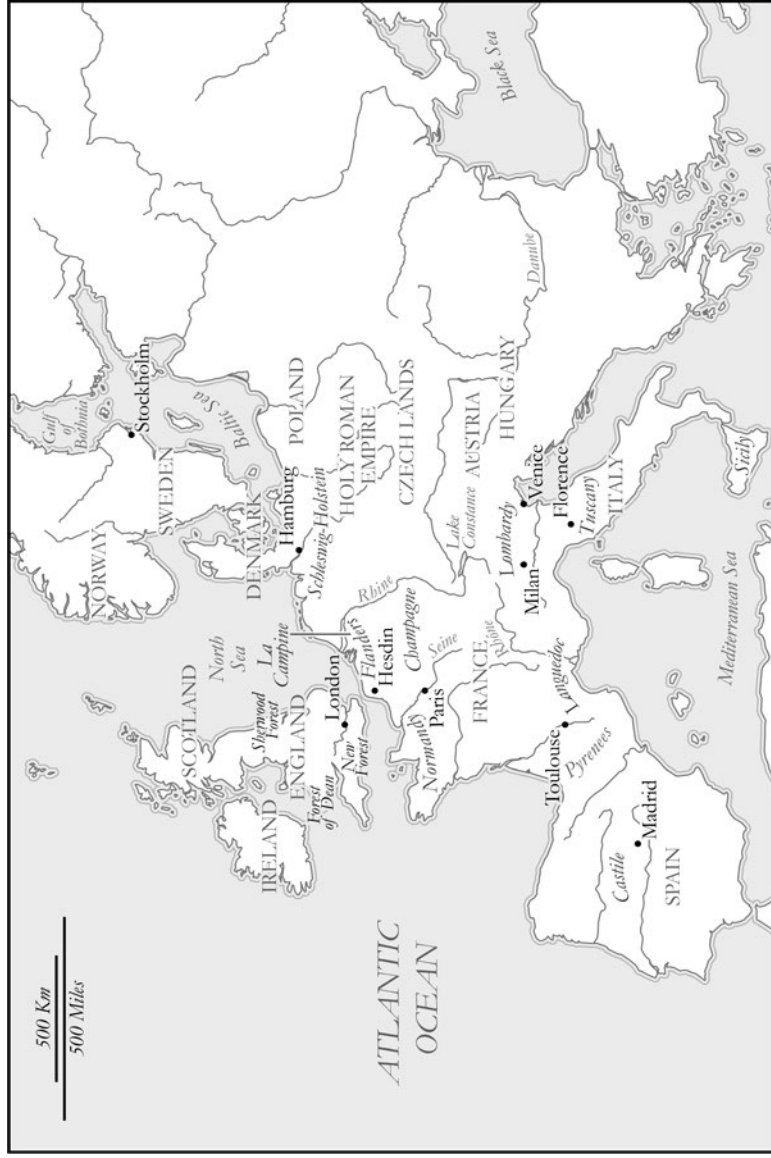
new ideas, we expanded the project beyond its initial medieval focus to embrace also the early modern period (ca. 1500–1800 CE), when scholars have traditionally identified important changes in how people conserved or sustained natural resources.

We owe more specific debts to three of our contributors. We would like to laud Michael Zeheter, whose careful comments on an early draft of the introduction have led, we hope, to a volume that represents a less U.S.-centric perspective on the history of conservation and sustainability. We would also like to thank Richard C. Hoffmann, a long-time leader of the field and mentor to those of us in North America working on premodern environmental history, for stepping in to write a chapter after the tragic loss of Alasdair Ross in 2017. We are also grateful to our afterword author, Paul Warde, for coming in at the eleventh hour to compose an excellent afterword.

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