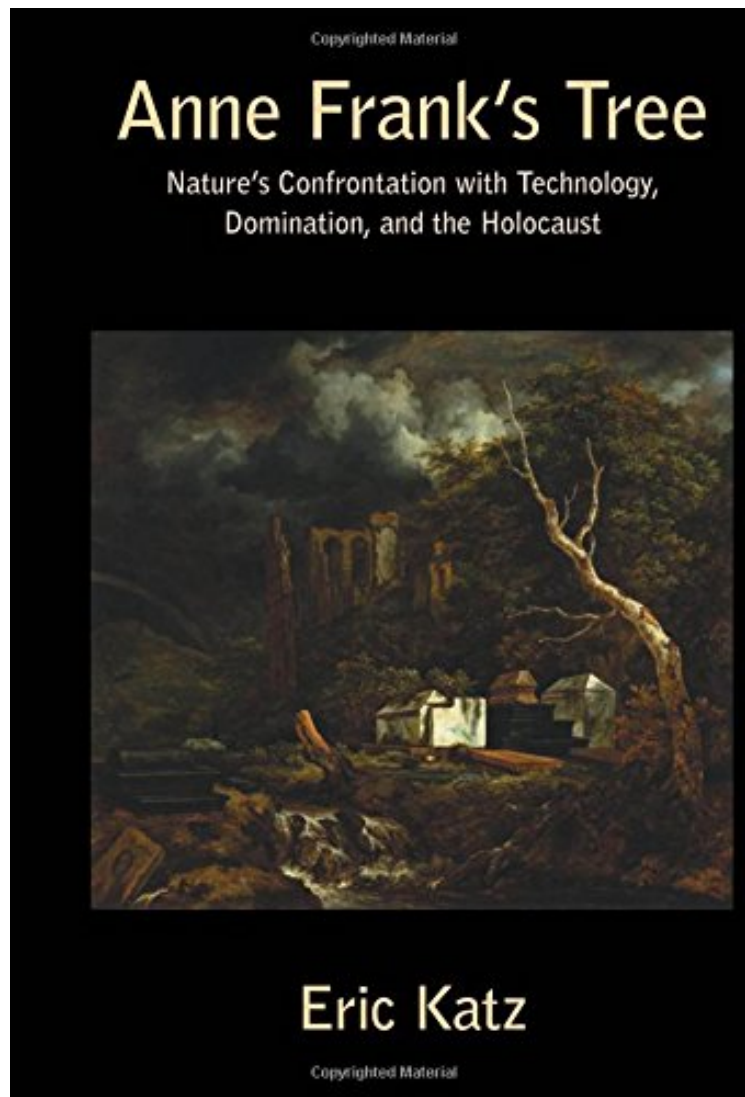


(Ebook pdf) Anne Frank's Tree. Nature's Confrontation with Technology, Domination, and the Holocaust

Anne Frank's Tree. Nature's Confrontation with Technology, Domination, and the Holocaust

Eric Katz

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Eric Katz : Anne Frank's Tree. Nature's Confrontation with Technology, Domination, and the Holocaust before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Anne Frank's Tree. Nature's Confrontation with Technology, Domination, and the Holocaust:

In this highly original interdisciplinary work, well-known environmental philosopher Eric Katz explores technology's

role in dominating both nature and humanity. He argues that technology dominates, and hence destroys, the natural world; it dominates, and hence destroys, critical aspects of human life and society. Technology causes an estrangement from nature, and thus a loss of meaning in human life. As a result, humans lose the power to make moral and social choices; they lose the power to control their lives. Katz's argument innovatively connects two distinct areas of thought: the fundamental goal of the Holocaust, including Nazi environmental policy, to heal the degenerate elements of society; and the plan to heal degraded natural systems that informs the contemporary environmental policy of 'ecological restoration'. In both arenas of 'healing', Katz argues that technological forces drive action, while domination emerges as the prevailing ideology. Rather than an abstract, or theoretical, examination of the concepts of 'domination' and 'autonomy,' the book undertakes a robust pragmatic investigation into the ways in which these themes 'cash-out' in specific real-life or historical situations. The analysis of environmental problems dealing with the degradation of natural systems is generally seen as distinct from the analysis of human historical problems such as war, imperialism, and genocide. But on the level of practical or physical reality, it can be seen that science and technology play a significant and crucial role in this connection; moreover, on the conceptual level, the ideology of domination and control is the connecting theme. Katz's examination of several case studies or historical examples demonstrates the pervasive power of the idea of domination expressed through the development and use of science and technology.

'it is a very moving book. It is not the kind of philosophy book you read and then push aside murmuring something about 'important but boring'. This book is important and exciting. When I read Katz's reflections on nature while he was at the Jewish graveyard or when I read his interpretation of Anne Frank's words about the chestnut tree, I was enthused. If we want our students not only to think about environmental dilemmas but to live them, experience them, then this is the book' Avner de-Shalit in *Environmental Values*

About the Author Eric Katz (B.A. Philosophy, Yale; Ph.D., Boston University) is Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Department of Humanities at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He is the author of *Nature as Subject: Human Obligation and Natural Community* (Rowman and Littlefield, 1997), winner of the CHOICE book award for 'Outstanding Academic Books for 1997'. He is the editor of *Death by Design: Science, Technology, and Engineering in Nazi Germany* (Pearson/Longman, 2006). He has co-edited (with Andrew Light) the collection *Environmental Pragmatism*, (London: Routledge, 1996); (with Andrew Light and David Rothenberg) the collection *Beneath the Surface: Critical Essays in the Philosophy of Deep Ecology* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2000); and (with Andrew Light and William Thompson) the textbook *Controlling Technology*, 2nd edition (Prometheus, 2003). He has written over fifty journal articles, book chapters and book reviews. He was the Book Editor of the journal *Environmental Ethics* from 1996 to 2014, and was the founding Vice-President of the International Society for Environmental Ethics. From 1991 to 2007 he was the Director of the Science, Technology and Society (STS) program at NJIT.