



## State, Science and the Skies: Governmentalities of the British Atmosphere (RGS-IBG Book Series)

By Mark Whitehead

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Utilizing environmental archival materials from the UK, *State, Science and the Skies* presents a groundbreaking historical account of the development of a state science of atmospheric pollution.

- Offers the most extensive historical and geographical account of atmospheric government and pollution in Britain, available today
- Presents archival material from 150 years of British history that represents an original contribution to our knowledge of the history of science and government
- Develops an innovative combination of Foucauldian history of government with a history of atmospheric science
- Raises crucial questions about the nature of state/science relations and the conditions under which environmental knowledge is produced

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

“Mark Whitehead’s 2009 book *State, Science and the Skies* constitutes a compelling and important contribution to the RGS–IBG Book Series . . . This fascinating book is part of an increasing literature on a much neglected area of study: the role and importance of the atmosphere in our lives (e.g. Jankovic, 2000; Latour, 2003; Strauss and Orlove, 2003; Kessel, 2006; Thornes, 2008) . . . *State, Science and the Skies* should provide us with an important guide to the geographies of the atmosphere. It is especially helpful in order to cultivate some sense of relief to Sloterdijk’s (2009) emphasis on the air as a means of administering death through environmental means.” (*Geoforum*, 1 September 2012)

### Review

*State, Science and the Skies* is a carefully researched and politically important work. Creatively developing Foucault's work on governmentality, it shows the complex interrelations of technology, policy and practice. Taking the atmosphere as an object of government, it insists on the essential vertical dimension of the geographies of the modern state.

— **Stuart Elden, Professor of Political Geography, Durham University**

*State, Science and the Skies* is a superbly crafted synthesis of the making of a modern climatological state. Whitehead follows the expert and the state in their creation of atmospheric government and its aerial responsibilities. Blending a robust historical narrative with thought-provoking analyses of atmospheric lives of boiler attendants, employers, government inspectors and housewives, Whitehead provides an important framework for thinking about the current concerns surrounding climate change and air pollution. *State, Science and the Skies* is bound to become a major reference in all future discussions about the scientific and political constructions of environmental life in modern Britain and beyond.

— **Vladimir Jankovic, Lecturer, Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine  
University of Manchester**

### From the Back Cover

Contemporary concerns regarding climate change, the destruction of the ozone layer, and increased anxieties of the health risks associated with particulate air pollution, highlight the crucial importance of understanding what is happening in our atmosphere. This timely volume asserts that to comprehend contemporary atmospheric knowledge systems requires an examination of the spatial histories of the sciences and political regimes that have shaped systems of air government.

Focusing exclusively on the UK, the volume weaves together the tales of 19th-century urban smoke observers, early 20th-century visitors to clean-air exhibitions, and modern atmospheric scientists in order to reveal why we know certain things about the qualities of the air we breathe and how this knowledge has shaped collective relations with the atmosphere. In charting this history this volume combines Foucauldian-inspired accounts of the history of government with relevant works on the sociology of scientific knowledge. Utilizing extensive archival materials and informed by scholarly analysis, this groundbreaking work presents the first historical account of the development of a state science of atmospheric pollution.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Lillian Tobias:**

The book State, Science and the Skies: Governmentalities of the British Atmosphere (RGS-IBG Book Series) make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem with your subject. If you can make studying a book State, Science and the Skies: Governmentalities of the British Atmosphere (RGS-IBG Book Series) to get your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You could know everything if you like available and read a e-book State, Science and the Skies: Governmentalities of the British Atmosphere (RGS-IBG Book Series). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this guide?

#### **Kathleen Strickland:**

This State, Science and the Skies: Governmentalities of the British Atmosphere (RGS-IBG Book Series) book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is actually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That State, Science and the Skies: Governmentalities of the British Atmosphere (RGS-IBG Book Series) without we know teach the one who examining it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't become worry State, Science and the Skies: Governmentalities of the British Atmosphere (RGS-IBG Book Series) can bring any time you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This State, Science and the Skies: Governmentalities of the British Atmosphere (RGS-IBG Book Series) having very good arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

#### **Jeffrey Thibodeaux:**

Reading a book can be one of a lot of task that everyone in the world adores. Do you like reading book so. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoy it. First reading a reserve will give you a lot of new facts. When you read a reserve you will get new information mainly because book is one of a number of ways to share the information or even their idea. Second, studying a book will make an individual more imaginative. When you examining a book especially fictional works book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the personas do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to others. When you read this State, Science and the Skies: Governmentalities of the British Atmosphere (RGS-IBG Book Series), it is possible to tells your family, friends in addition to soon about yours book. Your knowledge can inspire average, make them reading a guide.

#### **Beth Kelly:**

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV,

as well as playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day every day to reading a guide. The book State, Science and the Skies: Governmentalities of the British Atmosphere (RGS-IBG Book Series) it is rather good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

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