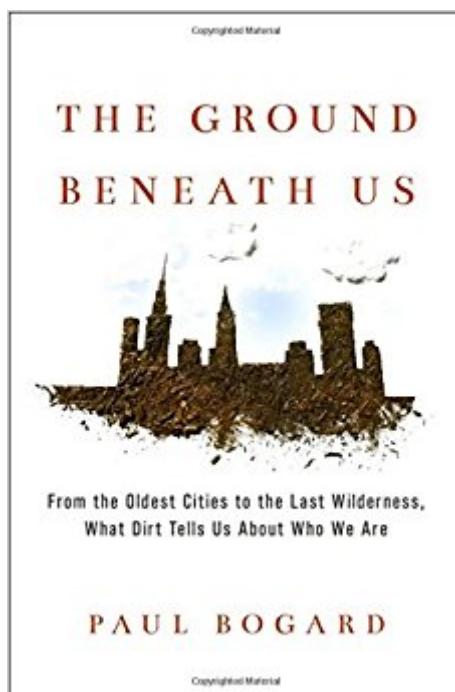


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# The Ground Beneath Us: From The Oldest Cities To The Last Wilderness, What Dirt Tells Us About Who We Are



## Synopsis

Our most compelling resource just might be the ground beneath our feet. When a teaspoon of soil contains millions of species, and when we pave over the earth on a daily basis, what does that mean for our future? What is the risk to our food supply, the planet's wildlife, the soil on which every life-form depends? How much undeveloped, untrodden ground do we even have left? Paul Bogard set out to answer these questions in *The Ground Beneath Us*, and what he discovered is astounding. From New York (where more than 118,000,000 tons of human development rest on top of Manhattan Island) to Mexico City (which sinks inches each year into the Aztec ruins beneath it), Bogard shows us the weight of our cities' footprints. And as we see hallowed ground coughing up bullets at a Civil War battlefield; long-hidden remains emerging from below the sites of concentration camps; the dangerous, alluring power of fracking; the fragility of the giant redwoods, our planet's oldest living things; the surprises hidden under a Major League ballpark's grass; and the sublime beauty of our few remaining wildest places, one truth becomes blazingly clear: The ground is the easiest resource to forget, and the last we should. Bogard's *The Ground Beneath Us* is deeply transporting reading that introduces farmers, geologists, ecologists, cartographers, and others in a quest to understand the importance of something too many of us take for granted: dirt. From growth and life to death and loss, and from the subsurface technologies that run our cities to the dwindling number of idyllic Edens that remain, this is the fascinating story of the ground beneath our feet.

## Customer Reviews

Praise for *The Ground Beneath Us*"A beautiful call for deeper physical, intellectual, and emotional connections between people and Earth. Paul Bogard eloquently describes the roots of culture and ecology, and the importance of the many forms of 'ground' and soil for our collective future."  
•David George Haskell, author of *The Songs of Trees* and the Pulitzer finalist, *The Forest Unseen*; Professor of Biology, University of the South"An intriguing examination of the ground, which 'holds the wild world in place'.... environmental journalist Bogard contributes an expert if unsettling account of the 'living ground.' In the author's expansive view, the ground is whatever lies under our feet, and he explores the many ways humans exploit it until, ultimately, they pave it.... insightful, wide-ranging."  
•Kirkus

Paul Bogard is the author of *The End of Night* and the editor of the anthology *Let There Be Night: Testimony on Behalf of the Dark*. His writing and commentary on the natural world have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* and on *Slate*, *Salon* and *All Things Considered*. He teaches creative

nonfiction at James Madison University and lives in Virginia and Minnesota.

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