



# Alumni Book Club: Tri-State Region Selection

Gotham Unbound by Ted Steinberg

8:00-9:00 PM ET on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Meeting Schedule

Date	Chapters	Number of Pages
10/10/23	Introduction <b>Part 1: Under Water, 1609-1789</b> Chapter 1: Entrepôt Chapter 2: George Washington Stepped Here	
10/24/23	<b>Part 2: The Great Transformation 1790-1920</b> Chapter 3: The Reticulation Chapter 4: Adventures in Drainage Chapter 5: The Revenge of Thomas Dongan Chapter 6: The Open Loop Chapter 7: The Exploding Metropolis Chapter 8: Two-Dimensional Gotham	
11/7/23	<b>Part 3: Night Comes to the Marshes 1900-1980</b> Chapter 9: The Road to Hermitville Chapter 10: The Landscapers of Queens Chapter 11: The Wilds of Staten Island Chapter 12: The Massifs of Fresh Kills Chapter 13: The Great Hackensack Disappearing Act	
<b><i>Note - we are skipping Thanksgiving Week</i></b>		
11/28/23	<b>Part 4: The Green Colossus (1960-2012)</b> Chapter 14: The Age of Limits Chapter 15: The Big Apple Biome Chapter 16: The Future of New York	

## Introduction

1. In the first paragraph, the author describes the rich biodiversity of the island of Mannahatta and calls it a place we are all four hundred years too late to visit.

What were the changes like in the area around where you come from? Has your community managed to preserve some of its natural beauty and biodiversity? How?

## Chapter 1

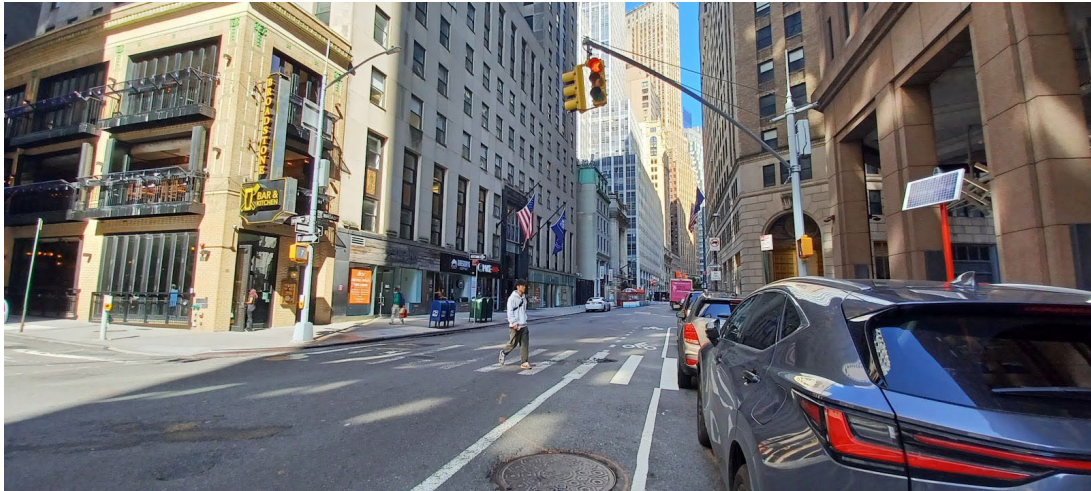
2. On page 20, a passage reads:

*“Rather than building canals and internalizing the waterfront as the Dutch had, the British focused on extending the existing littoral outward.”*

What are the strengths and weaknesses of each approach - digging canals and bringing the water in or building the island outward into the river - and how do they affect us, today? Which, if any of these approaches played a role in the development where you live?



The southern tip of Manhattan known as the Battery. Much of what you see is “reclaimed” land.



Broad Street in Manhattan—the Dutch built a canal roughly along this street.

## Chapter 2

3. Is geography the driving force behind New York’s rise to prominence? How does it compare to where you live? Have we reached a point where New York’s geography is no longer significant?