



The All-New

**Jimmy Carter Library & Museum**

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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***Agent Orange, Vietnam and the Scientists Who Changed the Way We  
Think of the Environment  
Author Lecture & Book Signing***

Atlanta, GA.- Join us on Wednesday, May 18th at 7pm as author David Zierler explores *The Invention of Ecocide: Agent Orange, Vietnam, and the Scientists Who Changed the Way We Think About the Environment*. Zierler traces the “ecocide” movement, starting in the 1940s, when weed killer was developed in agricultural circles and theories of counterinsurgency were studied by the military. These two trajectories converged in 1961 with Operation Ranch Hand, the joint U.S.-South Vietnamese mission to use herbicidal warfare as a means to defoliate large areas of enemy territory. Driven by the idea that humans were altering the world’s ecology for the worse, a group of scientists relentlessly challenged Pentagon assurances of safety, citing possible long-term environmental and health effects. It wasn’t until 1970 that the scientists gained access to sprayed zones confirming that a major ecological disaster had occurred. Their findings convinced the U.S. government to renounce first use of herbicides in future wars and, Zierler argues, fundamentally reoriented thinking about warfare and environmental security in the next forty years.

Marilyn Young, author of *The Vietnam Wars, 1945-1990* says “*The Invention of Ecocide gives readers an entirely new perspective on Vietnam, the possibilities of determined protest, and the dangers that continue to haunt the world. It is, quite simply, a brilliant work of scholarship.*”

The reading and book signing will be in the Carter Presidential Museum Theater. It is free and open to the public. Copies of *The Invention of Ecocide: Agent Orange, Vietnam, and the Scientists Who Changed the Way We Think About the Environment* will be available for purchase and signing at the lecture.

For more information, call 404-865-7109. You can keep up with the Carter Library events on the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library page on Facebook and follow the CarterLibrary on Twitter. If you wish to unsubscribe to these news releases, simply email [tony.clark@nara.gov](mailto:tony.clark@nara.gov) and put “UNSUBSCRIBE” in the subject line.