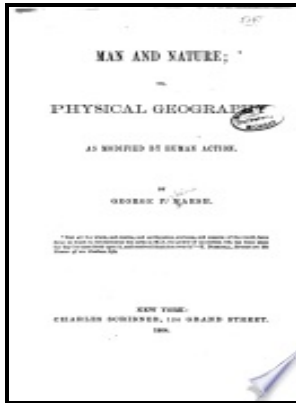


Man and nature, or, Physical geography as modified by human action

Scribner - Man and Nature; or, Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action



Description: -

-
Physical geography

Human geography
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Man and nature or, Physical geography as modified by human action : Marsh, George Perkins, 1801

Apart from the hostile influence of man, the organic and the inorganic world are ... bound together by such mutual relations and adaptations as secure, if not the absolute permanence and equilibrium of both, a long continuance of the established conditions of each at any given time and place, or at least, a very slow and gradual succession of changes in those conditions. The tenacity of life possessed by many insects, their prodigious fecundity, the length of time they often remain in the different phases of their existence, the security of the retreats into which their small dimensions enable them to retire, are all circumstances very favorable not only to the perpetuity of their species, but to their transportation to distant climates and their multiplication in their new homes.

George Marsh

The immense historical sweep of the book is incredible, surveying human impacts on nature since Roman times. Hence it is possible that the animal and the vegetable food, the remains of which are found in the ancient deposits I am speaking of, may sometimes have been brought from climates remote from that where it was consumed.

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The geological, hydrographical, and topographical surveys, which almost every general and even local government of the civilized world is carrying on, are making yet more important contributions to our stock of geographical and general physical knowledge, and, within a comparatively short space, there will be an accumulation of well established constant and historical facts, from which we can safely reason upon all the relations of action and reaction between man and external nature. They all live upon small organisms, and the most numerous species feed almost wholly upon the soft gelatinous mollusks in which the sea abounds in all latitudes. At the commencement of the seventeenth century, the soil, with insignificant exceptions, was covered with forests; and whenever the Indian, in consequence of war or the exhaustion of the beasts of the chase, abandoned the narrow fields he had planted and the woods he had burned over, they speedily returned, by a succession of herbaceous, arborescent, and arboreal growths, to their original state.

Man and Nature: Or, Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action by George Perkins Marsh

Number of Quadrupeds in the United States.

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