

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910460274503321
Autore	Williams Michael <1935-2009.>
Titolo	Deforesting the earth [[electronic resource]] : from prehistory to global crisis : an abridgment / / Michael Williams
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, c2006
ISBN	1-282-65990-1 9786612659904 0-226-89905-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (563 p.)
Classificazione	ZC 85790
Disciplina	333.75/1309
Soggetti	Forests and forestry - History Clearing of land - History Deforestation - History Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 483-510) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ILLUSTRATIONS -- PREFACE -- PART I. CLEARING IN THE DEEP PAST -- PART II. REACHING OUT: EUROPE AND THE WIDER WORLD -- PART III. THE GLOBAL FOREST -- EPILOGUE. Backward and Forward Glances -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- LIST OF MEASURES, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS -- NOTES -- BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	"Anyone who doubts the power of history to inform the present should read this closely argued and sweeping survey. This is rich, timely, and sobering historical fare written in a measured, non-sensationalist style by a master of his craft. One only hopes (almost certainly vainly) that today's policymakers take its lessons to heart."-Brian Fagan, Los Angeles Times Published in 2002, Deforesting the Earth was a landmark study of the history and geography of deforestation. Now available as an abridgment, this edition retains the breadth of the original while rendering its arguments accessible to a general readership. Deforestation-the thinning, changing, and wholesale clearing of forests for fuel, shelter, and agriculture-is among the most important ways humans have transformed the environment. Surveying

ten thousand years to trace human-induced deforestation's effect on economies, societies, and landscapes around the world. Deforesting the Earth is the preeminent history of this process and its consequences. Beginning with the return of the forests after the ice age to Europe, North America, and the tropics, Michael Williams traces the impact of human-set fires for gathering and hunting, land clearing for agriculture, and other activities from the Paleolithic age through the classical world and the medieval period. He then focuses on forest clearing both within Europe and by European imperialists and industrialists abroad, from the 1500's to the early 1900's, in such places as the New World, India, and Latin America, and considers indigenous clearing in India, China, and Japan. Finally, he covers the current alarming escalation of deforestation, with our ever-increasing human population placing a potentially unsupportable burden on the world's forests.
