

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462874103321
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Titolo	An environmental history of Russia // Paul Josephson [and four others] [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-107-35714-4 1-107-34127-2 1-107-34752-1 1-107-34502-2 1-139-02104-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vii, 340 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Studies in environment and history
Disciplina	304.20947
Soggetti	Human ecology - Russia (Federation) - History Indigenous peoples - Ecology - Russia (Federation) - History Environmental degradation - Russia (Federation) - History Environmental policy - Russia (Federation) - History Russia (Federation) Environmental conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Introduction; What Is Environmental History in This Book?; Large-Scale Projects and Large-Scale Bureaucracies; Physical Geography and Ecosystems of the Soviet Union; Tundra ¹¹ ; Taiga ¹⁴ ; Steppe; Arid Regions; The Aral Sea; 1 From Imperial to Socialist Nature Preservation; Nature and Society in Pre-Petrine Russia, 900-1700; Conservation from Peter the Great to the Russian Revolution; Natural Resources: Early Management Practices of Forests; Agriculture and Environment in Tsarist Russia; Inland Fisheries During the Tsarist Era "Environmental" Concerns in Imperial Russia and the Rise of Nature PreservesThe Weak Institutional Foundation of Ecology; Environmental Concerns After the Russian Revolution; From Tsarism to Bolshevism to Stalinism - and the Environment; 2 Stalinism; An Evaluation of the Environmental Costs of Stalins Plan for Rapid Industrialization; Stalin, the Great Break and Nature; Urbanization in the Stalin Era; War on the Agriculture: Soviet Agriculture; The Gulag on the Frontier of the Soviet

Empire50; Environmentalists and the Nature Protection Movement under Stalin; Costs of World War II
High Stalinism and the Transformation of NatureSoviet Forests and the Stalinist Plan to Transform Nature; Conquest of Siberia and the Far North and the Rise of the Modern Defense Industry; Transformationist Economic and Political Desiderata and the Soviet Environment; 3 The Khrushchev Reforms, Environmental Politics, and the Awakening of Environmentalism, 1953-1964; Khrushchev Era Economic Reforms: Impact on Environmental Policies; Technocratic Euphoria and Indifference to the Environment; Khrushchevs Agricultural Programs; The Corn Campaign: Grasslands and Maize Malaise
The Assault on ForestsThe Environmental Cost of Energy Production: The Case of Hydroelectricity; The Struggle to Protect Nature Reserves Renewed; Big Projects, the Environment and Nature Under Khrushchev; 4 Developed Socialism, Environmental Degradation, and the Time of Economic "Stagnation," 1964-1985; The Legacy of Heavy Industry; Soviet Environmental Policy from the 1960s to 1980s; Domestic Determinants of Environmental Policy; Economic Disincentives to Rational Environmental Policy; The Urban Environment; Acid Rain, Air Pollution, and the Soviet Union; Water, Water Everywhere
"Hero Projects" of the Brezhnev Era: From Central Asia to Lake Baikal and SiberiaForest Resources and Soviet Management Practices; The Development of Environmental Thinking in the Brezhnev Era; The Rise of Environmental Interest and Public Action Groups; Literature, the Press, and Environmentalism131; Environment and Society on the Eve of the Gorbachev Reforms; 5 Gorbachevs Reforms, Glasnost, and Econationalism; Gorbachev, Reforms, and Environmental Issues; The Chernobyl Disaster2; Radiation Contamination; Perestroika and the Formation of New Environmental Institutions
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Sommario/riassunto

The former Soviet empire spanned eleven time zones and contained half the world's forests; vast deposits of oil, gas and coal; various ores; major rivers such as the Volga, Don and Angara; and extensive biodiversity. These resources and animals, as well as the people who lived in the former Soviet Union - Slavs, Armenians, Georgians, Azeris, Kazakhs and Tajiks, indigenous Nenets and Chukchi - were threatened by environmental degradation and extensive pollution. This environmental history of the former Soviet Union explores the impact that state economic development programs had on the environment. The authors consider the impact of Bolshevik ideology on the establishment of an extensive system of nature preserves, the effect of Stalinist practices of industrialization and collectivization on nature, and the rise of public involvement under Khrushchev and Brezhnev, and changes to policies and practices with the rise of Gorbachev and the break-up of the USSR.
