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4 The National Park IdeaPrelude to the Establishment of the National Park Service; Selling the National Park Idea; A Second Origin Story; Automobile Pilgrimage-An Alternative Narrative; Rituals of the Pilgrimage: America around the Campfire; Part IIICompeting Constructions of Wilderness; Introduction to Part III: Competing Constructions of Wilderness; 5 Mythic and Scientific America; "Laboratory Out-of-doors"; Emergence of Alternative Narratives; The Culmination of the Mather-Albright Tradition; Change and Tradition in the Parks; Preservation "for the People"; 6 The Wilderness Idea Wilderness BeginningsMythic America: Wilderness as Eden and the Frontier; Ansel Adams' Photography and the Religion of Nature; Rethinking Nature and Humans; 7 Unbounded Possibilities; Reconceptualization of Space; A New Role for Science; Imagining Ecosystems; Alaska: Inhabited Wilderness; Reimagining Nature and Culture; Epilogue: Pilgrimage and the Future of the National Parks; Change in Paradise; The Dynamics of Change; A Vision for the Future; Pilgrimage in the Gaps; Notes; Bibliography; Index

Sommario/riassunto

National Parks - 'America's Best Idea' - were from the first seen as sacred sites embodying the God-given specialness of American people and American land, and from the first they were also marked as tourist attractions. The inherent tensions between these two realities ensured the parks would be stages where the country's conflicting values would be performed and contested. As pilgrimage sites embody the values and beliefs of those who are drawn to them, so Americans could travel to these sacred places to honor, experience, and be restored by the powers that had created the American
