

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911141798103321
Autore	Pyne Stephen J. <1949->
Titolo	Vestal fire : an environmental history, told through fire, of Europe and Europe's encounter with the world / / Stephen J. Pyne ; foreword by William Cronon
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Seattle, : University of Washington Press, c1997
ISBN	9780295803524 0295803525
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvii, 659 pages)
Collana	Cycle of fire
Classificazione	RC 10820
Disciplina	304.2
Soggetti	Wildfires - Europe Fires - Europe Fire ecology - Europe Wildfires Fires Fire ecology
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Foreword by William Cronon -- Author's Note -- Prologue: Quest for Fire -- Book 1: Elements -- Flame -- Torch -- Hearth -- Book 2: Europe -- Eternal Flame: Fire in Mediterranean Europe -- Controlled Combustion: Fire in Central Europe -- Wild Hearth: Fire in Boreal Europe -- Flaming Front: Fire in Eurasian Europe -- Spot Fires: Fire in Atlantic Europe -- Book 3: Earth -- Islands -- Continents -- Planets -- Epilogue: Beyond the Realm of Fire -- Notes -- Glossary -- Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Stephen Pyne has been described as having a consciousness "composed of equal parts historian, ecologist, philosopher, critic, poet, and sociologist." At this time in history when many people are trying to understand their true relationship with the natural environment, this book offers a remarkable contribution--breathtaking in the scope of its research and exhilarating to read.Pyne takes the reader on a journey through time, exploring the terrain of Europe and the uses and abuses of its lands as well as, through migration and conquest, many parts of

the rest of the world. Whether he is discussing the Mediterranean region, Russia, Scandinavia, the British Isles, central Europe, or colonized islands; whether he is considering the impact of agriculture, forestry, or Enlightenment thinking, the author brings an unmatched insight to his subject. Vestal Fire takes its title from Vesta, Roman goddess of the hearth and keeper of the sacred fire on Mount Olympus. But the book's title also suggests the strengths and limitations of Europe's peculiar conception of fire, and through fire, of its relationship to nature. Between the untamed fire of the wilderness and the tended fire of the hearth lies a never-ending dialectic in which human beings struggle to control natural forces and processes that in fact can sometimes be directed but never wholly dominated or contained.
