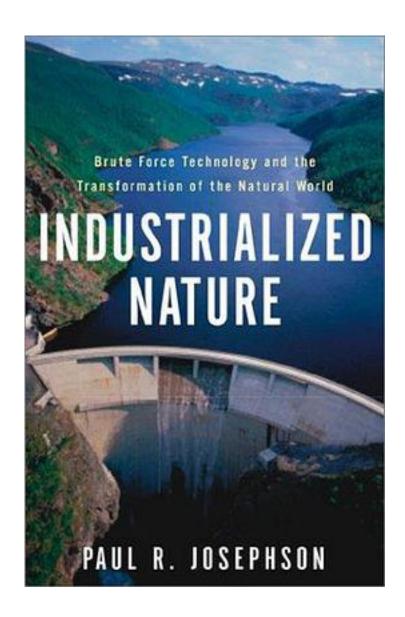
Industrialized Nature



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The construction of the Three Gorges Dam on China's Yangtze River. The transformation of the Amazon into a site for huge cattle ranches and aluminum smelters. The development of Nevada's Yucca Mountain into a repository for nuclear waste. The extensive irrigation networks of the Grand Coulee and Kuibyshev Dams. On the face of it, these massive projects are wonders of engineering, financial prowess, and our seldom-questioned ability to modify nature to suit our immediate needs. For nearly a century we have relied increasingly on science and technology to harness natural forces, but at what environmental and social cost?In Industrialized Nature, historian Paul R. Josephson provides an original examination of the ways in which science, engineering, policy, finance, and hubris have come together, often with unforeseen consequences, to perpetuate what he calls "brute-force technologies" the large-scale systems created to manage water, forest, and fish resources. Throughout the twentieth century, nations with quite different political systems and economic orientations all pursued this same technological subjugation of nature. Josephson compares the Soviet Union's heavy-handed efforts at resource management to similar projects undertaken in the United States, Norway, Brazil, and China. He argues that brute-force technologies require brute-force politics to operate. He shows how irresponsibleor well-intentioned but misguidedlarge-scale manipulation of nature has resulted in resource loss and severe environmental degradation. Josephson explores the ongoing industrialization of nature that is happening in our own backyards and around the world. Both a cautionary tale and a call to action, Industrialized Nature urges us to consider how to develop a future for succeeding generations that avoids the pitfalls of brute-force technologies.

作者介绍:

Paul R. Josephson is associate professor of history at Colby College. He is author of Red Atom: Russia's Nuclear Power Program from Stalin to Today (Freeman, 1999), Totalitarian Science and Technology (Humanities, 1996), and New Atlantis Revisited: Akademgorodok, the Siberian City of Science (Princeton, 1997), which won the Shulman Prize from the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. He has published articles in Physics Today, The Christian Science Monitor, Newsday, The Los Angeles Times, The Boston Globe, and The New York Times.

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标签

technology

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Textbook

评论

科學理解、知識追求和進步概念的政治性與經濟性本質。蠻力技術伴隨的取之不盡的幻想以及輕易引發的肆意揮霍。Quotation:當我們假設大規模應用科學知識比小規模資源管理方法更好時,我們冒了很大的風險。我懷疑,在承擔這些大型項目時,我們已經咬掉了比我們可以咀嚼更多的資源。自然界就是工業化的機器隱喻,取代了植物和動物的重要功能的生物學解釋,大自然在泰勒主義和福特主義對資源管理的應用中具有工業性。1.蠻力技術基於適用於人類活動其他領域的標準工程實踐,很少或根本不考慮潛在的外部成本。2.一旦他們建立了基於此類結構的標準技術,工程師就會猶豫不決,這種猶豫不決推遲了對氣候、地質、水文和生物學的新知識的整合。(提到了蘇式美學,整體觀點鮮有不足,但史料豐富、敘事流暢,然例子和解釋的重複性有點高,可以更簡潔

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书评

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