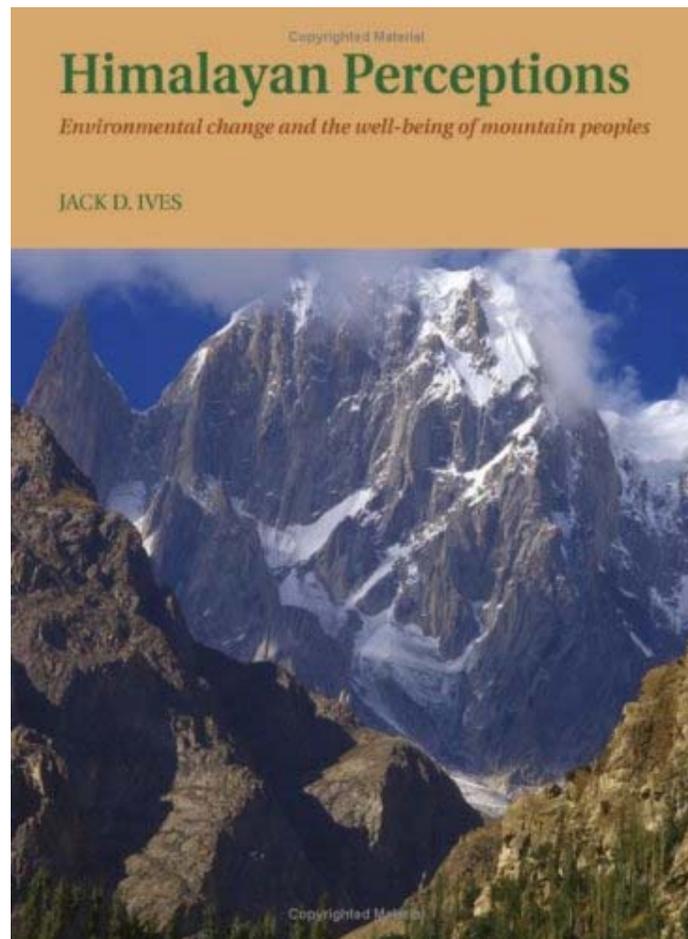


Himalayan Perceptions

Environmental change and the well-being of mountain peoples

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ABSTRACT

In the 1970s and 1980s many institutions, agencies and scholars believed that the Himalayan region was facing severe environmental disaster, due primarily to rapid growth in population that has caused extensive deforestation, which in turn has led to massive landsliding and soil erosion. This series of assumptions was first challenged in the book: *The Himalayan Dilemma* (1989: Ives and Messerli, Routledge). This series of assumptions was first challenged in the book: *The Himalayan Dilemma* (1989: Ives and Messerli, Routledge). Nevertheless, the environmental crisis paradigm still commands considerable support, including logging bans in the mountain watersheds of China, India, and Thailand, and is constantly being promoted by the news media. Nevertheless, the environmental crisis

paradigm still commands considerable support, including logging bans in the mountain watersheds of China, India, and Thailand, and is constantly being promoted by the news media.

Himalayan Perceptions identifies the confusion of misunderstanding, vested interests, changing perceptions, and institutional unwillingness to base development policy on sound scientific knowledge. Himalayan Perceptions identifies the confusion of misunderstanding, Vested interests, changing perceptions, and institutional unwillingness to base policy development on sound scientific knowledge. It analyzes the large amount of new research published since 1989 and totally refutes the entire construct. It analyzes the large amount of new research published since 1989 and totally refutes the entire construct. It examines recent social and economic developments in the region and identifies warfare, guerrilla activities, and widespread oppression of poor ethnic minorities as the primary cause for the instability that pervades the entire region. It examines recent social and economic developments in the region and identifies warfare, guerrilla activities, and widespread oppression of poor ethnic minorities as the primary cause for the instability that pervades the entire region. It is argued that the development controversy is further confounded by exaggerated reporting, even falsification, by news media, environmental publications, and agency reports alike. It is argued that the development controversy is further confounded by exaggerated reporting, even falsification, by news media, environmental publications, reports and agency alike.

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