



particularly problematic feature of the Soviet era. State control, centralization, and weak regulation also intensified problems. But the USSR was not devoid of protest or champions for the environment and as the authors show, diverse communities discussed the environment throughout the Soviet era, even if these could only emerge as a force for environmental protection late in the Soviet era. The disaster at Chernobyl in April 1986 hastened this protest, and was even “one of the factors that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union” (258-9). This book will be very useful for courses in environmental history and the history of science, as a complement to Russian history courses, and for comparison with the environmental record of other nations and states in the twentieth century. It also stands as a document of environmental destruction on a massive scale.