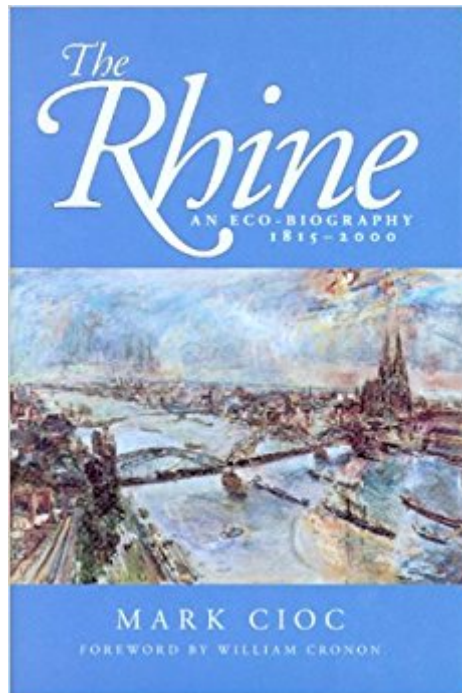


The book was found

The Rhine: An Eco-biography, 1815-2000 (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books)



Synopsis

The Rhine River is Europe's most important commercial waterway, channeling the flow of trade among Switzerland, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. In this innovative study, Mark Cioc focuses on the river from the moment when the Congress of Vienna established a multinational commission charged with making the river more efficient for purposes of trade and commerce in 1815. He examines the engineering and administrative decisions of the next century and a half that resulted in rapid industrial growth as well as profound environmental degradation, and highlights the partially successful restoration efforts undertaken from the 1970s to the present. The Rhine is a classic example of a "multipurpose" river -- used simultaneously for transportation, for industry and agriculture, for urban drinking and sanitation needs, for hydroelectric production, and for recreation. It thus invites comparison with similarly over-burdened rivers such as the Mississippi, Hudson, Colorado, and Columbia. The Rhine's environmental problems are, however, even greater than those of other rivers because it is so densely populated (50 million people live along its borders), so highly industrialized (10% of global chemical production), and so short (775 miles in length). Two centuries of nonstop hydraulic tinkering have resulted in a Rhine with a sleek and slender profile. In their quest for a perfect canal-like river, engineers have modified it more than any other large river in the world. As a consequence, between 1815 and 1975, the river lost most of its natural floodplain, riverside vegetation, migratory fish, and biodiversity. Recent efforts to restore that biodiversity, though heartening, can have only limited success because so many of the structural changes to the river are irreversible. *The Rhine: An Eco-Biography, 1815-2000* makes clear just how central the river has been to all aspects of European political, economic, and environmental life for the past two hundred years.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: University of Washington Press; First edition (January 9, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0295985003

ISBN-13: 978-0295985008

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #580,457 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #163 in [Books > Biographies &](#)

Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Irish #225 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Forestry #505 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Rivers

Customer Reviews

Marc Cioc's book *The Rhine: An Eco-Biography* is a detailed case study of the impact of human engineering on arguably the most important river on the European continent. It is a history of both the Rhine and of the Rhine Commission, the international body created in 1815 to oversee the river and mold it into what amounts to a commercial canal. Utilizing a variety of scientific sources as well as historical accounts of the various agencies that had control over the Rhine, Cioc reveals that human changes to the river that took into account only the immediate, commercial impacts of their actions severely damaged its biodiversity and vitality. However, he argues, recent efforts to compensate for earlier destruction of the river's ecosystem are achieving moderate success. In his book, Cioc traces the history of efforts in the past two centuries to control the Rhine and make it more useful for human commercial and industrial ventures. The nineteenth and twentieth centuries, he argues, were a time of great ecological change for the river, the most dramatic since the Ice Age. The Rhine was seen as a "multipurpose" waterway, using by the various countries through which it flows for a variety of purposes, from urban sanitation and transportation to industrial production and power generation. Under the guiding hand of various commissions and communes, river engineers took on the Rhine and tried to shape it into a more commercially useful river. Just as John F. Richards argues in his book *The Unending Frontier*, European colonizers were awed into wastefulness by the abundance of natural resources they found, most politicians, business people, and scientists believed for decades that the Rhine was simply too vast to ever be harmed by waste or overuse.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Rhine: An Eco-biography, 1815-2000 (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books) *Making Salmon: An Environmental History of the Northwest Fisheries Crisis* (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books) *A Storied Wilderness: Rewilding the Apostle Islands* (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books) *Quagmire: Nation-Building and Nature in the Mekong Delta* (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books) *Hebrew Illuminations Coloring Book: A Coloring Journey Through the Jewish Holy Days* â " *A Coloring Book for Adults* by Adam Rhine *Hebrew Illuminations 2017 Wall Calendar: A 16-Month Jewish Calendar* by Adam Rhine (Illuminated Letter) *Prince: A Secret Biography - A Rare Biography Of A Musical Legend - Purple Rain Music Icon* (Prince Secret Biography - Purple Rain) *Peterson's Private Secondary Schools 2000-2001 : The Smart Parents' Guide to Private Education* (Peterson's Private

Secondary Schools, 2000-2001) Dodge Durango & Dakota Pick-ups: Durango 2000 thru 2003
Dakota 2000 thru 2004 (Hayne's Automotive Repair Manual) Toyota Tundra (2000 thru 2006) &
Sequoia (2000-2007): All 2WD and 4WD Models (Haynes Repair Manual) Appropriate: The Houses
Of Joseph Esherick (Environmental Design Archives at the University of California, Berkeley Series)
(Environmental Design Archives ... University of California, Berkeley Series Living with the Earth,
Third Edition: Concepts in Environmental Health Science (Living with the Earth: Concepts in
Environmental Health Science) 150 Best Eco House Ideas Small Eco Houses: Living Green in Style
Eco Colour: Botanical Dyes for Beautiful Textiles Radicalism and Music: An Introduction to the
Music Cultures of al-Qa'ida, Racist Skinheads, Christian-Affiliated Radicals, and Eco-Animal Rights
Militants All You Need Is Less: The Eco-Friendly Guide to Guilt-Free Green Living and Stress-Free
Simplicity Eco Homes: Living in Great Harmony with the Environment Eco-Business: A Big-Brand
Takeover of Sustainability (MIT Press) Sleeping Naked Is Green: How an Eco-Cynic Unplugged Her
Fridge, Sold Her Car, and Found Love in 366 Days

[Dmca](#)