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What is environmental history and how has it been studied in Britain? How have we regarded wild nature in the past? How has our exploitation of environmental resources impacted on biodiversity? How could so many people subsist in the past in the wildest parts of the British Isles? Why are we so upset about alien species?

T. C. Smout tackles all of these questions as well as considering the meaning of 'environmental consciousness' and asking what we need to change in our mind-set to avert disaster. This volume brings together the best of his essays on the topic of environmental history. Many of the chapters focus on the developed wilderness of post-1600 Scotland as examples of a wider, global relevance.

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