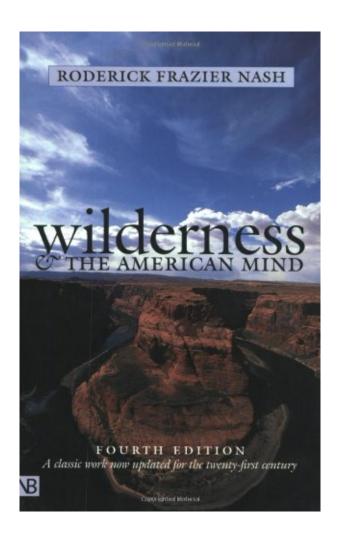
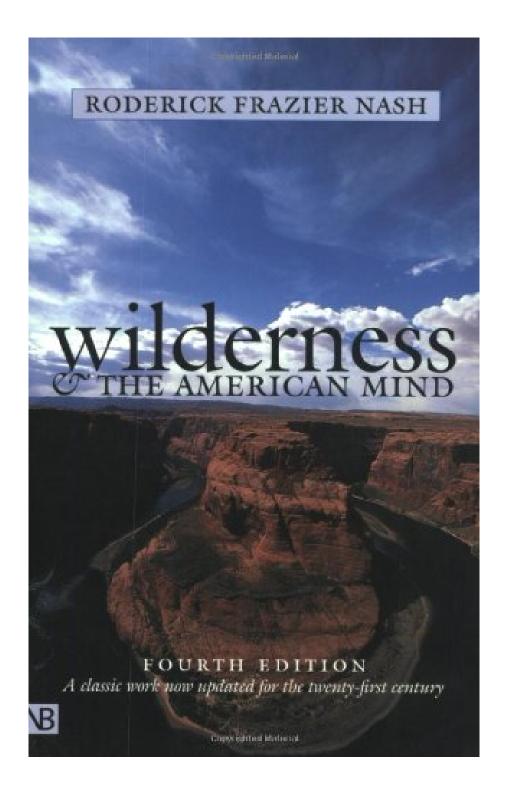
WILDERNESS AND THE AMERICAN MIND BY RODERICK FRAZIER NASH



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"A peerless work and irreplaceable for everyone who cares for Nature." -- Dave Foreman, Chairman, Wildlands Project

"One of those rare works that combines exemplary scholarship with readability." -- Washington Post Book World

About the Author

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Roderick Nash's classic study of America's changing attitudes toward wilderness has received wide acclaim since its initial publication in 1967. The Los Angeles Times has listed it among the one hundred most influential books published in the last quarter century, Outside Magazine has included it in a survey of "books that changed our world", and it has been called the "Book of Genesis for environmentalists". Now a fourth edition of this highly regarded work is available, with a new preface and epilogue in which Nash explores the future of wilderness and reflects on its ethical and biocentric relevance.

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

History CAN influence the present

By Zorba the Grape

I love this book. The author uses the historical timeline to present an excellent overview of major cultural forces that shaped the relationship American citizens have with wilderness today. The past does influence the present and future. When we understand where our beliefs came from we are better able to make informed decisions about our present and future.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

The Great American Land Debate

By Philip Carl

Nash chronicles American attitudes toward their country's wild places in hopes of answering the big

question: What role does thou unspoiled, unaltered, natural place serve in our society? As I read Wilderness & the American Mind, I found not only is this answer politically & emotionally charged as say the question of creation versus evolution, but the answer changes depending on where and when you ask it.

The book masterfully depicts the dramatic periods of change in the American psyche about nature and wild places. Nash brings all the reference and research of a disciplined historian to bear, but always manages to keep you interested. He creates an engaging read by calling on the most influential players and the most controversial settings of the American "environmental movement." We get treated to chapters on Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Aldo Leopold along with a supporting cast of characters like Teddy Roosevelt, Edward Abbey, and David Brower (Oh, let's not forgot the feds.) The settings, just as tasty, depict the epic battles for preserving Little Yosemite Valley (aka Hetch Hetchy), the Colorado River, and of course, the congressional battle to preserve a major chunk of Alaskan wilderness from development.

After I read this book, I noticed all the pages I dog-eared; this book is bejeweled with great quotes! Nash brings us the thought-shapers, but gives them their voice. I'll leave you with on of many outstanding quotes. This one compliments of Aldo Leopold:

Shallow-minded modern man... who prates of empires, political and economic" lacked the humility to perceive this truth. "It is only the scholar who appreciates that all history consists of successive excursions from a single starting-point, to which man returns again and again to organize yet another search for a durable scale of values." This initial bedrock was "raw wilderness." To posses it he thought, but most importantly to understand it ecologically as well as aesthetically, was the key to health--of land and also of culture.

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Five Stars

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An amazing look at the history of American environmental thought.

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