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"Nature Mastered by Man: Ideology and Water in the Soviet Union"

Richter, Bernd Stevens

Richter, Bernd Stevens. "Nature Mastered by Man: Ideology and Water in the Soviet Union." *Environment and History* 3, no. 1 (Feb., 1997): 69–96. doi:10.3197/096734097779555962 . The former Soviet Union suffers from environmental degradation of huge areas and the plundering and misuse of natural resources. Its unfavourable natural geological and climatic preconditions are not the only cause for the frequent environmental catastrophes. Neither can the Marxist ideology nor the lack of competent administrative and technological personnel be solely blamed. Yet the vision of a new kind of society without private ownership, and thus profit interests, of natural resources had promised a utopia of man and nature in harmony. What went wrong? Richter focuses on the complexities of reasons, and highlights the intertwining and interdependence of economic, historical, political, ideological, and aesthetic aspects. All rights reserved. © 1997 The White Horse Press

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