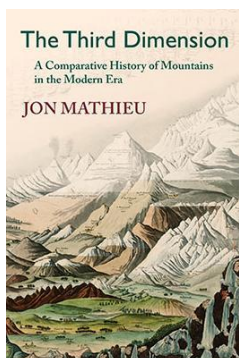




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The Third Dimension: A Comparative History of Mountains in the Modern Era

Mathieu, Jon



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Mathieu, Jon. *The Third Dimension: A Comparative History of Mountains in the Modern Era*. Translated by Katherine Brun. Cambridge: The White Horse Press, 2011.

This book considers the variegated world of mountains and their development during the last five hundred years. It takes as its starting point the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, where the mountains were officially recognized as a topic of the world community. Important precedents for this new agenda were built in the early modern period and in the nineteenth century, as European societies began to exceed their traditional limitations. The book begins with an investigation of this long-term process with respect to science, culture, and politics, each of which has transformed our attitudes toward mountainous regions. It then takes up historical problems that have been debated in the latest research, placing them in a comparative framework. At the book's heart stands the question of whether and in what way the "three-dimensional history" of mountain people may reveal distinctive forms of development.

Jon Mathieu is professor of history at the University of Lucerne and at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. He was the founding director of the Istituto di Storia delle Alpi at the Università della Svizzera italiana and has organized several international conferences about the history of mountains. In 2008 he

received the King Albert I Mountain Award for his research.

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