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*Fire: A Brief History*

Pyne, Stephen J.



*Fire: A Brief History*. Book cover.

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Foreword by William Cronon © 2001 by the  
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Pyne, Stephen J. *Fire: A Brief History*. 2nd edition. Washington: University of Washington Press, 2019.

Over vast expanses of time, fire and humanity have interacted to expand the domain of each, transforming the earth and what it means to be human. In this concise yet wide-ranging book, Stephen J. Pyne—named by *Science* magazine as “the world’s leading authority on the history of fire”—explores the surprising dynamics of fire before humans, fire and human origins, aboriginal economies of hunting and foraging, agricultural and pastoral uses of fire, fire ceremonies, fire as an idea and a technology, and industrial fire.

In this revised and expanded edition, Pyne looks to the future of fire as a constant, defining presence on Earth. A new chapter explores the importance of fire in the twenty-first century, with special attention to its role in the Anthropocene, or what he posits might equally be called the Pyrocene. (Source: [University of Washington Press](http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/8881) )

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