



Multimedia Library Collection: Sound & Vision

Interview with Ian M. Miller, author of *Fir and Empire: The Transformation of Forests in Early Modern China*

Bramao-Ramos, Sarah

Bramao-Ramos, Sarah. "Ian M. Miller, 'Fir and Empire: The Transformation of Forests in Early Modern China.'" *New Books in Southeast Asian Studies*, January 8, 2021. Mp3, 01:08:13.

Ian M. Miller's book *Fir and Empire: The Transformation of Forests in Early Modern China* (University of Washington Press, 2020) offers a transformation of our understanding of China's early modern environmental history. Using a wide range of archival materials, including tax, deed, and timber market records, Miller presents a picture of China's forestry regime, something that, while not centralized—as in European states—was highly effective. Though China never adopted a forest bureau system, Miller shows how China managed, through fiscal policies alone, to engender a remarkably productive commerce in timber and other forest products. Revising the narrative of deforestation, this history of China's distinct form of forest oversight is sure to be a must-read for anyone interested in the history of China, or environmental history more broadly. (Source: [New Books Network](#))

In this episode of *New Books in Southeast Asian Studies*, Sarah Bramao-Ramos interviews Ian M. Miller, author of *Fir and Empire: The Transformation of Forests in Early Modern China*.

© New Books Network

Related links:

- New Books Network
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/>
- Ian M. Miller, "The Distant Roots of Beijing's Palaces," *Arcadia*, 2020.
<https://doi.org/10.5282/rcc/9133>

Websites linked in this text:

- <https://newbooksnetwork.com/fir-and-empire>