



**A FOREST JOURNEY: THE ROLE OF WOOD IN
THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVILIZATION**

By John Perlin

REVIEWS

"A Forest Journey is the most convincing study I have seen of our dependence on forests and the consequences of losing them. Every ecologist will enjoy reading this book, getting a new perspective on interactions between humans and the natural environment. Its sweeping vision will be invaluable for teachers, conservationists, foresters, researchers, and policy makers." - Joseph H. Connell, Professor, Biological Sciences, Emeritus, University of California, Santa Barbara

"With a story-teller's pace and ability to surprise this book takes one of those bold imaginative sweeps through history that leaves you full of excitement, as suddenly events seem to fall into a pattern for the first time." British Broadcasting Corporation, Features and Arts, World Service in English

"A Forest Journey is like some Greek epic poem spanning 4,000 years of civilization. Perlin, who lives in Santa Barbara, is the co-author of a previous, highly successful environmental saga: "A Golden Thread: 2500 Years of Solar Architecture and Technology." The present volume, like its predecessor, is marked by an impressive array of research and a novel topic." - Los Angeles Times

"High on my potential classics list, deserving of a first read or a careful rereading, this monumental history spans 5,000 years and five continents, chronicling civilization's exploitation of the world's forests. Perlin deftly weaves human history into an intimate relationship with the forests of the world; it's an essential history for those interested in forests as professionals or citizen conservationists." - American Forests

" "Delight" is not a word one expects to use in connection with deforestation, but John Perlin has certainly written a delightful book, a companion volume to A Golden Thread: Twenty-five Hundred Years of Solar Architecture and Technology, which he coauthored. A Forest Journey: The Role of Wood in the Development of Civilization is history in the etymological sense of the word - a story, told with grace, fluency, imagination, and humor. The reader is carried along, always eager to turn the next page. Perlin's story reads effortlessly, but copious notes and comments bear witness to the immense work it demanded, both from the author and from the dedicated research assistants and translators he gratefully acknowledges. The quality of the book is enhanced by numerous illustrations, and it is finely printed and produced. It deserves to become a classic and should make a welcome present for anyone who enjoys a good read." - Forest & Conservation History

"Lester Brown, President of the Worldwatch Institute, said this book was destined to become a classic. He is right. If scholars were to come up with a short list of, say, five books that every citizen should read, in order to make intelligent economic and political decisions, this book would have to be one of them." - Academic Library Book Review

"This is an elegantly produced piece of semi-popular environmental history, by which I mean it is a narrative with appeal but has appropriate scholarly apparatus. Thus it ought to be of interest not only to scholars with an interest in woodland history but to a wide public as well." - International Journal of Environmental Studies

"Perlin is a master at gripping the reader's attention and convincing him of the great importance wood has had throughout the history of mankind. At a time when people all over the world apparently fail to recognize the significance of wood for mankind's present and future [this] carefully researched and informative, superbly written, award-winning book about the versatile role wood has played holds special interest." - Wood Science and Technology