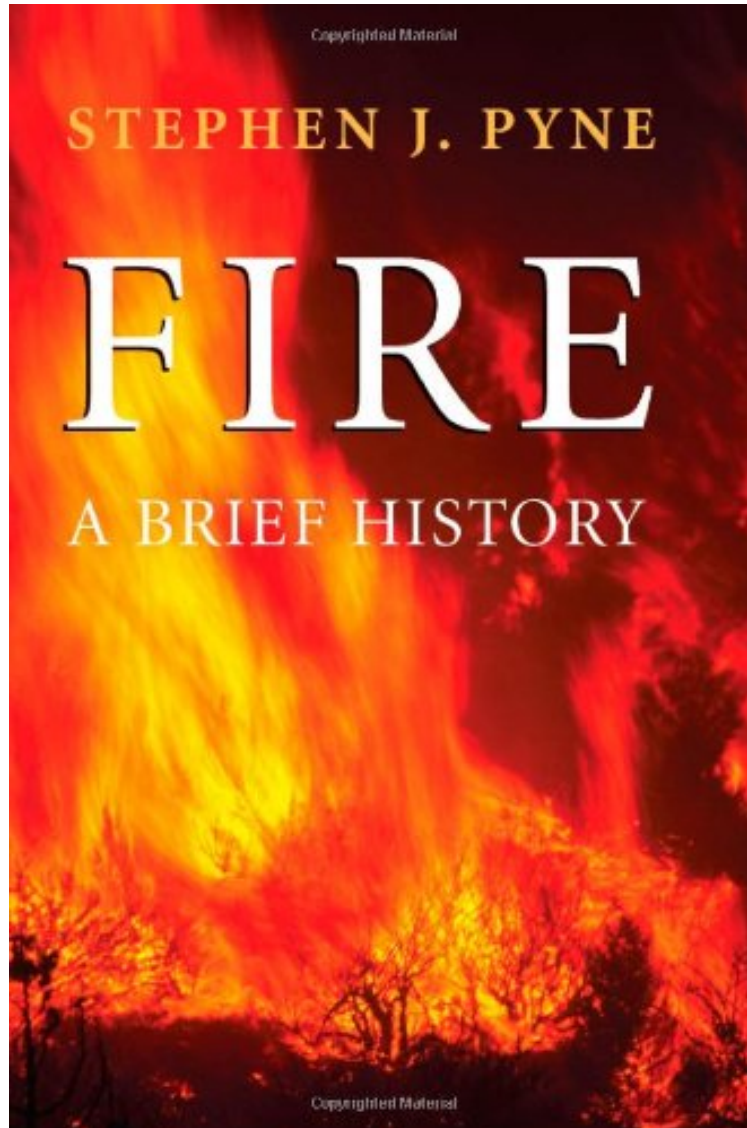


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Stephen J. Pyne

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Stephen J. Pyne : Fire: A Brief History (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fire: A Brief History (Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book By HHKI purchased this book for a class but really ended up enjoying it and learning a lot from it. I'd recommend it to anyone interested in how fire has shaped history. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Brief Review By Jeffrey N. Lyon The book is well written and the author

carefully develops concepts as the book progresses. It caused me to think about the fundamental use of fire behind our modern technology and way of life. 6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Pyne's *Fire in America* By Rudolph P. Sarna I find Pyne's writing not only expert in his content, but thoroughly enjoyable reading. Once I read one of his, I had to buy and read the others. Yes, he uses big words sometimes, yes, he quotes fine literature sometimes -- But I see these things as eloquence -- and I learn what I had not known. I'd sure like to meet him some day, and discuss some fires with him!

"The fate of humanity, like the fate of the earth, is tied to the fires that have made the world as we know it the fires whose history is told as well in this book as it has ever been told before. If one wants to understand just how completely the story of the human past is also the story of fire on earth, there is no better place to start than this small book." William Cronon Here, in one concise book, is the essential story of fire. Noted environmental historian Stephen J. Pyne describes the evolution of fire through prehistoric and historic times down to the present, examining contemporary attitudes from a long-range, informed perspective. *Fire: A Brief History* surveys the principles behind aboriginal and agricultural fire practices, the characteristics of urban fire, and the relationship between controlled combustion and technology. Pyne describes how fire's role in cities, suburbs, exurbs, and wildlands has been shaped by an industrialized, urban way of thinking. *Fire: A Brief History* will be of value to readers interested in the environment from the standpoint of anthropology, geography, forestry, science and technology, history, or the humanities.

From Publishers Weekly Pyne's latest is the final chapter in the *Cycle of Fire* (including *Vestal Fire*; *Burning Bush*), a six-part suite charting the environmental history of conflagrations and humanity's interaction with the technology of fire. This dense and carefully researched volume examines the myriad ways people have intervened in the destructive, renewing and transmuting powers that fire provides a dual evolution leading to a dynamic coexistence. "Equipped with fire, people colonized the Earth," Pyne writes. "Carried by humans, so did fire." In exacting detail, Pyne traces a historiography of the pyre: the naturally occurring "First Fires" of the Devonian period (roughly 400 million years ago), which burned off biomass and altered early plant life; the domestication of fire by hominids for cooking, hunting, rituals, and burning land for sowing; the advent of urbanization and pyrotechnology, when humans learned to control fuel sources, to manipulate oxygen flow (via hearths and stacks) and to maintain heat to produce everything from power plants to war machines. Pyne's involved examination tends to be dry, and the heavy scientific language might dampen the appeal for the casual browser. But this is a fascinating, fact-filled book; the deft and at times airy prose often sparks with puns and ironies. Of particular interest to readers of nature and ecological history, this volume also illuminates another side of the stories Sebastian Junger told in his recent title on the same subject. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. "Fire: A Brief History packs into one slender volume a sweeping tale of fire, and man's interactions with fire, from prehistory to the dawn of the twenty-first century. Pyne's perceptive words and tightly organized sentences allow him to suggest many thought-provoking ideas and to bring to his audience a fascinating story of fire's role in shaping our world." H-Net Book "An excellent overview of why the history of humanity cannot be told without the history of fire. . . . An excellent book and strongly recommended for all audiences, especially those with interests in anthropology, geography, history, natural sciences, or the humanities." Choice "Stephen J. Pyne writes about fire as if he were on fire, with searing, consuming heat and light. When he looks at fire he sees not biological catastrophe but social illumination and natural renewal." Seattle Times "No one is better qualified to teach us about fire's history, fire's crucial role in shaping landscapes, than Stephen Pyne. His discussions of forestry, land-management elitism, pastoral incendiarism, nature reserves, the conservation movement and the ecology of disturbance are profoundly valuable." New York Times Book "Pyne is the world's leading authority on the history of fire, and his erudition is phenomenal. He offers us a broad panorama of ecological and human history in a framework of geology and geography. He shows what a great impact fire has had in shaping landscapes, flora, and fauna all over the world, and how in the late Pleistocene humans have, as it were, joined forces with fire by learning to manipulate it." Science "Pyne weaves together with rare interdisciplinary skill science, ecology, and the arts and humanities to write the history of human involvement with fire in all its manifestations and meanings." American Forests "Vestal Fire taught me more about European and world history than any other single book I have ever read, abounding, as it does, in new information, new ideas, and new understandings of the past, thanks to Stephen J. Pyne's energetic and imaginative inquiry into the unique partnership between humans and fire." American Historical Association About the Author Stephen J. Pyne, a noted environmental historian, is a professor in the Biology and Society Program at Arizona State University. He is the author of many books, including *Fire on the Rim: A Firefighter's Season at the Grand Canyon*. *Fire: A Brief History* is the sixth volume in his series *Cycle of Fire*, which also includes *Vestal Fire*, *World Fire*, *Fire in America*, *Burning Bush*, and *The Ice*.