



The Exploitation of Mammal Populations

By -

Springer. Paperback. Condition: New. 440 pages. Dimensions: 9.3in. x 6.1in. x 1.0in. Human exploitation of other mammals has passed through three historical phases, distinct in their ecological significance though overlapping in time. Initially, Homo sapiens was a predator, particularly of herbivores but also of fur-bearing predators. From about 11 000 years ago, goats and sheep were domesticated in the Middle East, rapidly replacing gazelles and other game as the principal source of meat. The principal crops, including wheat and barley, were taken into agriculture at about the same time, and the resulting Neolithic farming culture spread slowly from there over the subsequent 10 500 years. In a few places such as Mexico, Peru and China, this Middle Eastern culture met and merged with agricultural traditions that had made a similar but independent transition. These agricultural traditions provided the essential support for the industrial revolution, and for a third phase of industrial exploitation of mammals. In this chapter, these themes are drawn out and their ecological significance is investigated. Some of the impacts of humans on other mammals require consideration on a world-wide basis, but the chapter concentrates, parochially, on Great Britain. What have been the ecological consequences...



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