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Book ad - Himalaya: Life on the Edge of the World by David Zurick and P.P. Karan

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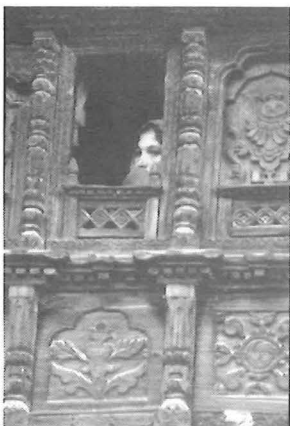
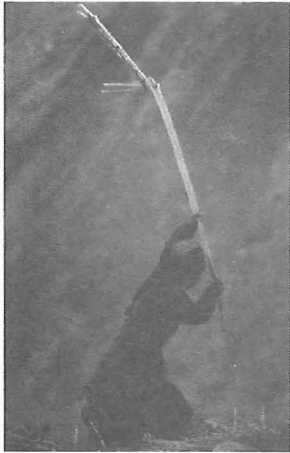
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“I welcome this book and will recommend it to the many people who are looking for an introduction to the complex geography, history, and social landscape of the Himalaya that underlie the patterns and processes we encounter there today. *Himalaya: Life on the Edge of the World* is both scholarly and accessible, presenting a wealth of information in a readable and engaging way.”—BARBARA BROWER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, AUTHOR OF *THE SHERPA OF KHUMBU* AND EDITOR OF *HIMALAYAN RESEARCH BULLETIN*



Himalaya

Life on the Edge of the World

BY DAVID ZURICK AND P. P. KARAN

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Although seemingly timeless, the Himalaya are anything but unchanging. The mountains themselves continue to grow an average of one centimeter per year, with some peaks rising ten centimeters in a single year. More alarming are the profound environmental and cultural changes occurring throughout the region. In *Himalaya: Life on the Edge of the World*, David Zurick and P. P. Karan explore these dynamic changes through geological records, scientific reports, and official documents dating back over a century and through years of field research and travel which have given them an intimate knowledge of the landscape and people of the Himalaya. The authors provide a comprehensive natural history of the region from the birth of the Himalaya out of the tectonic disruptions beneath the primordial Tethys Sea to the variety of landforms, habitats, and climates seen today; a lively study of the peoples who make the mountains their home, tracing human history in the Himalaya back more than a thousand years; and an in-depth analysis of the relationship between nature

and society in the Himalaya and the pressing problems of environmental degradation, explosive population growth, spiraling poverty, and globalization confronting the region and its people.

Challenging widely held assumptions about the current ecological crisis in the Himalaya—that deforestation, for example, can be blamed exclusively on local villagers or that pollution and rampant resource exploitation occur uniformly throughout the range—the authors detail a much more complex scenario in which the population explosion is only one of the many factors affecting the Himalayan landscape and in which some regions exhibit little of the environmental decline witnessed elsewhere. *Himalaya* also offers reasons for hope, documenting the success of wildlife preserves and national parks in protecting the region's fragile ecology, effective strategies of local environmental activists, the encouraging rise of ecotourism, and the introduction of both new and rediscovered techniques of sustainable agriculture.

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