



# **Forests Are Gold: Trees, People, and Environmental Rule in Vietnam (Culture, Place, and Nature)**

*Pamela D. McElwee*

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## **Forests Are Gold: Trees, People, and Environmental Rule in Vietnam (Culture, Place, and Nature)**

Pamela D. McElwee

Forests Are Gold?examines the management of Vietnam's forests during the twentieth century—from French colonial rule to the recent transition to market-oriented socialism—as the country united, prospered, and engaged in both ambitious conservation projects and rapid land development. For Ho Chi Minh and other political leaders, forests were always about more than trees: they were about the development and administration of people and landscapes. Forest?policy has rarely been about ecology or conservation for nature's sake, but instead is about managing citizens and society, a process Pamela McElwee terms "environmental rule."?Combining archival data with longitudinal field research to present a nuanced perspective on ecological change in Vietnam,?Forests Are Gold?tells us not just about environmental management and nature conservation but also about the birth of Vietnam itself.?

This detailed and provocative study of forest management in Vietnam promises to become a landmark work for political ecology and Southeast Asian studies.

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