

Raised Field Technology

The Raised Fields Projects
around Lake Titicaca

Arthur Morris

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Brian M. Fagan



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Raised Field Technology Arthur Stephen Morris, 2004 During the Inca Empire and indeed in the previous centuries the harsh climate and difficult physical environment of the Andean plateau around Lake Titicaca sustained a population many times larger than the one struggling to sustain itself in more recent times Academics began studying this in the late 1960s and discovered that the Incas and their forefathers had used a complex system of raised fields and irrigation canals to obtain high yields from their crops This technology seems to have been lost after the Spanish conquest the Peruvian and Bolivian governments as well as international NGOs which have set about reintroducing this system of farming along with the traditional Andean wonder crops such as quinoa canilua and amaranth This book presents a critical analysis of these raised field projects setting them in context and taking into consideration factors such as agrarian reforms and counter reforms the psychology of aid dependency and the limited remit of the agencies It shows that very few of the raised field projects have led to permanent cultivation and explains the failures in terms of a variety of standard factors a more integrated approach which recognizes the integrated nature of society and economy in the traditional communities and the existence of a rounded Andean technology of which the raised fields comprise only one part

Inventing Indigenous Knowledge Lynn Swartley, 2018-10-24 This volume provides a multi sited and multivocalic investigation of the dynamic social political and economic processes in the creation and implementation of an agricultural development project The raised field rehabilitation project attempted to introduce a pre Columbian agricultural method into the contemporary Lake Titicaca Basin

Forest, Field, and Fallow Antoinette M.G.A. WinklerPrins, Kent Mathewson, 2021-01-12 This volume aims to present the essential work of geographer and historical ecologist William M Denevan to explain the impact and influence his thinking had on the conceptual advancement not only in his own discipline but in a range of related disciplines such as anthropology archaeology and environmental history The book is organized around eight themes demonstrating Denevan s early and profound insights on topics that remain of current relevance today and the scholarly impact his writing had on subsequent scholarship The book is unique because it offers commentary from active scholars who address the impacts of Prof Denevan s thinking and work on contemporary environmental and ecological issues with a focus on several groundbreaking themes e g historical demography agricultural landforms cultural plant geography human environmental impacts indigenous agro ecology tropical agriculture livestock and landscape and synthetic contributions This book will be of interest to a range of scholars in geography anthropology archaeology history and ecology as well as to environmental managers and practitioners especially those working for non profit organizations and government organizations tasked with finding ways to adapt to global environmental change

The Oxford Handbook of Historical Ecology and Applied Archaeology Christian Isendahl, Daryl Stump, 2019-01-10 The Oxford Handbook of Historical Ecology and Applied Archaeology presents theoretical discussions methodological outlines and case studies describing the field of overlap between historical ecology and the

emerging sub discipline of applied archaeology to highlight how modern environments and landscapes have been shaped by humans Historical ecology is based on the recognition that humans are not only capable of modifying their environments but that all environments on earth have already been directly or indirectly modified This includes anthropogenic climate change widespread deforestations and species extinctions but also very local alterations the effects of which may last a few years or may have legacies lasting centuries or more With contributions from anthropologists archaeologists human geographers and historians this volume focuses not just on defining human impacts in the past but on the ways that understanding these changes can help inform contemporary practices and development policies Some chapters present examples of how ancient or current societies have modified their environments in sustainable ways while others highlight practices that had unintended long term consequences The possibilities of learning from these practices are discussed as is the potential of using the long history of human resource exploitation as a method for building or testing models of future change The volume offers overviews for students researchers and professionals with an interest in conservation or development projects who want to understand what practical insights can be drawn from history and who seek to apply their work to contemporary issues

Urban Growth and Land Degradation in Developing Cities Roy Maconachie,2016-02-11 The peri urban interface in poor countries is frequently an area of great dynamism and a focus of competition for basic resources In Nigeria peri urban livelihood strategies have become an increasingly important survival mechanism in the context of rapid urban growth This book uses an innovative combination of methodologies from both the natural and social sciences to examine recent developments in and around the city of Kano in northern Nigeria and in doing so provides insights into the sustainability of these livelihood strategies Identifying some of the most significant forces that are currently shaping the process of peri urban change it argues that despite the adoption of creative and ingenious strategies by many farmers urban growth is having a considerable effect on the livelihood resilience of individuals households and communities The findings presented in this book have much wider relevance and are transferable to other burgeoning Third World cities where increased pressures on urban hinterlands have intensified contests amongst various actors made access to resources much more difficult and made traditional smallholder mechanisms of adaptation and resilience increasingly challenging Fragile

Lands Of Latin America John O. Browder,2019-04-11 This book of selected research papers originally presented at the Symposium of Fragile Lands of Latin America The Search for Sustainable Uses presents some fresh evidence of the viability of a few non conventional strategies for natural resource development and management Out of the Mainstream Rutgerd Boelens,David Getches,Armando Guevara-Gil,2010-02-26 Water is not only a source of life and culture It is also a source of power conflicting interests and identity battles Rights to materially access culturally organize and politically control water resources are poorly understood by mainstream scientific approaches and hardly addressed by current normative frameworks These issues become even more challenging when law and policy makers and dominant power groups try to

grasp contain and handle them in multicultural societies The struggles over the uses meanings and appropriation of water are especially well illustrated in Andean communities and local water systems of Peru Chile Ecuador and Bolivia as well as in Native American communities in south western USA The problem is that throughout history these nation states have attempted to civilize and bring into the mainstream the different cultures and peoples within their borders instead of understanding context and harnessing the strengths and potentials of diversity This book examines the multi scale struggles for cultural justice and socio economic re distribution that arise as Latin American communities and user federations seek access to water resources and decision making power regarding their control and management It is set in the dynamic context of unequal globalizing power relations politics of scale and identity environmental encroachment and the increasing presence of extractive industries that are creating additional pressures on local livelihoods While much of the focus of the book is on the Andean Region a number of comparative chapters are also included These address issues such as water rights and defence strategies in neighbouring countries and those of Native American people in the southern USA as well as state reform and multi culturalism across Latin and Native America and the use of international standards in struggles for indigenous water rights This book shows that against all odds people are actively contesting neoliberal globalization and water power plays In doing so they construct new hybrid water rights systems livelihoods cultures and hydro political networks and dynamically challenge the mainstream powers and politics

Ancient Lives Brian M. Fagan, 2016-07-15

Focusing on sites of key significance and the world s first civilizations Ancient Lives is an accessible and engaging textbook which introduces complete beginners to the fascinating worlds of archaeology and prehistory Drawing on their impressive combined experience of the field and the classroom the authors use a jargon free narrative style to enliven the major developments of more than three million years of human life First introducing the basic principles methods and theoretical approaches of archaeology the book then provides a summary of world prehistory from a global perspective exploring human origins and the reality of life in the archaic world Later chapters describe the development of agriculture and animal domestication and the emergence of cities states and pre industrial civilizations in widely separated parts of the world With this new edition updated to reflect the latest discoveries and research in the discipline Ancient Lives continues to be a comprehensive and essential introduction to archaeology

Latin America and the Caribbean Brian W. Blouet, Olwyn M.

Blouet, 2009-09-08 Updated and revised with many new detailed maps and photographs this sixth edition enables geographers to explore the changes and major issues facing this dynamic region today The historical material has been streamlined in order to focus on contemporary issues Key environmental issues are highlighted in new boxes throughout the chapters The Systematic surveys have been restructured New profiles of Latin American countries and major issues are also covered This approach will help geographers visit the dynamic people and places of Latin America

Islands in the Rainforest Stéphen Rostain, 2016-12-05 St phen Rostain s book is a culmination of 25 years of research on the extensive

human modification of the wetlands environment of Guiana and how it reshapes our thinking of ancient settlement in lowland South America and other tropical zones Rostain demonstrates that populations were capable of developing intensive raised field agriculture which supported significant human density and construct causeways habitation mounds canals and reservoirs to meet their needs The work is comparative in every sense drawing on ethnology ethnohistory ecology and geography contrasting island Guiana with other wetland regions around the world and examining millennia of pre Columbian settlement and colonial occupation alike Rostain s work demands a radical rethinking of conventional wisdom about settlement in tropical lowlands and landscape management by its inhabitants over the course of millennia

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