



RIVERS IN TIME

THE SEARCH FOR CLUES TO
EARTH'S MASS EXTINCTIONS

PETER D. WARD

Rivers In Time The Search For Clues To Earths Mass Extinctions

Niles Eldredge



Rivers In Time The Search For Clues To Earths Mass Extinctions:

Rivers in Time Peter D. Ward, 2002-08 Elaborating on and updating Ward's previous work *The End of Evolution* *Rivers in Time* delves into his newest discoveries The book presents the gripping tale of the author's investigations into the history of life and death on Earth through a series of expeditions that have brought him ever closer to the truth about mass extinctions past and future

Rivers in Time Peter Douglas Ward, 2000 Elaborating on and updating Ward's previous work *The End of Evolution* *Rivers in Time* delves into his newest discoveries The book presents the gripping tale of the author's investigations into the history of life and death on Earth through a series of expeditions that have brought him ever closer to the truth about mass extinctions past and future

Catastrophic Thinking David Sepkoski, 2020-09-24 A history of scientific ideas about extinction that explains why we learned to value diversity as a precious resource at the same time as we learned to think catastrophically about extinction We live in an age in which we are repeatedly reminded by scientists by the media by popular culture of the looming threat of mass extinction We're told that human activity is currently producing a sixth mass extinction perhaps of even greater magnitude than the five previous geological catastrophes that drastically altered life on Earth Indeed there is a very real concern that the human species may itself be poised to go the way of the dinosaurs victims of the most recent mass extinction some 65 million years ago How we interpret the causes and consequences of extinction and their ensuing moral imperatives is deeply embedded in the cultural values of any given historical moment And as David Sepkoski reveals the history of scientific ideas about extinction over the past two hundred years as both a past and a current process is implicated in major changes in the way Western society has approached biological and cultural diversity It seems self-evident to most of us that diverse ecosystems and societies are intrinsically valuable but the current fascination with diversity is a relatively recent phenomenon In fact the way we value diversity depends crucially on our sense that it is precarious that it is something actively threatened and that its loss could have profound consequences In *Catastrophic Thinking* Sepkoski uncovers how and why we learned to value diversity as a precious resource at the same time as we learned to think catastrophically about extinction

Ecocide Franz Brosch, 2002-09-20 We live in an age of ecocide Changes of enormous ecological significance are occurring on our planet the ozone layer is beginning to disintegrate Since 1970 the world's forests have almost halved A quarter of the world's fish have been depleted 70% of biologists believe the world is now in the midst of the fastest mass extinction of species in the planet's 4.5 billion year history Biodiversity loss is rated as a more serious environmental problem than the depletion of the ozone layer global warming or pollution and contamination How have we come to this and what can be done to conserve our environment for the future *Ecocide* examines the facts behind the figures to offer a disturbing account of the ecological impact that the human species has on the planet It shows how we are wilfully destroying our world Highlighting important countermovements who are working for ecological democracy this unique book is essential for anyone who cares about conserving our environment for the future

Encyclopedia of Environment and Society Paul Robbins, 2007-08-27 As befits the topic this beautifully packaged wonderfully illustrated interdisciplinary resource has more than 1200 entries written by specialists A helpful reader's guide groups topics like agriculture conservation and ecology movements and regulations politics pollution and society A resource guide chronology glossary and list of the UN's economic indicators complete the set Library Journal this important work gives a well focused snapshot of environmentalism in the early 21st Century and it will remain valuable into the future both for its content and as a yardstick to measure progress toward sustainability and conservation Summing Up Recommended Undergraduates and general readers CHOICE Booklist Editors Choice 2008 This superb interdisciplinary work should find a place on the shelves of every public and academic library that has the least bit of interest in environment issues which should mean just about all Booklist Starred Review Where does the environment leave off and society begin When expanding production and consumption drives greenhouse gas emissions that warm the planet which in turn influence the conditions of economic expansion it is unclear where the climate ends and the economy begins This fact is not new to our era however our social and natural sciences have only recently come to grips with the incredible complexity of the world described by understanding the environment and society as being of a piece As a result in the last decade there has been an unprecedented explosion of new concepts theories facts and techniques that follow from such an understanding The Encyclopedia of Environment and Society brings together multiplying issues concepts theories examples problems and policies with the goal of clearly explicating an emerging way of thinking about people and nature With more than 1 200 entries written by experts from incredibly diverse fields this innovative resource is a first step toward diving into the deep pool of emerging knowledge The five volumes of this Encyclopedia represent more than a catalogue of terms Rather they capture the spirit of the moment a fascinating time when global warming and genetic engineering represent only two of the most obvious examples of socio environmental issues Key Features Examines many new ideas about how the world works what creates the daunting problems of our time and how such issues might be addressed whether by regulation markets or new ethics Demonstrates how theories of environmental management based on market efficiency may not be easily reconciled with those that focus on population and both may certainly diverge from those centering on ethics justice or labor Offers contributions from experts in their fields of specialty including geographers political scientists chemists anthropologists medical practitioners development experts and sociologists among many others Explores the emerging socio environmental problems that we face in the next century as well as the shifting and expanding theoretical tools available for tackling these problems Covers regions of North America in greater detail but also provides a comprehensive picture that approaches as effectively as possible a cohesive global vision Key Themes Agriculture Animals Biology and Chemistry Climate Conservation and Ecology Countries Geography History Movements and Regulations Organizations People Politics Pollution Society Packed with essential and up to date information on the state of the global socio environment the

Encyclopedia of Environment and Society is a time capsule of its historic moment and a record of where we stand at the start of the 21st century making it a must have resource for any library These inspiring volumes provide an opportunity for more new ways of thinking behaving and living in a more than human world

The Palynology and Micropalaeontology of Boundaries Alwynne Bowyer Beaudoin, Martin J. Head, 2004 This volume explores geological boundaries in time and space using palynology and micropalaeontology Boundaries produce distinct signatures in the micropalaeontological record They can tell us much about the response of biotic systems to environmental change in both marine and terrestrial realms Different microfossil groups and geological contexts require their own approaches definitions and considerations of boundaries The papers here cover the methodology of boundary identification from biostratigraphical ecological and palaeoenvironmental perspectives

Loss of Biodiversity Sharon L. Spray, Karen Leah McGlothlin, 2003 Loss of Biodiversity introduces readers to the important concepts for understanding the environmental challenges and consequences of the declining diversity of life on the planet Contributions from scientists and academics in the social sciences and humanities provide readers with an initial tool kit for understanding the concepts central to their disciplinary perspective and the multi dimensional aspects of the loss of biodiversity

Peoples, Nature and Environments Cristina Brito, Ana Cristina Roque, Cecilia Veracini, 2019-12-03 This volume brings together perspectives from scholars of different scientific backgrounds endeavouring to understand and debate the interactions and relationships between humans nonhuman species and natural ecosystems in order to overcome the classic human environment dichotomy Through discussions informed by the humanities arts social and natural sciences the book deals with the way different disciplines approach this relationship These diverse perspectives are compared to enable a cross cutting analysis of human nature interface throughout history Changes forced by the utilization of resources and habitats as well as climate changes are analysed and discussed enhancing the importance of a multifaceted approach for a better understanding of the complexity of both the human world relationship and diverse interspecies connections and impacts

Native Americans and the Environment Michael Eugene Harkin, David Rich Lewis, 2007-01-01 Often cited as one of the most decisive campaigns in military history the Seven Days Battles were the first campaign in which Robert E Lee led the Army of Northern Virginia as well as the first in which Lee and Thomas Stonewall Jackson worked together

Horseshoe Crabs and Velvet Worms Richard Fortey, 2012-04-10 From one of the world s leading natural scientists and the acclaimed author of Trilobite Life A Natural History of Four Billion Years of Life on Earth and Dry Storeroom No 1 comes a fascinating chronicle of life s history told not through the fossil record but through the stories of organisms that have survived almost unchanged throughout time Evolution it seems has not completely obliterated its tracks as more advanced organisms have evolved the history of life on earth is far older and odder than many of us realize Scattered across the globe these remarkable plants and animals continue to mark seminal events in geological time From a moonlit beach in Delaware where the hardy horseshoe crab shuffles its way to a frenzy of mass mating just as it did 450

million years ago to the dense rainforests of New Zealand where the elusive unprepossessing velvet worm has burrowed deep into rotting timber since before the breakup of the ancient supercontinent to a stretch of Australian coastline with stromatolite formations that bear witness to the Precambrian dawn the existence of these survivors offers us a tantalizing glimpse of pivotal points in evolutionary history These are not living fossils but rather a handful of tenacious creatures of days long gone Written in buoyant sparkling prose *Horseshoe Crabs and Velvet Worms* is a marvelously captivating exploration of the world's old timers combining the very best of science writing with an explorer's sense of adventure and wonder

Life on Earth Niles Eldredge, 2002-12-17 An examination of nature's extraordinary biological diversity and the human activities that threaten it *Life on Earth* An Encyclopedia of Biodiversity Ecology and Evolution tackles the critical issue for humanity in the 21st century our ever more menacing impact on the environment This two volume illustrated set edited by American Museum of Natural History curator Niles Eldredge begins with biodiversity the complex planetary web of life that has emerged through three billion years of evolution How does it work And why is its continued health critical to the planet and to ourselves More than 50 top scholars examine every form of life from amoebae to elephants from plankton to whales But *Life on Earth* is more than a catalog of species An A-Z survey explores the myriad ways humanity is diminishing that biodiversity from industrialization to natural habitat destruction from overpopulation in the developing world to an unsustainable consumer lifestyle in the West *Life on Earth* is the essential reference work for anyone curious about our planet's extraordinary diversity of life and the unprecedented threats it faces

Twilight of the Mammoths Paul S. Martin, 2007-05-08 Paul S. Martin's innovative ideas on late quaternary extinctions and wildlife restoration have fueled one of science's most stimulating recent debates He expounds them vividly here and defends them eloquently A must read David Rains Wallace author of *Beasts of Eden* This is a marvelous read by a giant in American prehistory about one of the greatest mysteries in the earth sciences Tim Flannery author of *The Eternal Frontier* Whether or not you agree with Paul Martin he has shaped how we think about our Pleistocene ancestors and their role in transforming this planet Ross D E MacPhee Curator of Mammalogy American Museum of Natural History

The Living Cosmos Chris Impey, 2011-06-02 Considering the development of life on Earth the existence of life in extreme environments and the potential for life elsewhere in the Universe this book gives a fascinating insight into our place in the Universe Chris Impey leads the reader through the history from the Copernican revolution to the emergence of the field of astrobiology the study of life in the cosmos He examines how life on Earth began exploring its incredible variety and the extreme environments in which it can survive Finally Impey turns his attention to our Solar System and the planets beyond discussing whether there may be life elsewhere in the Universe Written in non technical language this book is ideal for anyone wanting to know more about astrobiology and how it is changing our views of life and the Universe An accompanying website available at www.cambridge.org/9780521173841 features podcasts articles and news stories on astrobiology

Dinosaurs by the Decades Randy Moore, 2014-07-23 Providing

an appealing chronology of all things dinosaur this book covers these ancient creatures roles and surprising importance in science religion and society at large This exhaustive up to date book contains more than 2 000 entries about dinosaurs and dinosaur related topics It provides not only detailed information about their discovery underlying science and recent technologies and theories but also encompasses all of the facets of dinosaurs in society for example their use in consumer marketing and promotion popularization of dinosaurs in the media as proof for both evolutionists and creationists to substantiate their claims about life s origins and as cultural artifacts Organized chronologically the book offers an informative and entertaining timeline of how dinosaurs have appeared in science religion and society since they were discovered in the 1800s covering everything from dinosaur museum displays to how dinosaurs served advocates of young Earth creationism This fascinating work enables a broad appreciation for the surprising significance of dinosaurs in many aspects of our daily lives and modern society

Biological Diversity L. N. Petrov,2003 One of the cornerstones of life s wonders is the vast array of species filling the planet From plants to animals to humans there is no shortage of beings to provide spice of life variety is said to be Periodically scientists announce the discovery of a new form of life so it seems as if Earth is capable of producing new species just to keep us on our toes At times the immense breadth of living things can even feel overwhelming as one pauses to ponder how numerically insignificant humans are when compared to the insect population Given the biological diversity of the planet it is incumbent upon humans to safeguard the natural beauty of the environment To that end conservation takes on special importance necessitating the balancing of industrial expansion with preserving the flora and fauna surrounding us This book is an important tool in understanding and researching the many different life forms spanning the globe Collected here is a substantial and carefully selected listing of relevant literature on biological diversity and its conservation Following this bibliography are author title and subject indexes to allow for further access to this information The sheer bulk of the works about biological diversity can be so intimidating that a book such as this one becomes useful in sorting through the resources about the importance of life s variety

Applied Palaeontology Robert Wynn Jones,2006-05-04 This book was first published in 2006 Palaeontology has developed from a descriptive science to an analytical science used to interpret relationships between earth and life history Applied Palaeontology adopts a holistic integrated approach to palaeontology highlighting its key role in the study of the evolving earth life history and environmental processes After an introduction to fossils and their classification each of the principal fossil groups are studied in detail covering their biology morphology classification palaeobiology and biostratigraphy The latter sections focus on the applications of fossils in the interpretation of earth and life processes and environments It concludes with case histories of how our knowledge of fossils is applied in industry and elsewhere This is a valuable reference for anyone involved in the applications of palaeontology including earth life and environmental scientists and petroleum minerals mining and engineering professionals

Our Molecular Future Douglas Mulhall,2010-01-28 This is a vital book for those who care about

the environment society and deploying new technology to check the destructive power of humankind Allan Thornton President Environmental Investigation Agency Washington DC and recipient of the Albert Schweitzer Medal This book will shake conventional environmental wisdom to its roots A landmark work that should be read by environmentalists and businesspersons alike Patrick Moore cofounder Greenpeace president Greenspirit In Our Molecular Future Mulhall neatly outlines why our increasing ability to manipulate single atoms and molecules is a concern and lays out the opportunities and threats this technology presents And it s surprisingly readable unlike most of the nanobabble in the science journals In the end as Mulhall admits he poses more questions than he answers But that s a good place to start New Scientist I just finished reading Douglas Mulhall s outstanding new book Our Molecular Future and I highly recommend it Put this one at the top of your list In an easy to read format with very few forays into geek speak Mulhall presents his well considered and thoroughly researched theories Overall an excellent overview for those who wish to understand how disruptive and enabling technologies may save us from ourselves and from mother nature And along the way you will learn a lot about how nanoscale technologies may enhance our lives provide abundance for all and greatly raise the standard of living for everyone Rating five stars out of five Rocky Rawstern Nanotech Now What Alvin Toffler s Future Shock was to the 20th century Our Molecular Future will be to the 21st century What will happen to our jobs health care and investments when the molecular revolution hits How might artificial intelligence transform our lives How can molecular technologies help us cope with climate changes earthquakes and other extreme natural threats Our Molecular Future explores some intriguing possibilities that answer these questions and many others Douglas Mulhall describes the exponential changes that are about to be wrought by the nanotechnology and robotic revolutions which promise to reduce the scale of computing to the nanometer a billionth of a meter while increasing computing power to almost unimaginable levels The resulting convergence of genetics robotics and artificial intelligence may give us hitherto undreamed of capacities to transform our environment and ourselves In the not so distant future our world may include machines that scour our arteries to prevent heart disease cars and clothes that change color at our whim exotic products built in our own desktop factories and enhancements to our personal financial security despite greatly accelerated obsolescence But while technology is making these fantastic leaps we may also encounter surprises that throw us into disarray climate changes earthquakes or even a seemingly improbable asteroid collision These extremes are not the nightmare scenarios of sensationalists Mulhall stresses nor are many of them human induced Instead they may be part of nature s cycle recurring more often than we ve thought possible The good news is that this convergence of catastrophe and technological transformation may work to our advantage If we re smart according to Mulhall we can use molecular machines to protect ourselves from nature s worst extremes and harness their potential benefits to usher in an economic renaissance This visionary link between future technology and past disasters is a valuable guide for every one of us who wants to be prepared for the twenty first century Further Praise for OUR MOLECULAR FUTURE A provocative and

profoundly convincing message from the future Graham Hancock archaeological journalist and author of Fingerprints of the Gods In a breezy journalistic style Our Molecular Future takes us on a tour through some of the issues that will preoccupy ma

Endangerment, Biodiversity and Culture Fernando Vidal, Nélia Dias, 2015-06-19 The notion of Endangerment stands at the heart of a network of concepts values and practices dealing with objects and beings considered threatened by extinction and with the procedures aimed at preserving them Usually animated by a sense of urgency and citizenship identifying endangered entities involves evaluating an impending threat and opens the way for preservation strategies Endangerment Biodiversity and Culture looks at some of the fundamental ways in which this process involves science but also more than science not only data and knowledge and institutions but also affects and values Focusing on an endangerment sensibility it encapsulates tensions between the normative and the utilitarian the natural and the cultural The chapters situate that specifically modern sensibility in historical perspective and examine central aspects of its recent and present forms This timely volume offers the most cutting edge insights into the Environmental Humanities for researchers working in Environmental Studies History Anthropology Sociology and Science and Technology Studies **Climate, Environment, and Society in the Pacific during the Last Millennium** Patrick D. Nunn, 2007-10-10 The nature of global change in the Pacific Basin is poorly known compared to other parts of the world Climate Environment and Society in the Pacific during the Last Millennium describes the climate changes that occurred in the Pacific during the last millennium and discusses how these changes controlled the broad evolution of human societies typically filtered by the effects of changing sea level and storminess on food availability and interaction Covering the entire period since AD 750 in the Pacific this book describes the influences of climate change on environments and societies during the Medieval Warm Period and the Little Ice Age focusing on the 100 year transition between these a period of rapid change known as the AD 1300 Event Discusses the societal effects of climate and sea level change as well as the evidence for externally driven societal change Synthesizes how climate change has driven environmental change and societal change in the Pacific Basin Contains a comprehensive and up to date survey of the evidence for climate environmental and societal change supported by a full list of references Great Lakes Rocks Stephen E Kesler, 2019-05-01 The geologic story of the Great Lakes region is one of the most remarkable of any place on Earth Great Lakes Rocks takes readers on this fascinating journey through geologic history beginning with an investigation of the surface features the hills and valleys waterfalls and caves and the Great Lakes themselves that we encounter on a daily basis From there the book digs deeper into the past and readers learn about the amazing techniques geologists have used to reconstruct the events that shaped this region millions and even billions of years before humans set foot on Earth Throughout the book gives special attention to the link between the region's geology and its modern history including the impacts of geology on settlement patterns as well as the development of industries and the present day economy Other discussed topics include natural hazards that are geologic in nature including earthquakes floods landslides and coastal erosion as well as

information on rocks minerals and ancient life seen in fossils Written for nonspecialist readers this book provides a detailed but easy to follow introduction to the geology of the Great Lakes region and it is an ideal fit for introductory geology courses including those aimed at nonscience majors

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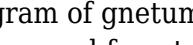
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