

(Mobile book) The Devouring Dragon: How China's Rise Threatens Our Natural World

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Craig Simons

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THE DEVOURING DRAGON



HOW CHINA'S
RISE THREATENS OUR
NATURAL WORLD

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Craig Simons : The Devouring Dragon: How China's Rise Threatens Our Natural World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Devouring Dragon: How China's Rise Threatens Our Natural World:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Frightening and Time for positive actionBy ChenThe book was excellent at explaining the present dangers that the world experiences and the future action to take to avoid devastation of our Planet Earth. Devouring Dragon is the perfect title for the contents. The author's wide experience of visits to so

many different places, his PCV experience, his work as a journalist, his avid interest in nature, his ability and energy to get to meet and discuss with so many different people, and his expertise in writing has made this book a great read to say the least. I really appreciate the positive attitude throughout the narrative and I also appreciate the candid truth that mentions that China is only following what America has already done. It is so essential that both the U.S. and China must work on the forefront to help people to realize the need to do even the smallest things in their daily lives to help the planet and stop harming it. Great book and kudos to the author!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read
By Customer
Read this book. You must read this book. A lot of research went into writing it and everyone needs to be aware of what is going on so intelligent decisions and discussions can occur.
1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Personal interest in this book
By GA Peachy
My son, James Burnham, is a researcher who goes to China a couple of times a year doing research for his PhD. He met the author of this book, Craig Simmons. James and Craig are former Peace Corps volunteers. Craig looked James up because of his research at Lake Poyang in southeastern China with the Siberian cranes. This book is very truthful and very current. The Epilogue has Craig's observations of James at Lake Poyang. That is the main reason I bought the book. It turned out to be quite an interesting book on the subject of China and the attitude of China towards the environment.

China's rise is assaulting the natural world at an alarming rate. In a few short years, China has become the planet's largest market for endangered wildlife, its top importer of tropical trees, and its biggest emitter of greenhouse gases. Its rapid economic growth has driven up the world's very metabolism: in Brazil, farmers clear large swaths of the Amazon to plant soybeans; Indian poachers hunt tigers and elephants to feed Chinese demand; in the United States, clouds of mercury and ozone drift earthward after trans-Pacific jet-stream journeys. Craig Simons' *The Devouring Dragon* looks at how an ascending China has rapidly surpassed the U.S. and Europe as the planet's worst-polluting superpower. It argues that China's most important 21st-century legacy will be determined not by jobs, corporate profits, or political alliances, but by how quickly its growth degrades the global environment and whether it can stem the damage. Combining in-depth reporting with wide-ranging interviews and scientific research, *The Devouring Dragon* shines a spotlight on how China has put our planet's forests, wildlife, oceans, and climate in jeopardy, multiplying the risks for everyone in our burgeoning, increasingly busy world.

From Booklist
Simons lives in China and reports on the environment of Asian nations for *Newsweek*, *Cox* newspaper, and other prominent publications. On a warm, gray afternoon, he is traveling up China's Yangtze, the world's third-longest river, in search of the Chinese sturgeon, a giant species that had lived in the Yangtze for 130 million years but now teeters on the brink of extinction due to the massive Three Gorges Dam, which prevents the fish from spawning. This is just one example of what scientists are calling the Sixth Great Extinction, fueled in no small part by China's voracious appetite for consuming exotic species and the illegal selling of animal parts, like tiger bone and rhinoceros horn, for the traditional folk medicine trade. As China's 1.2 billion population aspires to the wealth and comforts of Western societies, the pressure on the environment is reaching far beyond its borders to cause rapid deforestation and massive drawdown on the earth's fish and wildlife populations. Simons describes the catastrophic changes this unsustainable trajectory is having on the environment and makes a powerful statement for why we should care.

--David Siegfried
"From the coal mines of Colorado to the forests of Papua New Guinea, and all over China in between, Craig Simons illustrates from the ground up how the Middle Kingdom's economic takeoff is upending the planet at the very moment it is reaching an environmental tipping point. The book is both a gripping grassroots narrative of economic development as well as a heartfelt plea for the future."
--Richard McGregor, author of *The Party* and Washington Bureau chief for the *Financial Times*
"China's insatiable appetite for resources has raised the world's metabolism in ways that you could never imagine. Craig Simons' *Devouring Dragon* takes you clear across the globe--from the ghost town of Trinidad, Colo., to a jungle in Papua New Guinea to the world's largest dam on the Yangtze River -- as he tells the fascinating story of the world's interconnectedness. This is the most important book about the environment in years, scary, riveting and packed with insight into how the world's resources are exploited for economic growth."
--Barbara Demick, author of *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* and *Logavina Street: Life and Death in a Sarajevo Neighborhood*
"In *The Devouring Dragon*, Craig Simons gives a lucid portrayal of the ways in which the world is being changed by China's rise. The science and the statistics are sobering, but so are the human faces behind the numbers as Simons writes with deep sympathy for people struggling to overcome poverty and isolation: the New Guinean who longs to travel, the Chinese farm family who, despite being careful consumers, are part of a massive transformation that threatens to throw the world out of balance."
--Peter Hessler, author of *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*, *Country Driving: A Chinese Road Trip* and *Oracle Bones: A Journey Through Time in China*
"Simons paints a devastating picture of the global consequences of China's relentless and rapacious growth, from the clear-cutting of the earth's last stands of exotic hardwoods to the extinction of major animal species, from coal dust that reaches Oregon to the crippling pollution that swaddles China's cities. China's rise, as Simons shows, has raised hundreds of millions of its people out of poverty; the cost, environmentally and ecologically, has been calamitous for the planet."
--Edward A. Gargan,

author of *The River's Tale: A Year on the Mekong* and *The Devouring Dragon* offers a wide-ranging, carefully researched, and ultimately chilling account of China's impact on global biodiversity and climate change. Craig Simons journeys around the world to speak to illegal loggers, biologists tracking species extinction, and a panoply of Chinese -- whose appetite for resources and a higher standard of living is catalyzing a planetary environmental crisis. By turns diverting and personal, informative and thoughtful, this book serves as an urgent call for all of us to change our patterns of consumption before it is too late.

—Judith Shapiro, author of *China's Environmental Challenges and Mao's War against Nature*

A compelling and superbly written account of China's massive environmental impact around the globe. A must read for any thoughtful citizen, *The Devouring Dragon* portrays the choice before humanity: a headlong rush to a highly degraded planet OR a truly sustainable path that respects the wondrous living planet and its promise for all.

—Thomas E. Lovejoy, University Professor of Environmental Science and Policy
George Mason University Biodiversity Chair
The Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment

From Papua New Guinea to Trinidad, USA, Simons goes further than anyone before him in tracing the impact of China's rise on the global environment. Adroitly blending science and theory with personal stories and on-the-road reportage, this book vividly describes the risks posed by climate change and biodiversity loss as Chinese consumers follow the unsustainable path set by their counterparts in the West. The author does not flinch from grim stories, but neither is he overwhelmed by them. This book ends with an optimistic message of empowerment and change.

—Jonathan Watts, author of *When a Billion Chinese Jump*

About the Author
Craig Simons has reported on the environment from a dozen Asian nations for *Newsweek* and *Cox Newspapers*. He has also written for *Outside*, *Backpacker*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. He studied at Harvard University, The University of Pennsylvania, and as a Knight Science Journalism Fellow at MIT.