



# The Mediterranean and its People

Books Reviewed:

[The Mediterranean and its People](#) [1]

Issue:

[86](#) [2]

Reviewer:

[Ted Percy](#) [3]

~~Not a Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

0

Wayland's 'People and Places' series takes a different stance from the usual political or economic regional geography, concentrating instead on how people have been affected by their environment and, of increasing significance, how they have changed it. Each volume in the series has adopted a different interpretation of this theme - so blanket series buying is not recommended.

**The Mediterranean and its People**, for example, stresses the dangers of destroying the ecosystem in the creation of an increasingly industrialised and commercial region. The point is well made both generally and by example, alternative strategies are suggested and well chosen photographs with their captions illustrate the issues raised in the text. As an assessment of the key environmental questions, this would be an ideal starting point; as a more general analysis of the lives of people in the region, it is rather sketchy and the book would be best used to investigate a case study.

**The Alps and their People** attempts a broader look at life for the people of this region and is full of attractive photographs and artwork - a two-page spread of the Lauterbrunnen valley and a full-page photograph of a marmot on sentry duty are both very nice but neither brings the reader any great insight into the issues. This book would be most useful used in conjunction with other material for a more in-depth view of the environmental questions touched upon here.

**The Arctic and its People** considers first the land itself, then its indigenous peoples before going on to commercial ventures both ancient (whaling and the Yukon gold rush) and modern (whale-watching and the Siberian gold rush). We discover how the balance of the polar ecosystem - at least as delicate as that of equatorial regions - may be threatened by deliberate acts such as the James Bay Hydroelectric scheme as well as by accidents like Chernobyl and Exxon Valdez, and we find that it is our job to maintain this balance, otherwise the whole Arctic may become the mess that parts of it already are.

Running Order:

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**Links:**

[1] <http://w.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/the-mediterranean-and-its-people>

[2] <http://w.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/86>

[3] <http://w.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/ted-percy>