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"It was strangely like war. They attacked the forest as if it were an enemy to be pushed back from the beachheads, driven into the hills, broken into patches, and wiped out. Many operators thought they were not only making lumber but liberating the land from the trees. . ."

—from *The Last Wilderness*, by Murray Morgan

NEW BOOK EXPOSES THE DESTRUCTIVE IMPACT OF INDUSTRIAL FORESTRY AND THE ESCALATING GLOBAL WAR ON TREES

Derrick Jensen, prize-winning author of *A Language Older than Words* and *The Culture of Make Believe*, and **George Draffan**, activist, researcher, and co-author with Jensen of *Railroads & Clearcuts*, collaborate again in a new book, ***Strangely Like War: The Global Assault on Forests***, (Foreword by **Vandana Shiva**), to be published by Chelsea Green in October 2003.

In this short, hard-hitting exposé, the authors detail the activities of an industrial forestry system increasingly globalized, operating outside of any local or even national controls, and now threatening the basic life support systems of the planet itself. ***Strangely Like War*** eloquently and passionately shows that deforestation is a root cause of our present ecological crisis due to:

- Widespread habitat destruction and species loss (75% of endangered mammals, 45% of endangered birds, and 55% of endangered amphibians are threatened due to deforestation).
- Theft and destruction of indigenous homelands, leading to native peoples' displacement, impoverishment, cultural destruction, and often death.
- Inexorable road building, leading to soil erosion and landslides, destruction of streams and rivers, and unauthorized motor vehicle entry into sensitive habitat.
- Massive toxic contamination and waste streams caused by the pulp and paper industry (700 lbs/person/year consumed in the U.S. alone).
- Creation of barren monoculture tree plantations to replace complex forest ecosystems, with increased fire hazard, habitat destruction, and chemical contamination

Strangely Like War also reveals the intimate, often corrupt, relationship between corporate logging companies and paper and politicians, government bureaucrats, and regulatory agencies supposedly in charge of “protecting” the forests. The authors expose the myths and uncover the lies used to justify more cutting and clearing. For example,

- That forests need to be cut to provide jobs when employment decreases are directly tied to the increased automation, mergers, and downsizing of a handful of global corporate players. During the 1970s and 1980s the “amount of timber cut increased 55% while the number of logging and milling jobs decreased 10%, or 24,000 jobs.”
- That roads are needed for forest fire protection when most catastrophic fires are often caused by logging activities and occur in areas previously cut and replanted with dense stands of same-aged trees.
- That industrial forestry is necessary in order to provide the wood and paper products on which modern society depends when “the world is awash in wood and paper products,” much of which is unnecessary and/or wasted as packaging and disposable paper products. Nor does paper need to be made out of wood (China produces 40% of its paper from non-tree sources).

A must read for anyone who wants to understand the relationship between deforestation and our ecological crisis as well as an essential “handbook” for forest and anti-globalization activists. *Strangely Like War* is a powerful *Silent Spring*-like call to action and should inspire us all to mobilize and stop this eco-suicidal path of destruction.

Derrick Jensen is the author of *The Culture of Make Believe, A Language Older than Words, Listening to the Land*, and co-author of *Railroads & Clearcuts*. *The Culture of Make Believe* was one of two finalists for the 2003 J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize, cited by the jurors as a work that “weaves journalism, history, personal anecdote, philosophy and cultural criticism into a passionate and provocative meditation on the nexus of racism, genocide, environmental destruction and corporate malfeasance, where civilization meets its discontents.” He writes for *The New York Times Magazine, Audubon, The Sun*, among many others.

George Draffan is a forest activist, public interest investigator, and corporate muckraker. He is the author of *The Elite Consensus, A Primer on Corporate Power*, and co-author of *Railroads & Clearcuts*. For the past fifteen years he has provided research services and training to citizens and public interest groups that are investigating and challenging corporate power. Some of his work can be found at Endgame, a project of the Public Information Network (www.endgame.org).

Vandana Shiva is the author of *Stolen Harvest, The Violence of the Green Revolution, Water Wars*, and many other books and articles. She is one of India’s leading physicists, an internationally renowned activist, and winner of the Right Livelihood Award, known as “the alternative Nobel Prize.” She is the founder and Director of Research Foundation for Science Technology and Natural Resource Policy.

Strangely Like War is a “**Politics of the Living**” book, the first in a series of short works by major writers exposing the global government and corporate assault on life. Future books include *God’s Cowboys: Bush and the New Holy Wars*, and *Surveillance 24/7: The End of Privacy*.

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