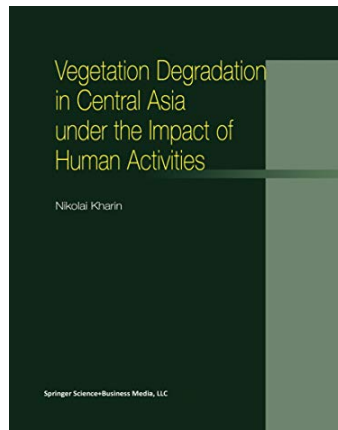


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Beschreibung:

under the Impact of Human Activities

Ausgabe **KINDLE**

The period of active influence of the people on desert environments in Central Asia counts more than 2,000 years. It includes several stages of the social and the economic development of human society - from primitive culture of hunters to developed modern society with great changes of environment and "nature remaking". Heritage of the past is one of the main causes of land degradation in Central Asia. So, only historical analysis of relations between the man and the desert could give information for awareness of desertification. What an idea have the people about the desert? In the mind of many people "desert" is identified with a sterile, lifeless and gloom land unsuitable for life. The mass media, specially the cinema supports this idea. Very popular subject of many films is the death of travelers in the desert from thirst. Even the names of hot winds (the "gibly" in Sahara, the "samum" in Arabian desert and the "afganets" in Central Asia) fill the minds of people with horror. There are many legends about armies buried in the sand, about flourishing oases and towns covered with sand drifts. In these legends the truth is mixed with fiction. But as known, "the truth is stronger than fiction".