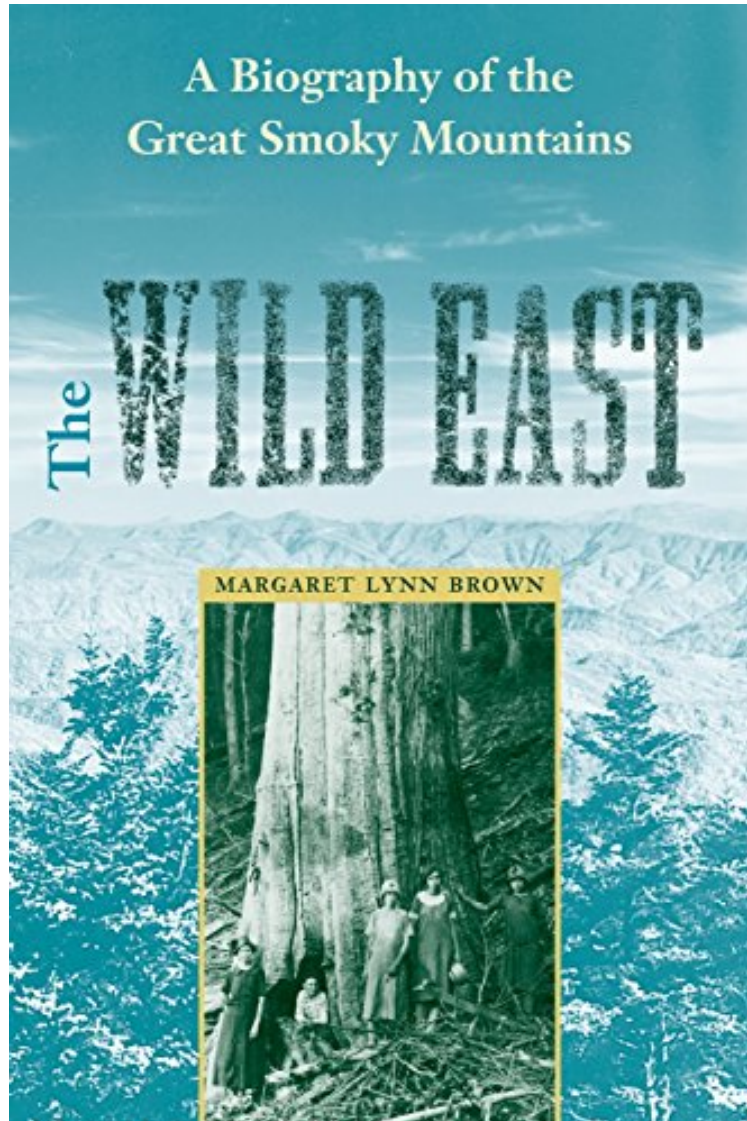


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The Wild East (New Perspectives on the History of the South)

Margaret L. Brown, Margaret Lynn Brown
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Margaret L. Brown, Margaret Lynn Brown : The Wild East (New Perspectives on the History of the South) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wild East (New Perspectives on the History of the South):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great overall story of the parkBy CA of NCThe Wild East answers many of the questions about the beginnings of the Great Smoky National Park and the history behind it's founding. It is the personal stories and the mini bio's of the key people over the last 125 years thatties the book together.This is a

must read for anyone interested in learning more about this special place and the history of it. The good and bad are shared along with the importance to local history as well. After reading the book my interest in helping the national parks and in particular GSMNP has increased because I feel more in tune to the needs of the park. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A fine book about the Smokies By Anson Cassel Mills Margaret Lynn Brown has written a fine first book about the Smokies, a park in which I have hiked almost annually for the better part of thirty years. The history of the area is familiar to me, but I was still fascinated by the details of such topics as "The Road to Nowhere," the wild boar controversy, the introduction of horseback riding, and other choices about wilderness ratified by the National Park Service. The author writes well enough, and the illustrations have been well chosen. Like many revised dissertations, this book includes too many quotations, especially pedestrian ones from park service personnel whom the author has interviewed. Brown is also a "tongue clucker" who treats people of the past as if they should have known better than say, to feed bears or clear-cut old growth forest. Nor do I believe that the greatest threat to the environment is "unregulated industrial capitalism," a notion that some concentrated thoughts about the environmental disaster of sub-Saharan Africa might disabuse. At least Brown and I agree on the crassness of contemporary tourism in Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Examining the past By trip This book is a wonderful review of the history and management of Great Smokies National Park. The author brings to life the dirty details of the heroic political triumphs and failures associated with the park. As well as, the ecological changes that swept the Appalachian mountains and the new challenges still faced. In addition, she drives home the social cost inherent in the changes that have occurred in the Smoky Mt. region. Her book sheds light on the key political, ecological and social issues facing the park today. If you are looking for a book that paints a "quaint" picture of Appalachia, don't look here. If on the other hand you want a book that will make you think about the complex interactions of ecology, human relationships and political struggles, read on!

"The Wild East is a graceful, accurate, and, in its subdued way, a passionate account. The author calls it a 'biography' of the great Smokies and it does strike a more intimate note than similar histories usually do. I find it not only a valuable document but a friendly and interesting book. Margaret Lynn Brown has a deft touch." --Fred Chappell, author of Look Back All the Green Valley The Wild East explores the social, political, and environmental changes in the Great Smoky Mountains during the 19th and 20th centuries. Although this national park is most often portrayed as a triumph of wilderness preservation, Margaret Lynn Brown concludes that the largest forested region in the eastern United States is actually a re-created wilderness--a product of restoration and even manipulation of the land. Several hundred years before white settlement, Cherokees farmed and hunted this land. Between 1910 and 1920, corporate lumbermen built railroads into the most remote watersheds and removed more than 60 percent of the old-growth forest. Despite this level of human impact, early promoters of a national park represented the land as an untouched wilderness and described the people living there as pioneers. During the 1930s, landscape architects and Civilian Conservation Corps workers transformed the Smokies, building trails, campgrounds, and facilities that memorialized the rustic ideals of Roosevelt-style conservation. With the advent of the 1950s, enthusiasm for the national park system boomed again; cultural interpreters went to work to create a Ponderosa-like scene in Cades Cove, while developers in Gatlinburg emulated the designs of western ski resorts. During the 1960s, however, wilderness advocates began lobbying for a less manicured, more natural-looking landscape. In the 1970s, Brown writes, the Smokies faced many of the consequences of these management decisions. Major crises with brook trout, black bears, and exotic species pushed park officials toward a greater regard for ecology. At the same time, scientists trained during the environmental movement foraged through the land's history and sought to re-create the look of the landscape before human settlement. Park management continues to waffle between these shifting views of wilderness, negotiating the often contradictory mission of promoting tourism and ensuring preservation.

About the Author Margaret Lynn Brown is assistant professor of history at Brevard College in North Carolina. Her work has appeared in Southern Exposure and the Journal of Appalachian Studies.