CONTENTS

List of Maps	xii
Prologue: A Tale of Two Farms Two farms = Collapses, past and present = Vanished Edens? = A five-point framework = Businesses and the environment The comparative method = Plan of the book =	1
Part One: MODERN MONTANA	25
Chapter 1: Under Montana's Big Sky Stan Falkow's story Montana and me Why begin with Montana? Montana's economic history Mining Forests Soil Water Native and non-native species Differing visions Attitudes towards regulation Rick Laible's story Chip Pigman's story Tim Huls's story John Cook's story Montana, model of the world	27
Part Two: PAST SOCIETIES	77
Chapter 2: Twilight at Easter The quarry's mysteries = Easter's geography and history People and food = Chiefs, clans, and commoners = Platforms and statues = Carving, transporting, erecting = The vanished forest Consequences for society = Europeans and explanations Why was Easter fragile? = Easter as metaphor =	79
Chapter 3: The Last People Alive: Pitcairn and Henderson Islands Pitcairn before the Bounty Three dissimilar islands Trade The movie's ending	120
Chapter 4: The Ancient Ones: The Anasazi and Their Neighbors Desert farmers = Tree rings = Agricultural strategies = Chaco's problems and packrats = Regional integration = Chaco's decline and end = Chaco's message =	136

Chapter 5: The Maya Collapses Mysteries of lost cities = The Maya environment = Maya agriculture = Maya history = Copán = Complexities of collapses = Wars and droughts = Collapse in the southern lowlands = The Maya message =	157
Chapter 6: The Viking Prelude and Fugues Experiments in the Atlantic = The Viking explosion = Autocatalysis = Viking agriculture = Iron = Viking chiefs = Viking religion = Orkneys, Shetlands, Faeroes = Iceland's environment = Iceland's history = Iceland in context = Vinland =	178
Chapter 7: Norse Greenland's Flowering Europe's outpost = Greenland's climate today = Climate in the past = Native plants and animals = Norse settlement = Farming = Hunting and fishing = An integrated economy = Society = Trade with Europe = Self-image =	211
Chapter 8: Norse Greenland's End Introduction to the end Deforestation Soil and turf damage The Inuit's predecessors Inuit subsistence Inuit/Norse relations The end Ultimate causes of the end	248
Chapter 9: Opposite Paths to Success Bottom up, top down = New Guinea highlands = Tikopia = Tokugawa problems = Tokugawa solutions = Why Japan succeeded = Other successes =	277
Part Three: MODERN SOCIETIES	309
Chapter 10: Malthus in Africa: Rwanda's Genocide A dilemma = Events in Rwanda = More than ethnic hatred = Buildup in Kanama = Explosion in Kanama = Why it happened =	311
Chapter 11: One Island, Two Peoples, Two Histories: The Dominican Republic and Haiti Differences = Histories = Causes of divergence = Dominican environmental impacts = Balaguer = The Dominican environment today = The future	329

Contents	xi
Chapter 12: China, Lurching Giant China's significance Background Air, water, soil Habitat, species, megaprojects Consequences Connections The future	358
Chapter 13: "Mining" Australia Australia's significance = Soils = Water = Distance = Early history = Imported values = Trade and immigration = Land degradation = Other environmental problems = Signs of hope and change =	378
Part Four: PRACTICAL LESSONS	417
Chapter 14: Why Do Some Societies Make Disastrous Decisions? Road map for success = Failure to anticipate = Failure to perceive = Rational bad behavior = Disastrous values = Other irrational failures = Unsuccessful solutions = Signs of hope =	419
Chapter 15: Big Businesses and the Environment: Different Conditions, Different Outcomes Resource extraction = Two oil fields = Oil company motives = Hardrock mining operations = Mining company motives = Differences among mining companies = The logging industry = Forest Stewardship Council = The seafood industry = Businesses and the public =	441
Chapter 16: The World as a Polder: What Does It All Mean to Us Today? Introduction = The most serious problems = If we don't solve them = Life in Los Angeles = One-liner objections = The past and the present = Reasons for hope =	486

Chapter 16: The Wor to Us Today? Introduction = The them Life in I and the present = Reasons for hope

Acknowledgments	526
Further Readings	529
Index	561
Illustration Credits	576