

SUSTAINABILITY

A Cultural History

Ulrich Grober

- A historically rich study of the concept of sustainability
- An essential sourcebook for environmental studies courses
- Also of interest to the general 'green' reader

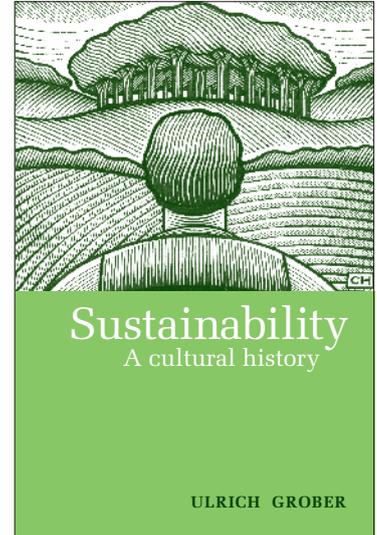
From diets to economic growth, everything these days has to be 'sustainable'. But the word's currency should not obscure its origins: sustainability is an age-old aspiration; a concept deeply rooted in human culture. Though in danger of abuse and overuse today, it can still be recovered from its present inflationary coinage.

In clear and thought-provoking terms, Ulrich Grober reassesses the concept of sustainability using a range of fascinating historical instances of its application. He considers the vision of men such as Hans Carl von Carlowitz, credited with having first formulated the three pillars of sustainability: environmental equilibrium, economic security and social justice. The journey takes in Francis of Assisi's thirteenth-century *Canticle of the Sun*, as well as Greek philosophers and Enlightenment scholars. Whether in the court of Louis XIV or the silver mines of Saxony, Grober reveals that sustainability is always born of crisis and yet also marks the birth of a new awareness, a realisation that the planet we live on has to be sustained and preserved for future generations.

This book offers a historically rich and nuanced introduction to a concept that could not be of more pressing importance for the twenty-first century.



The Author: Ulrich Grober is a publicist, broadcaster and journalist, whose work covers cultural history, future visions, sustainability and ecotourism. Born in West Germany, he studied Philosophy and German and English Literature at the Universities of Frankfurt and Bochum. His writing on deep ecology and sustainability has appeared in *Die Zeit*, *Resurgence* and *Greenpeace* magazines, amongst others. His best-selling second book, *Vom Wandern – Neue Wege zu einer alten Kunst* (On Hiking – New Ways to an Ancient Art), was published in 2006.



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Contents include:

Introduction:

The principle of sustainable development

Origin of the concept:

From medieval times to 1945

The Medieval age

Enlightenment and Idealism

Forestry in the 17th to 19th centuries

Dawn of a new era: industrialisation

Modern times and new problems:

1945 to today

Increasing awareness in the 1970s

From Stockholm to Copenhagen

Conclusions and perspectives

Bibliography & Index

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