



**Across Forest, Steppe, and Mountain:  
Environment, Identity, and Empire in Qing  
China's Borderlands (Studies in Environment and  
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*David A. Bello*

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## **Across Forest, Steppe, and Mountain: Environment, Identity, and Empire in Qing China's Borderlands (Studies in Environment and History)** David A. Bello

In this book, David Bello offers a new and radical interpretation of how China's last dynasty, the Qing (1644-1911), relied on the interrelationship between ecology and ethnicity to incorporate the country's far-flung borderlands into the dynasty's expanding empire. The dynasty tried to manage the sustainable survival and compatibility of discrete borderland ethnic regimes in Manchuria, Inner Mongolia, and Yunnan within a corporatist 'Han Chinese' imperial political order. This unprecedented imperial unification resulted in the great human and ecological diversity that exists today. Using natural science literature in conjunction with under-utilized and new sources in the Manchu language, Bello demonstrates how Qing expansion and consolidation of empire was dependent on a precise and intense manipulation of regional environmental relationships.

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