



Globalization processes link centres of power and culture all over the world. But these are surrounded by peripheries, whose integration in the global paradigm is neither an inevitable nor an automatic process, as a naïve perception might lead us to believe. In South Asia, such peripheries seem a long way from the cosmopolitanism of Bombay or Bangalore and the crisis is hardly the same to the ecologist statesman and the herdsman looking for pasture. Societies in the South Asian wilderness - *Jangal* - are closely tied to the environment but peripheral to the system of power. For them, the landscape is symbolically charged, and the meaning with which natural and social surroundings are instead tends to produce an identification as against others, expressed in terms of ethnicity. Changes at the symbolic level imply a danger of losing identity. The peripheral groups studied in this volume are the Santals, the Rona, the Bondo, the Pings of Orissa, the Jadopatis of Bengal, the Kulava of Kerala and the Todas of Nilgiri among others. It is in the periphery that the confrontations between development projects, conservation efforts and local populations are most marked. The contributors deal with various peripheries, faced with intrusion by more powerful groups, as well as by environmental crisis. But the responses are various as the authors of this volume show.

Contributors to this landmark volume include Georg Pfeffer, Peter B. Andersen, Gunnel Cedderlöf, Deepak Kumar Behera and Srikant Patel among many others.

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