Humanized Landscapes Before 1492

Cultivated Trees. We use this symbol for areas in which water between valleys. Irrigated lands varied in building weirs and dams to channel or retain rainfall.

Terracing

Agro-Forestry

Irrigation

Earthworks

Clearing by Fire

Transplanting wild plants. And throughout the Americas, native people transplanted species to new areas, often as a means of subsistence or cultural practice.

Husbandry Extent

Westward way of thinking that created a false dichotomy between nature and culture. People are not separate from nature. They cannot live without nature, yet they cannot live in nature. This dichotomy is a "premodern" way of thinking that views nature as an object and humans as separate from and superior to nature.

Western view of religion that created the idea of nature as separate from human culture. This dichotomy is a "premodern" way of thinking that views nature as an object and humans as separate from and superior to nature.

North America

South America

Middle America
Humanized Landscapes of the Americas Before 1492

Clearing by Fire
A long-standing popular myth endures that sometime in our distant past human beings “discovered” fire and used it to transform the environment, especially in the Northern and Middle Americas. In reality, the use of fire to intentionally transform the environment was common as far south as the southernmost limit of the pre-Columbian Americas. It is therefore incorrect to suggest that fire was unknown or uncommon further south.

Indigenous Americans used fire in a multitude of ways - for hunting, for repelling enemies, for building, for cooking, and for clearing land for agriculture. Fire was used to clear lands for agriculture, to cultivate crops, and to clear fields of vegetation. Fire was also used to clear areas of dense vegetation, to clear brush, and to clear land for construction.

Irrigation
Irrigation systems were commonly used in the pre-Columbian Americas. These systems included ditches, canals, and wells. The most advanced irrigation systems were found in the Middle and South Americas. The most advanced irrigation systems were found in the Middle and South Americas. The most advanced irrigation systems were found in the Middle and South Americas. The most advanced irrigation systems were found in the Middle and South Americas. The most advanced irrigation systems were found in the Middle and South Americas. The most advanced irrigation systems were found in the Middle and South Americas.

Earthworks
The construction of earthworks and earth repositories into mounds is an ancient human activity. Before 1492, the Maya, the Inca, and the Aztecs were among the most advanced earth mound builders. Earthworks were constructed for a variety of purposes, including defense, storage, and ceremony. The Maya were the most advanced earth mound builders, with the largest and most complex earthworks.

Husbandry Extent
A major form of environmental transformation by indigenous Americans involved the growing of crops, the management of pastures, and the use of animals for transport. This process is known as husbandry. Husbandry is the practice of managing and caring for animals in order to produce food, clothing, and other goods.

Terraforming
An ancient form of terraforming is the alteration of arid regions by the addition of water. This can include the construction of irrigation systems, the building of dams, or the planting of trees. These activities can alter the landscape and improve the environment for human use.

Afforestation
Afforestation is the practice of establishing forests on previously unforested lands. This can include the planting of trees in areas that were once cleared for agriculture, or the establishment of new forests in areas that were once barren. This practice can help to improve the environment and to provide new sources of food and shelter for humans.

Barefoot Farmer
A barefoot farmer is a person who relies on their own physical strength to move objects and to perform tasks. This type of farmer is often found in areas where technology is limited or nonexistent. The barefoot farmer is able to move objects and to perform tasks without the use of tools or machines.

The Maps
The maps used in this book illustrate the humanization of the landscape in the Americas. The maps show the extent of human modification of the land, including the extent of agriculture, the extent of hunting and gathering, and the extent of settlement.

Rarámuri
The Rarámuri are a indigenous group from the northern part of Mexico. They are known for their keen knowledge of the environment and their ability to thrive in difficult conditions. The Rarámuri are a testament to the resilience of human beings in the face of adversity.

Conclusion
In conclusion, the humanization of the landscape in the Americas is a testament to the ingenuity and adaptability of human beings. The ancient peoples of the Americas transformed the landscape in ways that are still visible today. Their impact on the environment is evident in the patterns of vegetation, soil, and water that we see today. The humanization of the landscape is a story of resilience and adaptability, a story of the ongoing relationship between humans and the environment.