## Vegetation Degradation in Central Asia

Titel: Vegetation Degradation in Central Asia

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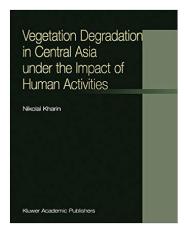
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## Beschreibung:

## under the Impact of Human Activities

The period of active influence of the people on desert environments in Central Asia counts more than 2,000 years. It includes several stages of the social and the economic development of human society - from primitive culture of hunters to developed modern society with great changes of envi- ronment and "nature remaking". Heritage of the past is one of the main causes of land degradation in Central Asia.So, only historical analysis of relations between the man and the desertcould give infor- mation for awareness of desertification. What an idea have the people about the desert? In the mind of many people "desert" is identified with a sterile, lifeless and gloom land unsuitable for life. The mass media, specially the cinema sup-ports this idea. Very popular subject of many films is the death of travelers in the desert from thirst. Eventhe names of hot winds (the "gibly" inSahara, the "samum" inArabian desertand the "afganets" inCentral Asia) fill the minds of peoplewith horror. There are many legends about armies buried inthe sand, aboutflourishing oases and towns covered with sand drifts. Inthese legends the truth is mixed with fiction. But as known, "the truth isstronger than fiction".