

MONSOON RAINS, GREAT RIVERS, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FARMING CIVILIZATIONS IN ASIA

The Asian monsoon and associated river systems supply the water that sustains a large portion of humanity and have enabled Asia to become home to some of the oldest and most productive farming systems on Earth. This book uses climate data and environmental models to provide a detailed review of variations in the Asian monsoon since the mid-Holocene and their impact on farming systems and human settlement. Future changes to the monsoon due to anthropogenically driven global warming are also discussed. Faced with greater rainfall and more cyclones in South Asia, as well as drying in North China and regional rising sea levels, understanding how humans developed resilient strategies to past climate variations is critical. Containing important implications for the large populations and booming economies in the Indo-Pacific region, this book is an important resource for researchers and graduate students studying the climate, environmental history, agronomy, and archeology of Asia.

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Peter D. Clift , Jade d'Alpoim Guedes
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