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... at the conference "Eurasian Environments: Nature and History" at The Ohio State University, September 16-17, 2015. The conference, which formed part of the annual meeting of the Central Eurasian Studies Society, brought together an international group of scholars working on issues of tsarist Russian and Soviet environmental history and policy. Papers explored questions of water use and preservation, dam building and irrigation, the environment and public health issues, conservation versus economic development, species extinction and protection, the role of science and scientists in environmental destruction and protection, the sacred aspects of Eurasian environments, and the current realities and policies in the newly independent states of the post-Soviet space. Geographically, the conference focused particularly on the five former Soviet republics of Central Asia; on Siberia, the Russian Far East, and the Arctic regions; and on St. Petersburg, the Crimea and Black Sea regions, and the Eurasian steppe. Throughout, the history of Russia and the Soviet Union was placed in a global, comparative context, and discussions at the conference explored the contemporary implications of tsarist and Soviet environmental history questions. In addition to those whose essays appear in this volume, let me also thank the other participants who made that conference so very productive and exciting: Brian Bonomo, Megan Dean, Randall Dill, David Hoffmann, Paul Josephson, Scott Levi, Brian Monahan, Chris Otter, Peter Perdue, and Mary Paterson.

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