

List of Illustrations	viii
Acknowledgments	ix
Permissions	xiii
Conventions	xv
Introductory Remarks	xvii
<i>Patterns</i>	1
1 Landmarks and Time-marks	3
2 Humans v. Elephants: The Three Thousand Years War	9
3 The Great Deforestation: An Overview	19
4 The Great Deforestation: Regions and Species	40
5 War and the Logic of Short-term Advantage	86
6 Water and the Costs of System Sustainability	115
<i>Particularities</i>	165
7 Richness to Riches: The Story of Jiaxing	167
8 Chinese Colonialism: Guizhou and the Miao	216
9 The Riddle of Longevity: Why Zunhua?	273
<i>Perceptions</i>	319
10 Nature as Revelation	321
11 Science and Superfauna	369
12 Imperial Dogma and Personal Perspectives	413
Concluding Remarks	454
Notes	472
Bibliography	530
Index	548

Maps

1. Schematic model of China for rapid reference 4
2. The retreat of the elephants, 5000 BCE to present day 10
3. Hangzhou Bay, *circa* 1000 142
4. Hangzhou Bay, mid eighteenth century 143
5. Hangzhou Bay, 1986 143

Figure

1. Modeled revenue from cutting and selling a tree, with protection costs, and the option of investing proceeds at interest 83

Tables

1. Time-marks in Chinese environmental history 6
2. Land formation by the Yellow River on its southern and northern courses, from 1194 to 1983 129
3. The speed of advance, and the rate of accretion, of the Yellow River delta from 1195 to 1854 130
4. Riverine and tidal flows, with related sediment transport, in the Qiantang River measured at Qibao Station 153
5. Seed-to-yield ratios for rice in late-imperial Jiaxing 209