



## Nature and History in the Potomac Country: From Hunter-gatherers to the Age of Jefferson (Hardback)

By James D. Rice

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS, United States, 2009.

Hardback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 163 mm. Language:

English . Brand New Book. James D. Rice s fresh study of the

Potomac River basin begins with a mystery. Why, when the

whole of the region offered fertile soil and excellent fishing and hunting, was nearly three-quarters of the land uninhabited on

the eve of colonization? Rice wonders how the existence of this no man s land influenced nearby Native American and, later,

colonial settlements. Did it function as a commons, as a place

where all were free to hunt and fish? Or was it perceived as a

strange and hostile wilderness? Rice discovers environmental

factors at the center of the story. Making use of extensive

archaeological and anthropological research, as well as the vast

scholarship on farming practices in the colonial period, he

traces the region s history from its earliest known habitation.

With exceptionally vivid prose, Rice makes clear the implications

of unbridled economic development for the forests, streams,

and wetlands of the Potomac River basin. With what effects, Rice

asks, did humankind exploit and then alter the landscape and

the quality of the river s waters? Equal parts environmental,

Native...



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