

“Through her eloquent description of the personal, daily choices of contemporary Viliui Sakha, Crate steers us toward the conclusion that ‘truly sustainable development both enlarges the range of local people’s choices to make development more democratic and participatory and incorporate[s] an in-depth knowledge of local ecosystems and cultures.’ Hers is a cogent, necessary case study for anyone interested in issues of indigenous peoples, adaptation, and sustainability seen through the lens of ethnographic inquiry.”

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“*Cows, Kin, and Globalization* is three books in one: a vivid description of the Sakha people of Siberia, a comparative review of the impact of high-value mining on indigenous cultures, and a thoughtful exploration of the possibilities and perils of reconciling diamond mining and local populations. Because it brings these topics together, it is ideally suited for students and scholars in environmental studies, geography, and anthropology.”

—JOSIAH HEYMAN, University of Texas at El Paso

“Through this innovative multi-sited ethnography of complex local and global indigenous sustainability, we see how under diamond mining the Viliui Sakha were transformed from their pre-Soviet subsistence strategies into the Soviet working class then to a post-Soviet household production system founded upon having and knowing land. The Viliui Sakha reemerged as victors of sustainability. This is a perceptive ethnography of sustainability that passionately advances indigenous peoples’ rights to socioecological equity, cultural survival, and political devolution.”

—DAVID HYNDMAN, author of *Ancestral Rain Forests and the Mountain of Gold: Indigenous Peoples and Mining in New Guinea*

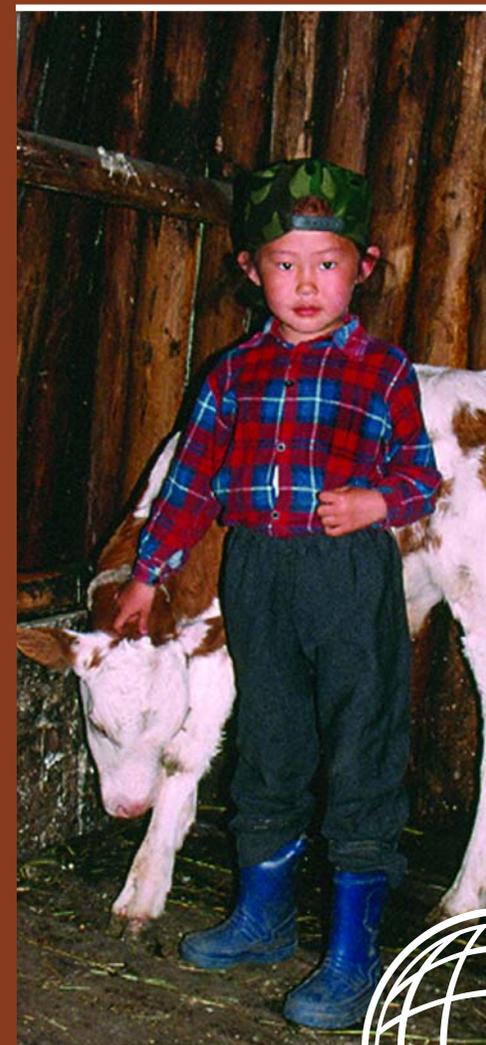
“In this richly detailed work, Susan Crate offers a new take on an old form. Her ethnography of the Viliui Sakha captures the complex dimensions of daily life for one native people of contemporary Russia. This work, situated within a cultural, ecological, historical, and comparative framework, presents the ‘how’ and ‘why’ of human adaptation. In short, this is a multifaceted jewel of a work.”

—BARBARA ROSE JOHNSTON, Center for Political Ecology, Santa Cruz, California

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Cows, Kin, and Globalization



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An Ethnography of Sustainability

SUSAN A. CRATE



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A Division of
Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
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Cover image: A young Viliui Sakha cow-keeper, courtesy of the author.

Cover design by Piper E. Wallis



GLOBALIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT