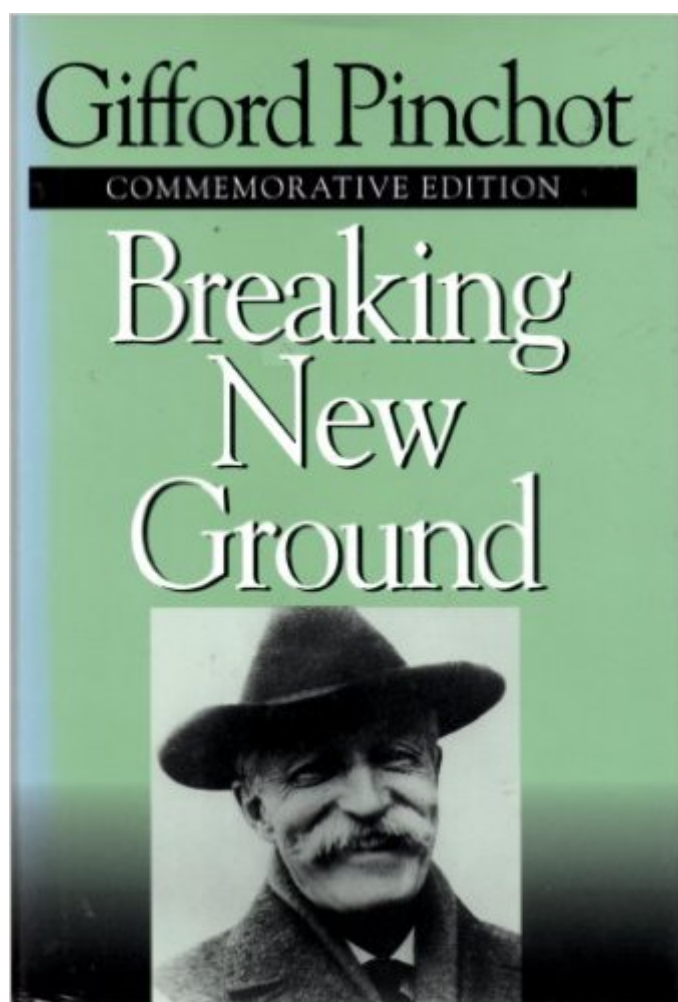


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Breaking New Ground



Synopsis

Vigorous, colorful, bold and highly personal, *Breaking New Ground* is the autobiography of Gifford Pinchot, founder and first chief of the Forest Service. He tells a fascinating tale of his efforts, under President Theodore Roosevelt, to wrest the forests from economic special interests and to bring them under management for multiple- and long-range use. His philosophy of "the greatest good for the greatest number over the longest time" has become the foundation upon which this country's conservation policy is based. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

This is a description of early American public policy on forest management and conservation from a leading advocate and administrator of these policies, Gifford Pinchot, the first leader of the U.S. Forest Service during the Theodore Roosevelt Administration. Pinchot notes that most Americans gave no thought to forests into the 1860s and prior other than the realization that forests existed. France had recognized three centuries earlier under Colbert, a minister of King Louis XIV, but this knowledge had not spread to America. As people cut into forests for their purposes, there was no consideration that any damage could arise from these actions. In time, beginning around the 1880s, it was realized there is a need to manage replanting of trees and management of forests is required. Gifford's father was one of the original advocates of forest management policies. The author calls his father the Father of Forestry in America. The author saw well managed forests throughout Europe. He made it his mission to inform his country's residents about the advantage of proper forest management. Half of all American forests were held in private ownership around the

1890s. Most owners sought to cut trees and sell lumber as quickly as they could. An underground market of stolen timber from government owned forest land existed, and the government did little to stop this practice. The first U.S. forest law was the Yellowstone National Park creation in 1872 which made it illegal to cut timber within Yellowstone National Park. In 1873 the Timber Culture Act passed allowed homesteaders to claim some portions of public land by planting trees on the land.

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