

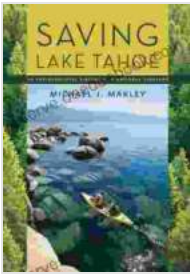
# **An Environmental History of National Treasure**

The National Treasure franchise, consisting of two films and a television series, has captivated audiences worldwide with its thrilling adventures and exploration of iconic American landmarks. However, beyond the captivating storylines, the franchise also weaves a subtle but poignant narrative about environmental history and the intricate relationship between nature and human civilization. This essay delves into the environmental themes and motifs embedded within the National Treasure universe, exploring how they contribute to the films' allure and resonate with contemporary environmental concerns.

## **The Declaration of Independence: A Timeless Symbol of Environmental Stewardship**

At the heart of the National Treasure franchise lies the Declaration of Independence, a document that not only proclaims the birth of a nation but also enshrines the fundamental principles of environmental stewardship. The film's central premise revolves around the hidden clues within the Declaration that lead to a vast treasure. However, beyond the adventure plot, the film highlights the document's profound environmental message.

The Declaration asserts that all citizens have the inherent right to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This right to happiness is inextricably linked to a healthy and sustainable environment. The film's portrayal of the Founding Fathers as astute observers and protectors of nature reinforces the notion that environmental preservation was a core value during the country's inception.



## **Saving Lake Tahoe: An Environmental History of a National Treasure** by Michael J. Makley

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 6780 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 272 pages  
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



### **The Role of Native Americans in Environmental Stewardship**

The National Treasure franchise recognizes the vital role of Native American cultures in preserving the natural environment. In the first film, the Native American character Abigail Chase possesses ancient knowledge and a deep connection to the land. She guides the protagonists in their quest, emphasizing the importance of respecting and understanding nature's ways.

The film depicts the harmonious relationship between Native Americans and the natural world, showcasing their traditional practices of sustainable hunting, gathering, and land management. By integrating Native American perspectives, the franchise acknowledges the centuries-long stewardship of the land by indigenous communities and the invaluable lessons they have to teach about environmental sustainability.

### **The Perils of Exploitation and Greed**

While the National Treasure films celebrate environmental stewardship, they also caution against the dangers of unchecked exploitation and greed. The antagonist in the first film, Ian Howe, is driven by an insatiable desire for wealth and power. His disregard for the environment leads him to destroy priceless artifacts and damage protected lands in pursuit of the hidden treasure.

Through Howe's actions, the film highlights the devastating consequences of environmental degradation. It shows how greed can cloud our judgment and lead to the destruction of natural resources that sustain life. The film's message is particularly relevant in the face of contemporary environmental challenges such as deforestation, pollution, and climate change.

### **The Importance of Heritage Preservation**

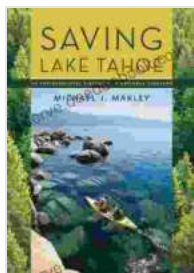
The National Treasure franchise underscores the significance of preserving our cultural and historical heritage, including the natural landscapes that have shaped our nation's identity. The films depict iconic American landmarks, such as Independence Hall and Mount Rushmore, as symbols of national pride and environmental stewardship.

By highlighting the beauty and historical importance of these landmarks, the franchise encourages viewers to appreciate and protect the natural wonders that surround us. It reminds us that our heritage is not merely a collection of buildings and artifacts but also the living ecosystems that have sustained human civilization for centuries.

The National Treasure franchise, while primarily known for its thrilling adventures and historical intrigue, also weaves a subtle but compelling narrative about environmental history and the relationship between nature

and human civilization. Through the Declaration of Independence, Native American perspectives, the perils of exploitation, and the importance of heritage preservation, the films raise awareness about environmental issues and inspire viewers to become active stewards of the planet.

In an era marked by environmental crises, the National Treasure franchise offers a timely reminder of our collective responsibility to protect and preserve the natural world for future generations. By embedding environmental themes within its captivating storylines, the franchise encourages viewers to reflect on their own relationship with nature and inspires them to make choices that support a sustainable future.



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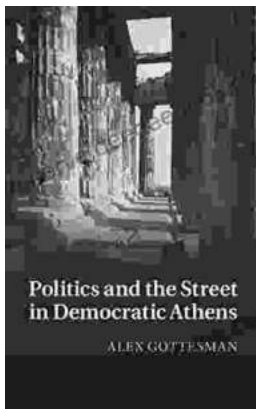
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