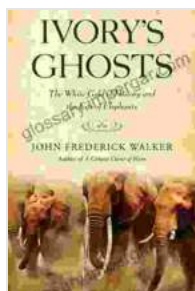


# The White Gold of History and the Fate of Elephants

Ivory, a substance derived from the tusks of elephants, has captivated humans for centuries. Its beauty, durability, and cultural significance have made it a highly sought-after material, leading to both its widespread use and the exploitation of elephants.

## A History of Ivory

Ivory has been used by humans for thousands of years. Its earliest known uses date back to the Paleolithic era, where it was used to create tools, weapons, and ornaments. In ancient Egypt, ivory was highly valued for its religious and cultural significance. It was used in the construction of temples, the creation of statues of gods and goddesses, and the production of jewelry and other luxury items. Ivory was also prized in ancient Greece, Rome, China, and India, where it was used in a variety of artistic and decorative applications.



## Ivory's Ghosts: The White Gold of History and the Fate of Elephants

by John Frederick Walker

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 903 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 371 pages  
Lending : Enabled



During the Middle Ages, ivory continued to be used extensively in Europe, particularly in the production of religious objects. It was also used in the manufacture of combs, mirrors, and other personal items. In the 16th century, the demand for ivory increased significantly as a result of the European colonization of Africa and Asia. Ivory became a major export commodity, and its use in the production of luxury goods reached its peak.

### **The Impact of Ivory Trade on Elephants**

The high demand for ivory has had a devastating impact on elephant populations. Elephants are killed for their tusks, which are removed and sold on the black market. This poaching has led to a dramatic decline in elephant numbers, and some populations are now on the brink of extinction.

In addition to the direct impact on elephants, ivory poaching also has a number of other negative consequences. It disrupts ecosystem dynamics, as elephants play a vital role in seed dispersal, habitat creation, and waterhole maintenance. It also contributes to conflict between humans and elephants, as people are increasingly forced to protect their crops and property from elephants that have been displaced or orphaned as a result of poaching.

### **The Fight to Stop Ivory Poaching**

Recognizing the devastating impact of ivory poaching, governments and conservation organizations around the world are working to stop the illegal

trade in ivory. This includes efforts to strengthen law enforcement, reduce demand for ivory, and provide support for elephant conservation.

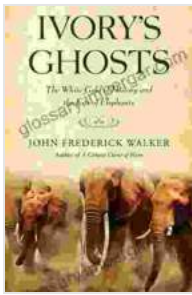
In 1989, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) banned the international trade in ivory. This ban has been successful in reducing the legal trade in ivory, but it has not stopped the illegal trade. In recent years, there has been an increase in the illegal trade in ivory, fueled by demand from Asia, particularly China.

To combat the illegal ivory trade, governments and conservation organizations are working to strengthen law enforcement efforts. This includes increasing patrols in protected areas, establishing anti-poaching units, and training law enforcement officers in the detection and investigation of wildlife crime.

Reducing demand for ivory is another key strategy in the fight against poaching. This involves raising awareness about the impact of ivory consumption on elephants, and encouraging people to make ethical choices when purchasing products that may contain ivory.

Elephants are magnificent creatures that play a vital role in our ecosystems. Protecting them from poaching is essential for their survival and for the health of our planet. By working together, we can end the ivory trade and ensure a future for elephants.

Ivory is a beautiful and valuable substance, but its acquisition has come at a great cost to elephants. The ivory trade has had a devastating impact on elephant populations, and it continues to threaten their survival. By working together, we can end the ivory trade and ensure a future for elephants.



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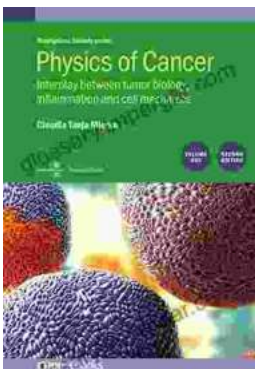
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