

# LAST STAND: Ted Turner's Quest to Save a Troubled Planet

## ADVANCE PRAISE for *Last Stand*

"LAST STAND is a great literary portrait of the many parts of a fascinating and important man – Ted Turner. Ted is on a mission to save the world and the world should be grateful to have an energetic and imaginative friend."

**—Tom Brokaw, lead anchor emeritus NBC News and author of "The Greatest Generation"**

"Ted Turner is one of the great originals of American history, an innovator of the first rank, and, as LAST STAND shows, a unique human innovation of his own making. Out of his many achievements, the most important may be the proof that capitalism and environmentalism can be joined to major humanitarian effect."

**—Edward O. Wilson, University Research Professor Emeritus, Harvard University and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner**

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## KURKIS REVIEW for *Last Stand*

Journalist Wilkinson (*Science Under Siege: The Politicians' War on Nature and Truth*, 1998) explores the back story of Ted Turner's evolution from media mogul and devotee of Ayn Rand to the most successful and influential green capitalist in the world.

The author unravels Turner's motives behind his involvement with the United Nations, his anti-nuclear stance, and his love of buffalos and prairie dogs, and he probes Turner's troubled family history through his early years as a striving businessman and media tycoon, revealing little-known facets of Turner's complex life. Wilkinson constructs his narrative around interviews with Turner, his family and the multitude of individuals who have dealt with Turner. But the heart of the story chronicles Turner's evolving environmental consciousness, spurred on by his purchase of Hope Plantation in South Carolina in 1976. In 1987, he purchased his first ranch in Montana. Today, his "portfolio of land covers fifteen ranches, five plantations in the Deep South, a coastal barrier island, a trio of estancias in Argentina's Patagonia, a scattering of residential retreats, and an office building...in Atlanta." Turner's famed buffalo herd now stands at around 56,000 animals, making it the largest ever maintained by one person. Under the auspices of the Turner Endangered Species Fund, a wide variety of at risk-species have gained protection on Turner's private holdings, and he has lent support for wildlife research around the globe. "[His] lands function as fountainheads of life," Wilkinson writes. Turner's burgeoning social and environmental ventures are based on his belief in the "triple bottom line," a combination of "financial balance sheets, protection of the environment, and benefits to local and larger communities."

A well-wrought portrait of a visionary side of Ted Turner that may be unfamiliar to many readers.

## **BookList Review for *Last Stand***

If Ted Turner were a superhero, as befits the extraordinary daring and scope of his singular, under-the-radar achievements, his powers would involve shape-shifting, controversy-igniting, strategic charisma, and making and giving away epic sums of money. Turner's philanthropic innovation and zeal led him to fund the work of his great mentor, Jacques Cousteau; bolster the UN; found an organization devoted to eliminating nuclear weapons; support clean water and sustainable energy initiatives; and restore and preserve vast ecosystems and diverse endangered species. Journalist Wilkinson first interviewed Turner in 1992, when the ecohumanitarian, a restless man of high curiosity, "expansive thinking," and bold action, was newly married to Jane Fonda and busy with his now-famous bison herd on his majestic Montana ranch. For all his telegenic brashness, Turner is profoundly private. But he came to trust Wilkinson, and the result is this diligently detailed, keenly interpreted, and jaw-dropping portrait of a smart, prescient, independent man hard-driven by sorrow and passionately committed to doing lasting good in the world on as large a scale as possible. Wilkinson is the first to disclose the tragic story of Turner and his father and how the solace Turner has always found in nature, coupled with his momentous realization that "he could only save himself by helping others," inspires his phenomenal, world-altering environmental efforts. — *Donna Seaman*