

title **Water Wars – Drought, Flood, Folly, and the Politics of Thirst**

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also runs a nonprofit organization with her husband; lives in New York

category World water issues

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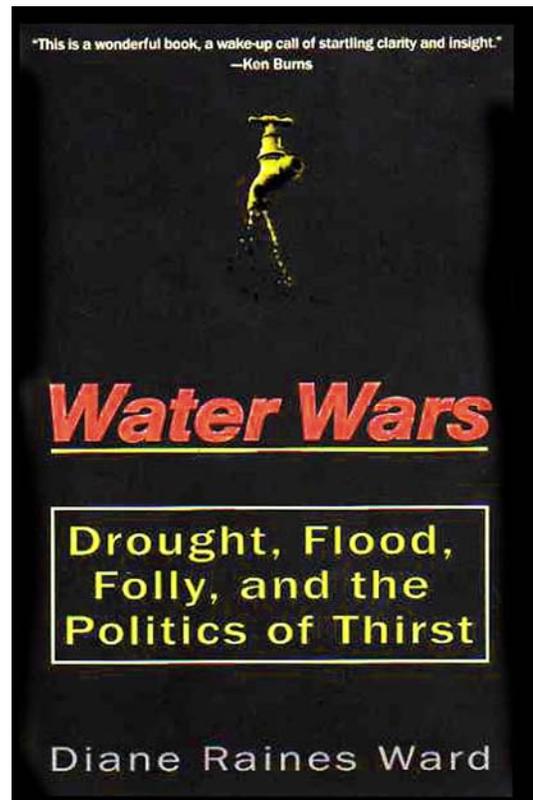
pages
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<http://us.penguin.com/static/html/riverhead/index.html>

who should be interested in this book?
Readers interested in an overview of world water issues with specific areas detailed, including views of local water users.

why read this book?

This book has a good coverage of such areas as water management in the Netherlands and Venice; development in the Australian Snowy Mountains; water issues in Brazil, India, Pakistan and China; dams and irrigation in Wyoming; and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Many interesting personal stories are included.



Book Overview by Lance Brown, vistadelsol@telus.net

This book, while similar to other reviews of world water issues, covers a number of areas with specifics not given elsewhere. Ward gives an interesting outline of the ocean-rise / land subsidence issue in the Netherlands and Venice, the Tennessee Valley Authority unique history, and development in Australia. Personal accounts of water issues add greatly to this book.

Detailed chapter notes and an extensive bibliography for further reading are provided.

Introduction; Eight Chapters & Epilogue; Points of Interest

Introduction – *Sweet Water*

Chapter 1 *Hold Back the Sea – Climate Shock and Rising Waters*

- a short history of water control in the Netherlands (“God created the world, but the Dutch created Holland”) and Venice: both are sinking as the oceans rise

Chapter 2 *A Sin of Scale – The Great Projects*

- dam construction; 1600 large dams now being built (2002)
- “water cannot be left to itself”
- India, Egypt (Sir William Willcocks), USA

Chapter 3 *A Thousand Valleys – River Basins and Utopian Dreams*

- Tennessee valley & the TVA (David Lilienthal), India & Pakistan

Chapter 4 *Dry, Drier, Driest – Greening the Desert*

- irrigation in Wyoming, Pakistan and India

Chapter 5 *Predicaments – Power and Water*

- Australia Snowy Mountains development, hydroelectricity energy
- Brazilian dams and methane gas production due to flooded vegetation

Chapter 6 *Raging Rivers – Living in the Floodplains*

- Bangladesh, Mississippi River, China

Chapter 7 *The Wars*

- Turkey, Nile River, Israel
- international water law and treaties

Chapter 8 *Praying for Rain*

- review of water projects, new water ideas

Epilogue *The Everglades*

- drained, made a National Park, reversing engineering works (Marjory Douglas)

Notes, Glossary and Abbreviations, Selected Bibliography by Subject, Acknowledgements, Index

[other reviews](#)

Detroit Free-Press

Thorough and thoughtful.

Ken Burns, producer/director of the "Civil War", "Baseball", and "Jazz" documentaries
Riveting...I will never turn on the tap again without thinking about where the water comes from and where it goes.

The Baltimore Sun

Clear, jargon free...comprehensive.

Environmental News

A wonderful book [with] splendid insight.

Ottawa Citizen

Important [and] impressive.

Book Description

Every day, we hear alarming news about droughts, pollution, population growth, and climate change-which threaten to make water, even more than oil, the cause of war within our lifetime. Diane Raines Ward reaches beyond the headlines to illuminate our most vexing problems and tells the stories of those working to solve them: hydrologists, politicians, engineers, and everyday people. Based on ten years of research spanning five continents, *Water Wars* offers fresh insight into a subject to which our fate is inextricably bound.