



Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization

By Steven Solomon

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“I read this wide-ranging and thoughtful book while sitting on the banks of the Ganges near Varanasi—it’s a river already badly polluted, and now threatened by the melting of the loss of the glaciers at its source to global warming. Four hundred million people depend on it, and there’s no backup plan. As Steven Solomon makes clear, the same is true the world over; this volume will give you the background to understand the forces that will drive much of 21st century history.” —Bill McKibben

In *Water*, esteemed journalist Steven Solomon describes a terrifying—and all too real—world in which access to fresh water has replaced oil as the primary cause of global conflicts that increasingly emanate from drought-ridden, overpopulated areas of the world. Meticulously researched and undeniably prescient, *Water* is a stunningly clear-eyed action statement on what Robert F Kennedy, Jr. calls “the biggest environmental and political challenge of our time.”

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This sprawling text reconstructs the history of civilization in order to illuminate the importance of water in human development from the first civilizations of the Fertile Crescent and the Indus River Valley to the present. Solomon (*The Confidence Game*) advances a persuasive argument: the prosperity of nations and empires has depended on their access to water and their ability to harness water resources. The story he tells is familiar, but his emphasis on water is unique: he shows how the Nile's flood patterns determined political unity and dynastic collapses in Egypt. He suggests that the construction of China's Grand Canal made possible a sixth-century reunification that eluded the Roman Empire. Finally, he attributes America's rise to superpower status to such 20th-century water innovations as the Panama Canal and Hoover Dam. Solomon surveys the current state of the world's water resources by region, making a compelling case that the U.S. and other leading democracies have untapped strategic advantages that will only become more significant as water becomes scarcer. (Feb.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Solomon's unprecedented, all-encompassing, and resounding inquiry into the science and politics of water is predicated on two incontrovertible yet disregarded facts: water is essential to life and civilization. After elucidating water's defining role in the planet's climate and quantifying the earth's limited supply of freshwater, Solomon describes in vivid detail the water technologies of the ancient river societies of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Assyria. On to Rome and its world-altering aqueducts and advanced sanitation, a crucial subject covered in depth when Solomon turns to nineteenth-century London, after telling the fascinating story of China's bold and transforming waterworks. By the time Solomon reaches America and its water-powered industrialization, it becomes clear that the technological marvels of one era deliver the environmental challenges of the next. The triumphs of water harnessed, therefore, give way to accounts of water polluted and squandered. Solomon shares sobering revelations about the harsh disparities between the lives of those who have water and those who don't, reports on the cruel consequences of today's water scarcities, and assesses the potential for a nightmarish impending freshwater famine. Seeking to inspire us to place a higher value on water and establish wiser approaches to its use, Solomon has created a brilliantly discursive and compelling epic of humankind and earth's most vital and precious resource. --Donna Seaman

Review

"This volume will give you the background to understand the forces that will drive much of 21st century history."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eva Byrd:

This Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization usually are reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The reason of this Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization can be one of many great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed you with information that maybe will shock your preceding knowledge. This book

will be handy, you can bring it almost everywhere and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed versions. Beside that this Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization forcing you to have an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

Joyce Jacobs:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to study? May be the book with the name Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization suitable to you? Often the book was written by popular writer in this era. The particular book untitled Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilizationis the one of several books this everyone read now. This book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new age that you ever know previous to. The author explained their idea in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this e-book. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world within this book.

Cami Raley:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization, you can enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Madeline Cecil:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended for your requirements is Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization this publication consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. That book was represented how can the world has grown up. The language styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some analysis when he makes this book. That's why this book suited all of you.

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