

Delve Deeper into "Thirst"

A film by Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Lynn Whitehouse of the San Diego Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Thirst" that premieres on July 13th, 2004 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings)

Global corporations are rapidly buying up local water supplies, and communities face losing control of one of their most precious resources. Looking at tensions in Bolivia, India and Stockton, California, "Thirst" reveals how water is becoming the catalyst for explosive community resistance to globalization. Focusing on one of the 21st century's greatest issues, this film is a piercing look at the conflict between public stewardship and private profit, where activists claim that water is a human right and corporations declare it a commodity.

ADULT NONFICTION

Cassuto, David N. *Dripping Dry: Literature, Politics, and Water in the Desert Southwest*. University of Michigan Press, 2001.

The Birth of the Hydraulic Conflict -- River Wars: Los Angeles, the Owens Valley, and Mary Austin's The Ford -- Turning Wine into Water: Water's Crucial Absence in The Grapes of Wrath -- Waging Water: Hydrology Versus Mythology in The Monkey Wrench Gang -- The Environmental System: Animal Dreams and the Rhetoric of Environment -- Imaging Sustainability.

Diar, Ariel. *Institutional Economics of Water. A Cross-Country Analysis of Institutions and Performance*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2004.

Finger, Matthias. *Water Privatization: Trans-National Corporations and the Re-Regulation of the Water Industry*. Routledge, 2003.

The accelerated program of global privatization and deregulation in the provision of water and wastewater services presents a minefield of issues for the industry professional at all levels. Setting the scene with a thorough introduction to water resource issues, the book provides a balanced analysis of existing scenarios with transnational corporations in a service provision role, objectively highlighting the strengths and weaknesses in each case. Drawing on best practice from hard won experience the author provides frameworks and mechanisms of regulation, which can be applied in the developed, and developing worlds.

Fluid Arguments: Five Centuries of Western Water Conflict. University of Arizona Press, 2001.

This book sets contemporary and often bitter debates over water in their historical contexts by examining some of the most contentious issues that have confronted the region over five centuries. Seventeen contributors -- representing history, geography, ethnography, political science, law, and urban studies -- provide an interdisciplinary perspective on the many dimensions of water in the West: Spanish colonial water law, Native American water rights, agricultural concerns, and dam building. A concluding essay looks toward the future by examining the impact of cities on water and of water marketing on the western economy.

As farmers and ranchers from Kansas to California compete for water with powerful urban economies, the West will continue to be reshaped by this scarce and precious resource. Fluid Arguments clearly shows that many of the current disputes over water take place without a real appreciation for the long history of the debate. By shedding new light on how water allocation is established -- and who controls it -- this book makes a vital contribution to our understanding of water and growth in the region.

Gottlieb, Robert. *A Life of Its Own: The Politics and Power of Water in California*. Harcourt, 1991.

*Concern and disputes over water have shifted from control of quantity to control of its quality, explains Gottlieb, member of the Metropolitan Water Board of Southern California and coauthor of *Empires in the Sun*, in a revealing study of the private water industry and public agencies that play a crucial role in economics and politics. The author analyzes how policies affect crop selection, production, labor and land values along with abuses created by vast new government-subsidized irrigation systems. While agriculture and growing urban centers competed for water and power resources, the pollution by sewage, pesticides and industrial contaminants of surface and ground water in urban and rural areas that endangers them both gave rise in the 1970s to a powerful environmental movement that opposes Army Engineers Corps projects, over-exploitation of river systems such as the Colorado, and supports clean water laws to regulate water systems taken over by municipalities from private companies. The results of ongoing debates between private profit and public interest groups over the future of water policy, Gottlieb stresses, will largely determine our environmental priorities.*

Gottlieb, Robert. *Thirst for Growth: Water Agencies as Hidden Government in California*. University of Arizona Press, 1994.

An overview of the key issues of public accountability and water policy innovation that confront urban and agricultural water agencies throughout the country-- notably in California where the prospects for future water development have become especially problematic.

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McDonald, Bernadette. *Whose Water Is It?: The Unquenchable Thirst of a Water-Hungry World.* National Geographic Society, 2003.

In this book, 14 prominent environmental writers address every aspect of the looming crisis. They explore the paradox that, on a blue planet like ours, little of that resource is actually available for use, and offer alarming and persuasive evidence that we are using what we have much faster than it can be replenished -- a problem that will only grow worse as the global population grows and the rate of climate change and airborne pollution quickens. They show the dire consequences of current trends, from desertification to epidemic disease to increasingly bitter battles over who "owns" water and how to apportion our dwindling supply.

National Research Council. *Privatization of Water Services in the United States: An Assessment of Issues and Experience.* National Academy Press, 2001.

Drafted by a committee of industry experts, representatives of water industry associations, government officials, journalists, and academics, this report covers the basic issues surrounding water service privatization. It discusses the various forms of privatization, the pressures driving it, the complications and costs, countervailing factors, and the likelihood of its widespread implementation. Charts, graphs, and maps represent significant data. A case study of the British experience with privatization is included, though there does not seem to be any discussion of the widespread resistance privatization schemes have met with in the Third World, or the reduction of services accompanying their implementation there.

Pearce, Fred. *Keepers of the Spring: Reclaiming Our Water in an Age of Globalization.* Island Press, 2004.

Petrella, Riccardo. *The Water Manifesto: Arguments for a World Water Contract.* Zed Books, 2001.

This book sets contemporary and often bitter debates over water in their historical contexts by examining some of the most contentious issues that have confronted the region over five centuries. Seventeen contributors -- representing history, geography, ethnography, political science, law, and urban studies -- provide an interdisciplinary perspective on the many dimensions of water in the West: Spanish colonial water law, Native American water rights, agricultural concerns, and dam building. A concluding essay looks toward the future by examining the impact of cities on water and of water marketing on the western economy.

As farmers and ranchers from Kansas to California compete for water with powerful urban economies, the West will continue to be reshaped by this scarce and precious resource. Fluid Arguments clearly shows that many of the current disputes over water take place without a real appreciation for the long history of the debate. By shedding new light on how water allocation is established -- and who controls it -- this book makes a vital contribution to our understanding of water and growth in the region.

Spulber, Nicolas. *Economics of Water Resources: From Regulation to Privatization.* Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1997.

Probes the fundamental concepts concerning the regulation and privatization of water resources, of water pricing, of public policies concerning the allocation of water supplies.

Strang, Veronica. *The Meaning of Water.* Berg Publishers, 2004.

Water is the most valuable of our natural resources. It is, however, predicted that an alarming percentage of major cities are going to be running short of it in the next decade. How will this rising demand for water be met? What are the implications of climate change? And what drives a quarter of the population to drink bottled water rather than tap water? This book takes an in-depth look at the myriad meanings of water, from the political and environmental to the societal and spiritual. It explores the controversies surrounding water policy and management, such as the effects of water company privatization. The topical nature of these issues and their global relevance make this book a vital contribution to contemporary research on water and an essential read for anyone with an interest in one of the world's most important and contested resources.

***Water in the West: A High Country News Reader.* Oregon State University Press, 2000.**

Reprints 48 articles from the Paonia, Colorado biweekly newspaper reporting on specific events and general trends relating to the American west's most precious material. They begin with an account of the 1983 Colorado River floods that nearly destroyed Glen Canyon Dam and proceed through the water quests of Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Denver, Phoenix, and Tucson. Other articles concern the salmon crisis, federal and urban water projects, Native American water rights, watershed restoration, and water management.

Yaronper, Gil. *Final Frontier: A Working Paper on the Big 20 Global Water Corporations and the Privatization of the World's Last Public Resource.* Diane Publishing Co., 2000.

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ADULT FICTION

Joynes, Monty Leger. *Dead Water Rites: A Novel*. Hampton Roads Publishing Company, 2000.

The water -- which comes naturally from the earth and sky, the priceless compound of elements that forms and supports life -- is dying. Warned in a vision, the tribal elder of the pueblo sends his chose one to discover the fate of the precious life source. That man is Anglo, formerly known as Winn Conover, a white man who share the work and vision of the tribe, Anglo must discover the true spiritual nature of the water in order to save it from encroaching land developers.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Asch, Frank. *Water*. Harcourt, 1995.

*Water is beautiful and useful and, in its many forms, vital to life. In this lyrical companion to *The Earth and I*, Frank Asch encourages young readers to appreciate anew one of our most precious resources.*

Ocko, Stephanie. *Water: Almost Enough for Everyone*. Simon & Schuster, 1995.

One day the people of Redding, Iowa, turned on their spigots and nothing came out. Thirty-eight of the town's 40 wells had dried up. Unfortunately, Redding is not the only community ever to face a lack of water. Here is an in-depth look at the many reasons there is not enough water for everyone, as well as the social and environmental implications of water shortages.

Weninger, Brigitte. *Precious Water: A Book of Thanks*. North-South Books, 2002.

*In simple words, accompanied by vivid pictures, a young girl celebrates our most precious natural resource -- water. She describes the sources of water, its importance to all living things, and expresses her gratitude for this gift from nature. A companion volume to *Little Apple*.*

VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES FOR YOUNGER VIEWERS

***All About Natural Resources*. Schlessinger Media, 2000.**

Children learn what makes some natural resources renewable and others nonrenewable. Shows children how they can build their own simple water treatment.

***All About the Water Cycle*. Schlessinger Media, 2000.**

Children discover the process by which the Earth's water supply has been recycled over millions of years, centering on the three stages: evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.

***Ecosystems for Children*. Schlessinger Media, 2001.**

All about water ecosystems.