

The Great Thirst Californians And Water A History Revised Edition

The Great ThirstThe Great ThirstThe Great ThirstCalifornia Greenin'Blue RevolutionCalifornians and Water. Development, Problems, and ProspectsThe Battle Over Hetch HetchyThe CaliforniansEmpowering the WestBay Cities and Water PoliticsUnruly RiverCaliforniaCalifornia and CaliforniansBig Sky RiversThe Fall and Rise of the Wetlands of California's Great Central ValleySouthern California QuarterlyCalifornia 2025The History of Large Federal DamsCalifornia HistoryResearch & Exploration Norris Hundley Norris Hundley (Jr.) Norris Hundley (Jr.) David Vogel Cynthia Barnett Julia Trede Robert W. Righter Jay L. Brigham Sarah S. Elkind Robert Kelley Schneiders James J. Rawls Nellie Van de Grift Sanchez Robert Kelley Schneiders Philip Frank Garone Ellen Hanak David P. Billington
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the story of the great thirst is brought up to date in this revised edition of norris hundley s outstanding history with additional photographs and incisive descriptions of the major water policy issues facing california now accelerating urbanization of farmland and open spaces persisting despoliation of water supplies and demands for equity in water allocation for an exploding population people the world over confront these problems and hundley examines them with clarity and eloquence in the unruly laboratory of california the obsession with water has shaped california to a remarkable extent literally as well as politically and culturally hundley tells how aboriginal americans and then early spanish and mexican immigrants contrived to use and share the available water and how american settlers arriving in ever increasing numbers after the gold rush transformed california into the home of the nation s preeminent water seekers the desire to use profit from manipulate and control water drives the people and events in this fascinating narrative until by the end of the twentieth century a large colorful cast of characters and communities has wheeled and dealed built diverted and connived its way to an entirely different statewide waterscape

early spanish and mexican immigrants although they exploited water supplies on a large scale for their settlements considered water a community resource not to be monopolized by anyone it was the americans arriving in ever increasing numbers after the gold rush who transformed california into a collection of the nation s preeminent water seekers by the late twentieth century a large colorful cast of characters and communities had wheeled and dealed built diverted and connived their way to an entirely different california waterscape the results are presented not sensationaly but soberingly one of hundley s most important contributions to california water history besides creating a clear engrossing narrative of its intricacies is to demolish the image of a monolithic water empire managed by a coercive elite

this first comprehensive look at california s history of environmental leadership shows why the golden state has been at the forefront in setting new environmental standards often leading the rest of the nation

americans see water as abundant and cheap we turn on the faucet and out it gushes for less than a penny a gallon we use more water than any other culture in the world much to quench what s now our largest crop the lawn yet most americans cannot name the river or aquifer that flows to our taps irrigates our food and produces our electricity and most don t realize these freshwater sources are in deep trouble blue revolution exposes the truth about the water crisis driven not as much by lawn sprinklers as by a tradition that has encouraged everyone from homeowners to farmers to utilities to tap more and more but the book also offers much reason for hope award winning journalist cynthia barnett argues that the best solution is also the simplest and least expensive a water ethic for america just as the green movement helped build awareness about energy and sustainability so a blue movement will reconnect americans to their water helping us value and conserve our most life giving resource avoiding past mistakes living within our water means and turning to local water as we do local foods are all part of this new blue revolution reporting from across the country and around the globe barnett shows how people businesses and governments have come together to dramatically reduce water use and reverse the water crisis entire metro areas such as san antonio texas have halved per capita water use singapore s closed water loop recycles every drop new technologies can slash agricultural irrigation in half businesses can save a lot of water and a lot of money with designs as simple as recycling air conditioning condensate the first book to call for a national water ethic blue revolution is also a powerful meditation on water and community in america

seminar paper from the year 2013 in the subject american studies culture and applied geography grade 1 3 university of kassel language english abstract water in california is a political issue it is always in the wrong place at the wrong time in springtime when there is enough precipitation the snowmelt from the sierra nevada floods valleys and fields and during summer when farmers need the water the land is dry additionally the north commands over three quarters of the water while the south consumes 80 of it therefore the state pumps water from a gigantic basin called the sacramento san joaquin river delta to the thirsty south this was not invariably the case four hundred years ago when native californians

inhabited California its waterscape differed markedly from that of today's and changed significantly while undergoing the Spanish conquest and the American takeover after recognizing the value of water a fight over water emerged still leading political debates today this research paper deals with California's and water examining problems developments and prospects of water distribution and consumption it provides an overview of the history of California's waterscape and its manipulation by different races the first chapter deals with the native Californians and their reception of nature followed by the Spanish who brought a completely different set of values to the country and finally the American conquest introducing a new era of water consumption these elaborations are based on Norris Hundley's comprehensive work *The Great Thirst: Californians and Water* as it provides incisive descriptions and explanations encompassing two centuries of water problems in California the second chapter illustrates California's water use and explains the different sectors trying to examine where the highest amount of water is being consumed the distribution of water and different water projects are subject to the third chapter this paragraph explains the Central Valley Project such as the State Water Project and identifies problems and consequences subsequently problems of California's water supply are highlighted and possible solutions are elaborated chapters 2-5 are based on information provided by the Department of Water Resources which provides a detailed schedule of annual water plan updates on its website

publisher description

Westerners were at the forefront of the debate over electric power development even before the construction of large federally owned dams in the 1930s at the heart of this debate was a conflict between public power advocates and the private utility industry over control of the environment a struggle that was played out in the political arena in this book Jay Brigham describes that rivalry in the West in the years before the New Deal focusing on the conservative city of Los Angeles and its liberal counterpart Seattle as well as on several small towns in the Midwest Brigham shows how fierce battles broke out as private and public systems competed for customers and how despite the differences between these two cities public power ultimately triumphed in each

combining insights from urban western and environmental history Elkind examines the ways that people's reactions to their natural surroundings drive both demand for improved public services and political reform she traces public works development in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era to explain how these programs united each city with its suburban neighbors creating new political entities and allowing Boston and Oakland to appropriate rural resources and thus overcome the environmental limits to their continued growth and prosperity she also shows how when the power of regionalism is turned to urban development environmental and social costs are sometimes overlooked

this text takes a long historical view to reconstruct the Missouri Valley environment before Euro-American settlement and then trace the

environmental transformations resulting from the development projects of the 19th and 20th centuries

the best selling text in california history today james rawls comprehensive interpretive approach has engaged professors and students in discussion and analysis of the most populous and economically powerful state in the u s for over 25 years

to frame his story schneiders goes back to the nineteenth century journals of fur traders and settlers and in the record of flora fauna floods and human activity he finds evidence of rapid and disruptive change bison once had the greatest influence on the land and schneiders depicts an original bison and indian trail networks on which were overlaid the first torts and towns and then the railroads highways and reservoirs that reconfigured the region forever

explores the story of federal contributions to dam planning design and construction

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Introduction

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