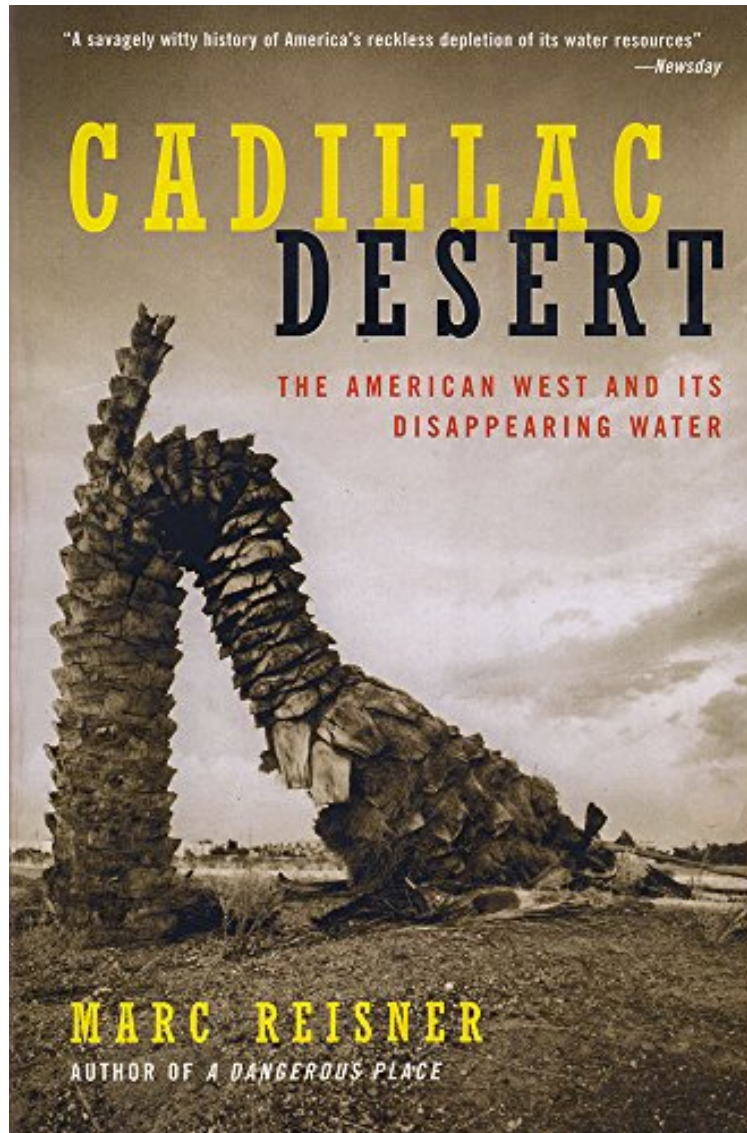


Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water, Revised Edition

Marc Reisner

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#12365 in Books Penguin (Non-Classics) 1993-01-01 1993-06-01 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Original language: English PDF # 1 8.40 x 1.02 x 5.401, 1.05 #File Name: 0140178244608 pages history of the water wars in the western US | File size: 62.Mb

Marc Reisner : Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water, Revised Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water, Revised Edition:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very relevant to today's continuing water issues By Thomas R.

Bodenlos There was a time when installing dams was thought to be the solution to bringing water security to areas of the U.S., but it came with unintended consequences: destruction of natural fisheries, increased salt content in water, build ups of silt reducing the storage capacity of dams and the ridiculously low rates which water has been sold by our government prompting farmers and ranch owners to waste massive amounts of water on crops and livestock that should have had no economic reason to have occurred. In addition these dams creating reasons for large landowners to pump underground waters out of the earth at such a level that is in no way sustainable into the near future. Currently California is in a historic drought and states whose water supply come from the Colorado River are under stress as well due to lower water levels. This book should be read to understand the unintended effects of public policy and hopefully to see some ways public policy might be altered to correct some drawbacks that had been created in earlier times now that we though this book and other sources know changes need to be made. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Water crisis, a continuing story everyone should know By Bayard C. Hillway The late Marc Reisner spells it out, how various interests, public and private, fell into a pattern of getting the American taxpayer to foot the bill for decades of water development projects, many unnecessary, that justified the continuing existence and expansion of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The financial books were virtually always cooked, showing that farmers in the San Joaquin Valley, for example, received a continuous flow of water, virtually free, somehow avoiding paying the fees indicated in the original development contract. The projects were often tied to members of Congress who could point to their bringing in federal money for jobs, and water for irrigation and development. Reisner tracks the inside deals, the blatant disregard for contractual promises, and the destruction of natural treasures and prime farm land under the philosophy that no river is a good river until every possible dam has been built. Reading Cadillac Desert informs and allows the reader to be able to understand the machinations still in play that largely benefit the few, who often become incredibly wealthy, at the expense of everyone else. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Everyone should read By anonymous I understand it has a certain subjective slant, but the details in the book make the case how broken public works can be in the hands of Congress or government in general. It does give credit for some of the water development projects, and is generally fair in the pros and cons. The excess and the corruption shown in this book however is undeniable, along with the ability of those with power to ignore, deny, or make up facts as necessary to have a water project (no matter the cost) which both the bureaucracy and politicians need for their lifeblood. It will probably make you angry or sick, but the stupidity will ring true as you understand the motivations involved. Good book, but understand that it is long and detailed.

"The definitive work on the West's water crisis." --Newsweek The story of the American West is the story of a relentless quest for a precious resource: water. It is a tale of rivers diverted and dammed, of political corruption and intrigue, of billion-dollar battles over water rights, of ecological and economic disaster. In his landmark book, Cadillac Desert, Marc Reisner writes of the earliest settlers, lured by the promise of paradise, and of the ruthless tactics employed by Los Angeles politicians and business interests to ensure the city's growth. He documents the bitter rivalry between two government giants, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in the competition to transform the West. Based on more than a decade of research, Cadillac Desert is a stunning expose and a dramatic, intriguing history of the creation of an Eden--an Eden that may only be a mirage.

.com The definitive history of water resources in the American West, and a very illuminating lesson in the political economy of limited resources anywhere. Highly recommended! "Masterful. . . Among the most influential environmental books published by an American since Silent Spring."--San Francisco Examiner "Essential background reading for anyone who cares about the drought ravaging the West and the region's prospects for changing course before it is too late."--Mark Hertsgaard, The Daily Beast "Timely and of national interest. . . . Resner captures Western water history in Cinemascope and Technicolor. . . . lawmakers, taxpayers, hurry up and read this book."--The Washington Post "The scale of this book is as staggering as that of Hoover Dam. Beautifully written and meticulously researched, it spans our century-long effort to moisten the arid West. . . . Anyone thinking of moving west of the hundredth meridian should read this book before they call their real estate agent."--St. Louis Post-Dispatch "A revealing, absorbing, often amusing and alarming report on where billions of [taxpayers'] dollars have gone-- and where a lot more are going . . . [Reisner] has put the story together in trenchant form."--The New York Times Book About the Author Marc Reisner worked for many years at the Natural Resources Defense Council. In 1979, he received an Alicia J. Patterson Journalism Fellowship and began the research for Cadillac Desert. He was also the author of Game Wars: The Undercover Pursuit of Wildlife Poachers and A Dangerous Place: California's Unsettling Fate. Resner died in 2000.