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Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis And The Coming Battle For The Right To Water



Synopsis

In a book hailed by Publishers Weekly as a "passionate plea for access to water activism," Blue Covenant addresses an environmental crisis that, together with global warming, poses one of the gravest threats to our survival. How did the world's most vital resource become imperiled? And what must we do to pull back from the brink? In "stark and nearly devastating prose" (Booklist), world-renowned activist and bestselling author Maude Barlow, who is featured in the acclaimed documentary Flow, discusses the state of the world's water. Barlow examines how water companies are reaping vast profits from declining supplies, and how ordinary people from around the world have banded together to reclaim the public's right to clean water, creating a grassroots global water justice movement. While tracing the history of international battles for the right to water, she documents the life-and-death stakes involved in the fight and lays out the actions that we as global citizens must take to secure a water-just world for all. As people around the world turn their attention to the effects of climate change, Blue Covenant is a timely and important reminder for us to take heed of the global water crisis's impact on humans and the natural world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Maude Barlow has written a very readable review of water policy. At first this would not seem like a very exciting topic, but water policy will soon affect all of us as we deplete the supply of accessible

clean water. Ms. Barlow divides her book into five chapters. She starts by explaining the crisis. Basically, with so many humans on the planet, we are managing to deplete or pollute our finite resource of clean water. We are withdrawing water from aquifers at a rate faster than the aquifers can recharge. Through global warming, we are melting the glaciers that provide us with river water. Through carelessness in industry and agriculture, we are polluting the very same water that we drink. In the second chapter, the author describes how a powerful water industry is forming to control these dwindling resources. She gives multiple examples of how the industry is not developing for the betterment of humanity or for fair distribution of water, but to reap profit from the increasingly scarce resource. In the third chapter, she describes the problems with technological fixes such as desalination, water nanotechnology, and cloud seeding. She also emphasizes the ethical and practical problems with bottled water. In the fourth chapter, she discusses some brave activists who are fighting back against the corporate control of our water. She does a good job in covering the activities in multiple continents - the Americas, Asia, Australia, Europe, Africa - and giving concrete examples of activists who have pushed back and won against corporate water interests. Ms. Barlow finishes with a chapter called "The Future of Water." Here she reviews potential sources of conflict over water.

I now realize that this book is a sequel to *Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water* and I will read and review that book next. First off, I am really starting to pay attention to Right Livelihood, the Alternative Nobel that seems to avoid really big mistakes that have characterized the Nobel Peace Prize in recent decades (Kissinger to Obama). I first learned of this award when Herman Daly, conceptualizer of Ecological Economics, spoke at one of my conferences, and now I am going to look into this and post a listing of recipients at Phi Beta Kappa, where all my reviews can be easily exploited across 98 distinct categories, something not possible here at . Up front I will still say that Marq de Villiers's *Water: The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource* is the best book around, along with the *The Water Atlas: A Unique Visual Analysis of the World's Most Critical Resource*. This book joins with *Water Wars: Privatization, Pollution, and Profit* and its own prequel *Blue Gold* (now also coming out as a DVD along with another DVD, *For Love of Water*) to make the case for water as a human right. The book ends with a Blue Covenant in three parts.

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