



Learn More About...

The Global Water Crisis

An Annotated Bibliography

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Web Links

Alliance for the Great Lakes <<http://www.lakemichigan.org/>>

The Alliance works to conserve and restore the world's largest freshwater resource through policy, education and local efforts aimed at preserving the Great Lakes region as a national treasure. It also works with the region's residents, enhancing their understanding of how they can help, too.

Food and Water Watch <www.foodandwaterwatch.org>

A spin-off from Public Citizen's Water for All Campaign, Food & Water Watch challenges the corporate control and abuse of food and water resources by empowering people to take action and by transforming the public consciousness about what we eat and drink. Focus areas include food safety, agriculture, fisheries, and water rights.

Great Lakes Forever <<http://www.greatlakesforever.org/>>

Great Lakes Forever is a public education initiative designed to raise awareness of the value and vulnerability of the Great Lakes. The program, initially launched in 2004 by the Wisconsin-based Biodiversity Project, expanded to Chicago in 2005 with the support of the John G. Shedd Aquarium and other Chicago and regional partners.

Michigan Environmental Council <<http://www.environmentalcouncil.org/>>

The Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) provides a collective voice for the environment at the local, state and federal levels. Membership in member groups total nearly 200,000 residents. MEC addresses issues that affect Michigan's environment, including the state's water legacy. Many of the presentations from the 2004 Smart Growth for Clean Water Conference are available to download from this site.

The Ocean Conservancy <<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=home>>

The Ocean Conservancy promotes healthy and diverse ocean ecosystems and opposes practices that threaten ocean life and human life. Through research, education, and science-based advocacy, The Ocean Conservancy informs, inspires, and empowers people to speak and act on behalf of the oceans.

Union of Concerned Scientists <<http://www.ucsusa.org/greatlakes/>>

This site has the comprehensive report, "Confronting Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region: Impacts on Our Communities and Ecosystems," released by the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Ecological Society of America and written by leading university and government scientists in the Great Lakes region. The report examines the potential impacts of climate change upon the various ecosystems of this diverse and rich region, including the impacts on water resources.

Books

Peter Annin, *Great Lakes Water Wars* (Washington, DC: Island Press, 2006)

The Great Lakes are the largest collection of fresh surface water on earth, and more than 40 million Americans and Canadians live in their basin. Will we divert water from the Great Lakes, causing them to end up like Central Asia's Aral Sea, which has lost 90 percent of its surface area and 75 percent of its volume since 1960? Or will we come to see that unregulated water withdrawals are ultimately catastrophic? Peter Annin writes a fast-paced

account of the people and stories behind these battles. The Great Lakes Water Wars is a balanced, comprehensive look behind the scenes at the conflicts and compromises that are the past-and future-of this globally significant resource.

Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke, *Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water* (London: Earth Scan Publications, 2003).

The world's water supply is fast falling prey to corporate desire for the bottom line, the authors argue. They marshal an impressive amount of evidence that corporate profits are increasingly drinking up precious water resources. In some countries, water has already been privatized, leading to higher rates of consumption and depleted resources. And in other places, poorer residents actually pay more for water than their richer neighbors. The authors cogently argue that water, a basic necessity, should be treated differently from other commodities and not placed into private hands. (Publishers Weekly)

Balanyá Belén, Brid Brennan, Olivier Hoedeman, Satoko Kishimoto and Philipp Terhorst Eds., *Reclaiming Public Water: Achievements, Struggles and Visions from Around the World* (Amsterdam, TNI Publications, 2005).

This book, launched at the 2005 World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, emphasizes that expansion of access to clean water to the poorest happens against major odds, including the continued bias against public utilities in the policies of international financial institutions and donor governments. *Reclaiming Public Water* includes concrete recommendations for creating a more enabling environment for public water supply in developing countries.

Peter H. Gleick, *The World's Water 2004-2005: The Biennial Report on Freshwater Resources* (Washington, DC: Island Press, 2004).

Water continues to dominate the international environmental agenda. This report analyzes the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) regarding the need to reduce unmet basic water supply and sanitation needs in the world's poorest populations; the myth and reality of bottled water; water privatization; groundwater and other topics. The author underlines the global nature of the problem of water and argues for compliance with principles and standards for water services, whether public or private.

World Water Council (Corporate Author), Francois Guerquin, ed., *World Water Actions: Making Water Flow for All* (London: Earth Scan Publications, 2003).

To insure its security today and in the future, water, a limited resource, must be carefully managed for the benefit of all. This report is the result of an inventory of water actions of governments and organizations since the Second World Water Forum in 2000. It demonstrates better ways to use and manage water and water resources, particularly at the community level.

Articles/Papers

David Roberts, "Getting Fresh: A Chat with Freshwater experts Peter Gleick and William K. Reilly," *Grist Magazine*, 30 June 2006 <<http://www.grist.org/news/maindish/2006/06/30/roberts/index.html?source=daily>>

Interview with Peter Gleick (president and cofounder of the Pacific Institute and editor of *The World's Water*, a comprehensive biennial report on the state of the world's freshwater) and William K. Reilly (CEO of Aqua International Partners, chair of the board of the World Wildlife Fund and former head of the EPA under the first President Bush.)

Public Citizen's Water for All Campaign, "Waves of Regret: What Some Cities Have Learned and Other Cities Should Know about Water Privatization Fiascos in the United States," *Public Citizen*, June 2005, <<http://www.citizen.org/documents/Waves.pdf>>

This article uses case studies to explain the problems associated with water privatization efforts in the United States in recent years.

Peter Cook, "Fluid Dynamics: A debate on water privatization, part one," *Grist Magazine*, 9 July 2004 <<http://www.grist.org/comments/soapbox/2004/07/09/cook/index.html>>

Peter Cook, executive director of the National Association of Water Companies, argues in favor of water privatization. NAWC is the only national organization exclusively representing all aspects of the private water

industry, including ownership of regulated drinking water and wastewater utilities and the many forms of public-private partnerships, including management contract arrangements.

Maude Barlow and Sara Ehrhardt, "Wrung Dry: A debate on water privatization, part two," *Grist Magazine*, 12 July 2004, <<http://www.grist.org/comments/soapbox/2004/07/12/barlow/>>

Maude Barlow is the national chairperson of the Council of Canadians, Canada's largest citizens' advocacy organization, and the founder of the Blue Planet Project, which works to stop commodification of the world's water. She is the best-selling author or coauthor of 14 books, including *Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop Corporate Theft of the World's Water*, written with Tony Clarke. Sara Ehrhardt is the national water campaigner of the Council of Canadians, working with community activists to fight water commodification and privatization.

Peter Cook, "The Right to Privacy: A debate on water privatization, part three," *Grist Magazine*, 13 July 2004, <<http://www.grist.org/comments/soapbox/2004/07/13/cook/>>

Maude Barlow and Sara Ehrhardt, "Drink Different: A debate on water privatization, part four," *Grist Magazine*, 14 July 2004, <<http://www.grist.org/comments/soapbox/2004/07/14/barlow/>>

Peter Cook, "Roiling the Waters: A debate on water privatization, part five," *Grist Magazine*, 15 July 2004, <<http://www.grist.org/comments/soapbox/2004/07/15/cook/>>

Maude Barlow and Sara Ehrhardt, "All Wet: A debate on water privatization, part six," *Grist Magazine*, 16 July 2004, <<http://www.grist.org/comments/soapbox/2004/07/16/barlow/>>

Sarah Grusky, "Privatization Tidal Wave: IMF/World Bank Water Policies and the Price Paid by the Poor," *Public Citizen* <http://www.publiccitizen.org/cmep/Water/cmep_Water/wbimf/articles.cfm?ID=7802>

This article discusses the common policy recommendations of the World Bank, along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to increase consumer fees for water and sanitation and force privatization of water utilities. World Bank structural adjustment loans and water and sanitation loans routinely include conditions requiring increased cost recovery, full cost recovery or "economic pricing" for water services. However, increased consumer fees for water can make safe water unaffordable for poor and vulnerable populations.

Melissa Whited, "Gender, Water and Trade," Melissa Whited, *International Gender and Trade Network*, August 2003, <<http://www.coc.org/system/files/gender-water-trade.pdf>>

The article discusses the facts leading up to the conclusion that the most effective way to address the global water crisis is to call for an end to free trade agreements that include essential services. Governments must be empowered to implement water policies that will serve their national needs, rather than being forced to dismantle such policies through free trade agreements.

Archbishop Renato R. Martino, "Water, An Essential Element for Life," *The Vatican*, March 2003, <http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20030322_kyoto-water_en.html>

This article is a contribution of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace of the Holy See to the Third World Water Forum. In the first section some of the fundamental moral principles related to the question of water are laid out, followed by the key problems which governments and the international community have to face today at the social, economic, political and environmental level. In the final section, the right to water is considered.

Periodicals/Newsletters

The Ecologist online <<http://www.theecologist.org/>>

Great Lakes United Newsletter <<http://www.glu.org/en>>

Waterkeeper Alliance e-advocacy campaigns <http://www.waterkeeper.org/>

Audio/Visual

Maude Barlow, "Blue Gold: Water as a Human Right," 30 minute plenary presentation at the 2003 Bioneers Conference. The world is running out of fresh water and we are further threatened by the commodification of the world's water supply by giant corporations.

The Great Lakes. Prod. Hawkhill Associates, 2004 <www.hawkhill.com>

This interactive DVD examines the geology, history and ecology of the largest chain of fresh water lakes in the world. It includes special guided questions and a mastery quiz. 62 minutes.

Rivers and Tides. Prod., Mediopolis Films, 2004

This award-winning film depicts the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy, who has won fame by his ability to transform overlooked natural phenomena into magnificent works of art. Goldsworthy is an extraordinary artist who employs a range of natural materials – leaves, bark, twigs, petals, berries, rock, clay, stones, feathers, snow, ice – to create outdoor sculpture that works instinctively in nature. After seeing this film, you won't think about a stream or a shore in quite the same way.

The Last Drop. Prod. Films for the Humanities and Sciences, 1998

This documentary illustrates how the worsening problem of global water shortage leads to regional political and social conflicts, destruction of economies and famine. Half of the film is devoted to the place of water in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The other half looks at the effective water policies of Namibia in South Africa.

Water: Sacred and Profaned. Prod. Foundation for Global Community, 1998

This program explores the sacred nature of water through the words of six poets and writers (Linda Hogan, Robert Hass, Susan Zwinger, Colin Fletcher, Jennifer Greene and David Whyte) who share their experiences and insights. The film includes compelling images of water in all its forms – clouds, snow, rain, ice, rivers, lakes and oceans – set to the inspiring music of David Foster.

Chinatown. Prod. Long Road, 1974

In this tightly scripted, acted and directed film, water, the access to it and the wealth it provides, is what drives everything and everybody. The movie is set in Los Angeles in the early 1900s, a budding boom town on the brink of victory or decay depending on the city's ongoing access to drinking water. Roman Polanski's acclaimed film noir is a complex detective story built around the subject of water.