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LAST CALL AT THE OASIS

THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS AND WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

Last Call at the Oasis: The Global Water Crisis and Where We Go from Here, Karl Weber, PublicAffairs, 2012, 1610391446, 9781610391443, 248 pages. If there was a price placed on clean water we might start treating it like it has value. Maybe when it's gone we'll realize we can't drink oil or money. Dave Matthews Less than 1 percent of the world's water is fresh and potable and no more will ever be available. Thanks to pollution, global warming, and population growth, water access is poised to become today's most explosive global issue. This book, based on the film Last Call at the Oasis by Academy Award-winning director Jessica Yu, offers insights into the coming water crisis from visionary scientists, policymakers, activists, and environmentalists, including: ROBERT MORAN on how oil and mineral development pollute and divert water supplies often beyond public scrutiny PETER H. GLEICK on discovering the soft path to global water security ROBERT GLENNON on how the power of markets can help protect the world's water LYNN HENNING on how a family farmer became a passionate water activist ALEX PRUD'HOMME on how the water crisis affects us all GARY WHITE on how innovative social and economic strategies can make clean water available even for the world's poorest people HADLEY ARNOLD AND PETER ARNOLD on how arid regions like America's Southwest can wisely husband water supplies for cities and farmers alike ROBYN BEAVERS on how today's smartest businesses are making sustainable water management a competitive advantage ZEM JOAQUIN on nine ecofabulous ways of saving water at home and doing it with style BILL MCDONOUGH on how smart design can preserve water's Endless Resourcefulness for generations to come No resource on earth is more precious or more endangered than water. Last Call at the Oasis is a powerful tool for learning about the water challenges we face as well as the remarkable solutions available to us if we have the will to use them.

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Landscaping Sierra Leone Third Way Politics in the Mould of Attitudinal and Behaviour Change , Michael Nicholas Wundah, 2011, History, 208 pages. .

Crisis in the Global Mediasphere Desire, Displeasure and Cultural Transformation, Jeff Lewis, Jan 15, 2011, , 240 pages. Crisis in the Global Mediasphere examines the evolution of contemporary global crises as an effect of mediation and cultural change. The book argues that a crisis consciousness

Class Conflict The Pursuit and History of American Justice, Gregory C. Leavitt, Mar 27, 2013, History, 262 pages. In a just society the law not only applies to all equally, but also arises from the consent of the people it embraces. As such, justice implies that people have access to

Cuencas internacionales como sistemas de seguridad compleja , Alexander López Ramo, Jan 1, 2007, Water conservation, 309 pages. .

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Intelligence reorganization proposals, 1949-2004 , Richard A. Best, Apr 30, 2005, Political Science, 52 pages. Proposals for the reorganisation of the United States Intelligence Community have repeatedly emerged from commissions and committees created by either the executive or

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UNTITLED PARTICIPANT BOOK ON WATER , PARTICIPANT MEDIA, May 29, 2012, , 288 pages.

Impending Global Water Crisis , Jeevan Nair (ed.), 2009, Water, 252 pages. Two phenomena in conjunction—one natural and the other social—pose the greatest impending threat to life on earth: one, fresh water supplies are limited; and two, the

Making the Most of Scarcity Accountability for Better Water Management Results in the Middle East and North Africa, , 2007, Nature, 235 pages. "While water professionals have been advocating comprehensive water reforms for years and many countries have improved their water policies and institutions, some of the most

Water stress: some symptoms and causes a case study of Ta'iz, Yemen, Chris D. Handley, Aug 1, 2001, , 250 pages. Using a study of the water shortage crisis in Ta'iz, Yemen by way of an illustration, this book assesses water stress in an integrated, interdisciplinary and holistic way, from

Water Resources Management VII , C. A. Brebbia, May 1, 2013, Technology & Engineering, 336 pages. Containing research on recent technological and scientific developments associated with the management of surface and sub-surface water, this book consists of papers presented

Managing water supply shortage interruption vs. pricing, Chi-keung Woo, City Polytechnic of Hong Kong. Dept. of Economics and Finance, 1992, Nature, 26 pages. .

Management of Scarce Water Resources A Middle Eastern Experience, Hazim El-Naser, Jan 1, 2009, Technology & Engineering, 203 pages. The aim of this book is to provide a practical approach to a wide variety of water related topics. These explore the problems that arid and semi-arid countries face in relation

Managing Water Scarcity Experiences and Prospects, A. Vaidyanathan, H. M. Oudshoorn, 2004, Water conservation, 434 pages. The Essays In This Collection Discuss The Sources And Nature Of Water Scarcity And Conflicts In Specific Cases Under Diverse Situations In India, Europe And The Usa, The Manner

Water the warning signs, excerpts from Philippine News and Features, Crossroads Publications, Inc, 1994, Nature, 36 pages. .

Less than 1 percent of the world's water is fresh and potable—and no more will ever be available. Thanks to pollution, global warming, and population growth, water access is poised to become today's most explosive global issue. This book, based on the film Last Call at the Oasis by Academy Award®-winning director Jessica Yu, offers insights into the coming water crisis from visionary scientists, policymakers, activists, and environmentalists, including:

Karl Weber is a writer and editor based in New York. He collaborated with Muhammad Yunus on his bestseller Creating a World Without Poverty, edited The Best of I.F. Stone, and, with Andrew W. Savitz, coauthored The Triple Bottom Line: How Today's Best-Run Companies Are Achieving Economic, Social, and Environmental Success—And How You Can Too. He edited the previous best-selling Participant Media Guides, Food, Inc. and Waiting for "Superman."

The book is excellent, especially the chapter from veteran CAFO fighter Lynn Henning. We here in Saratoga, WI are involved in a similar fight with a planned large CAFO that will take over 1/4 of the land area of our town if successful, so it is good to read about the tactics used by others to fight these irresponsible polluters and water hogs.

Last Call at the Oasis is the book version of the fear-mongering movie of the same name. It is an amazingly bad presentation of groundless assertions of water scarcities occasionally interrupted by

a few good chapters written by intelligent analysts presenting useful ideas. Accordingly, I cannot recommend Last Call at the Oasis.

However, the book does provide a useful opportunity to clear up some popular misconceptions about water issues, which I will do in this review. Reviewing this book also gives me a chance to recommend an article I have written on water supply in this issue of Environment & Climate News (see page 18), which points to some very positive water-related developments on the horizon.

At the very beginning of Last Call at the Oasis, editor Karl Weber shows what a fool he is. The opening chapter, misleadingly titled "Water Realities," should have been titled "Water Absurdities," as nearly every paragraph is fraught with fallacies and lies. The chapter absurdly asserts Las Vegas is doomed due to water scarcity, the nation is running out of water, and pesticides and fracking solutions are causing rampant water pollution. Weber additionally claims human-induced climate change will make all these fictional problems worse.

Water scarcity is poised to become the most explosive issue of our time. Global population is soaring toward the 10 billion mark. Climate change is producing unprecedented droughts as well as devastating flooding. Less than 1 percent of the world's water is fresh and potable—and no more will ever be available.

We can't afford to continue our profligate ways with water. Yet forging reasonable compromises over water regulation is incredibly difficult, as raging controversies and conflicts over water supplies in the American Southwest and "fracking" in the Northeast suggest. "Water wars" may soon threaten the peace in regions from the India/Pakistan border to sub-Saharan Africa to the Middle East.

Firmly establishing the urgency of the global water crisis as the central issue facing our world this century, this documentary illuminates the vital role water plays in our lives, exposes the defects in the current system and shows communities already struggling with its ill-effects. Featuring activist Erin Brockovich, respected water experts including Peter Gleick, Jay Famiglietti and Robert Glennon and social entrepreneurs championing revolutionary solutions, the film posits that we can manage this problem if we are willing to act now.

ROBERT MORAN on how oil and mineral development pollute and divert water supplies—often beyond public scrutiny PETER H. GLEICK on discovering the "soft path" to global water security ROBERT GLENNON on how the power of markets can help protect the world's water LYNN HENNING on how a family farmer became a passionate "water activist" ALEX PRUD'HOMME on how the water crisis affects us all GARY WHITE on how innovative social and economic strategies can make clean water available even for the world's poorest people HADLEY ARNOLD AND PETER ARNOLD on how arid regions like America's Southwest can wisely husband water supplies for cities and farmers alike ROBYN BEAVERS on how today's smartest businesses are making sustainable water management a competitive advantage ZEM JOAQUIN on nine "ecofabulous" ways of saving water at home—and doing it with style BILL MCDONOUGH on how smart design can preserve water's "Endless Resourcefulness" for generations to come

I have not yet seen the documentary, but the book opens the discussion on a vital part of continued existence, drinkable water. We need, as a society to change our paradigm about storing, transporting and using fresh water. The book includes easy changes to make at home with minor adjustments on our part. These changes need to be made now before our fresh water supplies are no longer redeemable.

Karl Weber, president of Karl Weber Literary, is a writer, editor, and book developer with over twenty-five years' experience in the book publishing industry. He is an expert in general-interest non-fiction publishing, specializing in topics from business and personal finance to politics, current affairs, history, autobiography, self-help, and personal development.

Weber's recent projects include the New York Times bestseller *Creating a World Without Poverty*, co-authored with Muhammad Yunus, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize (2008) and its sequel, *Building Social Business* (2010); the New York Times number one best seller *What Happened: Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception* by Scott McClellan (2008), which Weber edited; and two best-selling companion books to acclaimed documentary films, *Food Inc.* (2009) and *Waiting for 'Superman'* (2010), both of which Weber edited. (less)

The mission of *Last Call at the Oasis* (and the eponymous companion movie) is to take average citizens on a longer journey from the snow packs of California mountains to the public water taps of Indian slums and to pose the question: "How have we humans allowed ourselves to reach such a crisis point with one of the most vital necessities of life?"

It's a massive undertaking that occasionally stumbles due to the sheer size of its subject, but both newbies coming fresh to the book from their local multiplex and activists who have dedicated years to protecting our most precious resource will find essays in the collection that challenge and inspire them.

As a reference for readers experienced in water activism, *Last Call* frequently shines. Even seasoned anti-factory farming activists, for example, will find themselves viscerally cringing at Lynn Henning's description of life on a family farm surrounded by manure lagoons in the book's third essay, "From Farmer to Water Activist." Her tales of back road car chases and "midnight poop runs" (which is, of course, the technical terminology for collecting evidence of illegal manure spreading late at night) make for an entertaining and uplifting read.

On one end, massive quantities of energy transport water from snowmelt in the northern Sierra mountains to Southern California. On the other end, towns and cities are designed to move storm water out to sea as quickly as possible. The authors advise planners to rationalize their water systems by finding ways to capture and use this storm water rather than fight gravity with energy to move water over mountain ranges.

In "In Our Lifetime," Gary White, the CEO and cofounder of water.org, explains how microfinance rather than charity can clear the way to expanding access to clean, potable water in developing countries. He exhorts Western readers to think of most of the 1 billion people lacking a reliable water source as customers currently forced into poorly functioning and often corrupt water markets who are willing and able to pay for a home water connection if given the opportunity.

Like most of the contributors to *Last Call*, Mr. White offers not just a fresh perspective on an old image—that of poor people struggling to fill jugs of fetid water—but also offers a solution that is incredibly easy for readers to plug into. I found myself exploring water.org immediately after finishing his chapter.

While most of the essays are deep examinations of complex social and economic policy, the final two, "Ten Simple Ways You Can Help Protect Our Water" and "Nine Ecofabulous Ways to Save Water at Home," seem out of place. While the "Ten Simple Ways" is both user-friendly and extremely practical, any reader who pushed through the ramifications of low water pricing in previous essays may already know that they should turn the water off while they brush their teeth.

On the other hand, many of the "ecofabulous" ideas seem overly expensive with lead-ins such as, "Next time you need to replace a toilet . . ." At a time when many Americans are financially hurting, suggesting they replace their sinks and toilets makes ripe fodder for cable news hosts eager to paint water conservation as a luxury for out-of-touch elites.

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