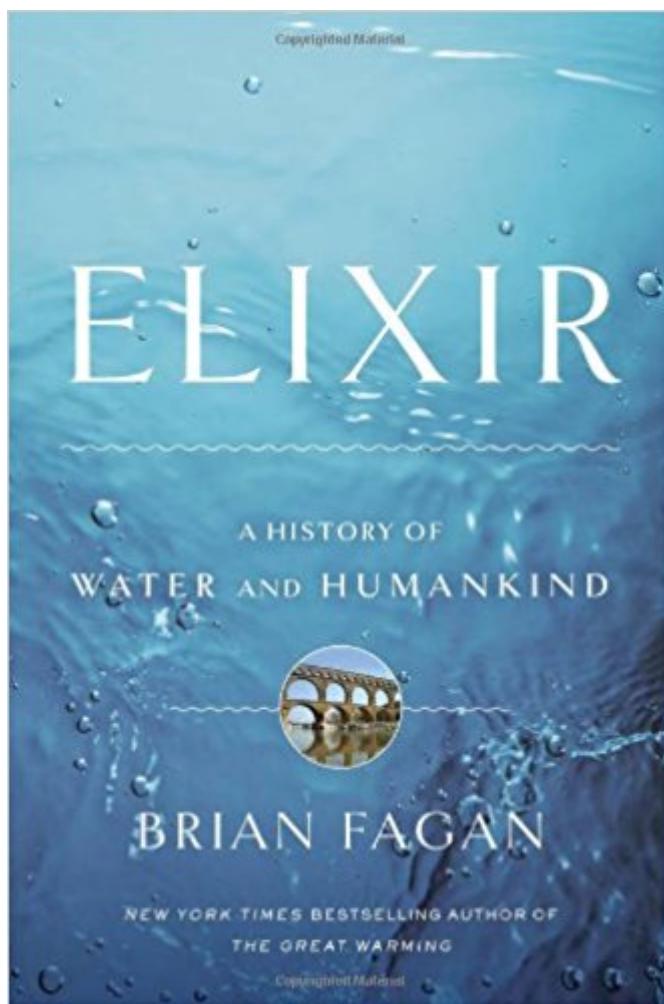


The book was found

Elixir: A History Of Water And Humankind



Synopsis

Elixir spans five millennia, from ancient Mesopotamia to the parched present of the Sun Belt. As Brian Fagan shows, every human society has been shaped by its relationship to our most essential resource. Fagan's sweeping narrative moves across the world, from ancient Greece and Rome, whose mighty aqueducts still supply modern cities, to China, where emperors marshaled armies of laborers in a centuries-long struggle to tame powerful rivers. He sets out three ages of water: In the first age, lasting thousands of years, water was scarce or at best unpredictable-so precious that it became sacred in almost every culture. By the time of the Industrial Revolution, human ingenuity had made water flow even in the most arid landscapes. This was the second age: water was no longer a mystical force to be worshipped and husbanded, but a commodity to be exploited. The American desert glittered with swimming pools- with little regard for sustainability. Today, we are entering a third age of water: As the earth's population approaches nine billion and ancient aquifers run dry, we will have to learn once again to show humility, even reverence, for this vital liquid. To solve the water crises of the future, we may need to adapt the water ethos of our ancestors.

Book Information

Hardcover: 416 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury Press; 1 edition (June 14, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 160819003X

ISBN-13: 978-1608190034

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.1 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,087,989 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Environmental > Groundwater & Flood Control #233 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Hydrology #405 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Environmental > Water Quality & Treatment

Customer Reviews

Five thousand years of rising and falling civilizations flow through Fagan's sweeping survey of man's ability to harness water. From the stirrings of agricultural settlements in the Euphrates Valley to the canny manipulation that sent the Owens River's flow to a tiny California town called Los

Angeles at the start of the 20th century, Fagan (*The Great Warming*), an archeologist, digs down into our relationship to water sources, pointing out that "water is capricious and powerful, far more masterful than the humans and animals that depend on it." However, this survey veers unevenly, offering vivid descriptions of the hazards of channeling water in prehistoric northern Iraq, of water distribution in traditional Balinese governance structures, of Middle Eastern irrigation engineering that becomes mired in measurements and dimensions. Fagan prompts an appreciation of water's centrality to civilization and of human ingenuity, but his topic is so broad and his treatment so dry that his conclusionâ "a call for a profound realignment of an increasingly urban world with its dwindling water suppliesâ "lacks the impact it deserves. (June) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

â œAs always with Mr. Fagan's work, the range is dazzling, the focus sharp and the pictures vivid...The author holds us with his glittering eye, as he conjures a vision of a world with water everywhere, nor any drop to drink.â • â •Wall Street Journalâ œJuxtaposes ancient and contemporary cultures' veneration of water with the current commodification of it â |Fagan is a passionate and lively writer.â • â •Los Angeles Timesâ œâ | examines societies' relationships with water since ancient times, and describes how the advance of technology has led to unsustainable management and depletion of our most valuable resource.â • â •Chronicle of Higher Educationâ œIt is hard to imagine industrial societies regaining some sense of water as sacred. The best we might hope for in the near term is a new-found respect for water. Reading Fagan's book is an enjoyable way of gaining that respect, by taking a tour through the hard-won lessons of the past.â • â •Nature Climate Changeâ œEye-openingâ |.making sense of water and its place in the development of civilization....[Fagan] understands how the ancients struggled with changing climate and that what matters has always been the fluctuating availability of water, rather than shifting temperatures. That is an important lesson for us now.â • â •Washington Postâ œSupplying intriguing historical background, Fagan well informs those pondering freshwater's role in contemporary environmental problems.â • â •Booklistâ œImportant and, from a New York Times best-selling author, accessible to all.â • â •Library Journalâ œFagan prompts an appreciation of water's centrality to civilization and of human ingenuity.â • â •Publishers Weeklyâ œA rewarding survey of water's role in history and contemporary politics alike.â • â •Kirkusâ œNot just a fascinating book, but also an important oneâ | [a] marvelous historyâ | Don't take water or Elixir for granted. Give this important book a read--and then maybe send a copy to your local representative or senator.â • â •Mother Nature Networkâ œAt a time of increasing threats of regional â 'water wars,' Elixir provides crucial temporal depth and

worldwide scope to an emerging water scarcity crisis that we can no longer ignore. Fagan's detailed examination of past use and abuse of water--highlighted by personal experience--makes his book not only a major source on the subject but, as usual, enjoyable reading.â • â •R. Gwinn Vivian, curator emeritus of archaeology, Arizona State Museum, author of *The Chaco Handbook*â œ[Fagan] is a beguiling writer and his lessons from global experience are both refreshing and sobering.â • â •Daily Express (UK)â œA comprehensive look at the history of water controlâ | there are places on the earth today where our water control systems are breaking down, and most of us don't yet recognize how devastating the effects of that will be. *Elixir* helps that realizationâ | This book is one of the best pop science books I've read in a long timeâ |there is much to reread and contemplate.â • â •About.com

This book is a good read for any person interested in water. For anthropologists it is a must read. Historians could benefit in terms of good past and contemporary comparisons. For water studies specialists it is a nice overview.

I like terms of Brian Fagan so any of his book I read more than once. But lay Japanese knows Chinese history more than fagan knows. Sorry but it is the case. Preferably exchange Chinese history to the sailings or shipbuilding.

The most important thing on this planet is not us! It is water. The author, Brian Fagan, is a gentle but thorough teacher. All of his books are treasures. Especially this one. DO READ IT!

I didn't know all the complexities involved with the use of water. A keeper. I'll read it again and again. Duane Pierce

This is a well written, thought provoking book that artfully blends stories and science. All conclusions are clearly based on published science and cautiously interpreted. I highly recommend it.

An extraordinary book. It awaken our sense of duty with nature.

The author describes irrigation systems and water usage in a variety of past civilizations around the globe to illustrate the historical value placed on having water. Although many of these systems are interesting, the detail becomes tiring. This book would have been improved if the author would have

spent more time relating water usage in the past to present day overuse and needs.

I love this book!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Elixir: A History of Water and Humankind Pure Water: The Science of Water, Waves, Water Pollution, Water Treatment, Water Therapy and Water Ecology Water Clarity Secrets for Ponds and Water Gardens: The Quick and Easy Way to Crystal Clear Water (Water Garden Masters Series Book 5) Fruit Infused Water - 80 Vitamin Water Recipes for Weight Loss, Health and Detox Cleanse (Vitamin Water, Fruit Infused Water, Natural Herbal Remedies, Detox Diet, Liver Cleanse) L'Elisir D'Amore (The Elixir of Love), A Melodrama (Opera) in Two Acts: For Solo, Chorus and Orchestra with Italian and English Text (Choral Score): 0 (Kalmus Edition) Pursuing the Elixir of Life: Chinese Medicine for Health The Elixir of Love (L'Elisir D'Amore): Vocal Score (Italian, English Language Edition) (Vocal Score) (Kalmus Edition) (Italian Edition) Crazy Sexy Juice: 100+ Simple Juice, Smoothie & Elixir Recipes to Super-charge Your Health The Technological Elixir: Invoking Artificial Intelligence & Understanding the Arcana of Mysticism Elixir Project Summary of Sapiens, by Yuval Noah Harari: A Brief History of Humankind: History Book Summaries World History, Ancient History, Asian History, United States History, European History, Russian History, Indian History, African History. (world history) Country and Cottage Water Systems: A Complete Out-of-the-City Guide to On-Site Water and Sewage Systems, Including Pumps, Plumbing, Water Purification and Alternative Toilets Water Quality & Treatment: A Handbook on Drinking Water (Water Resources and Environmental Engineering Series) Water Is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle Water! Water! Water! Water Distribution, Grades 3 & 4WSO: AWWA Water System Operations WSO (Awwa's Water System Operations) Water for Food Water for Life: A Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture Water, Water Everywhere, What & Why? : Third Grade Science Books Series: 3rd Grade Water Books for Kids (Children's Earth Sciences Books) Johannesburg, South Africa: Including its History, the Apartheid Museum, the Cradle of Humankind, the Observatory Ridge, Montecasino, the Zoo Lake, and More

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)