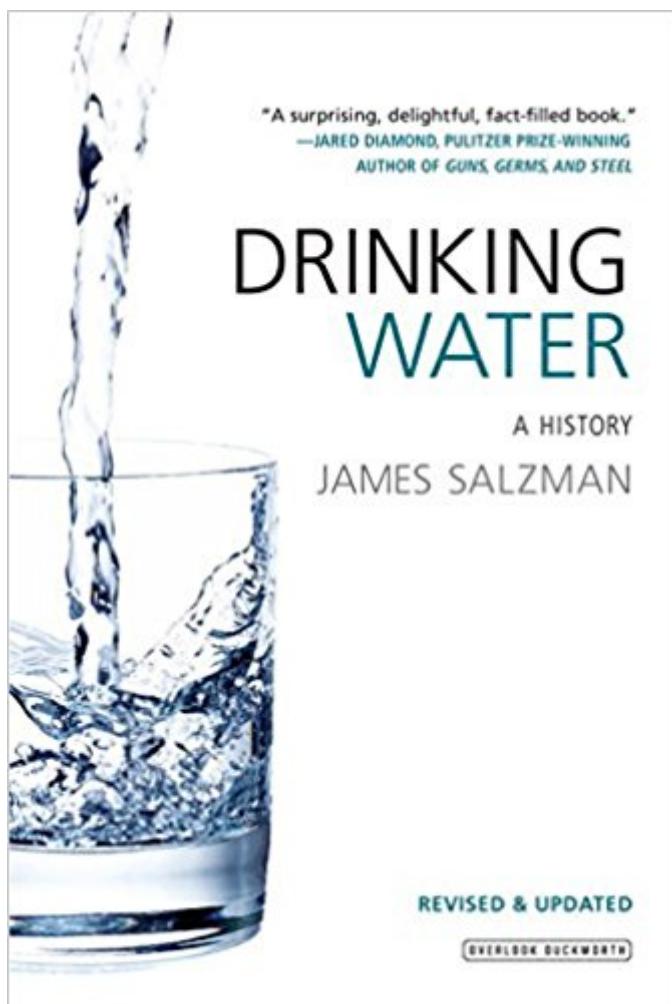


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Drinking Water: A History (Revised Edition)



Synopsis

The completely revised and updated edition of the definitive book on one of the most important and controversial topics of our time: drinking water. When we turn on the tap or twist open a tall plastic bottle, we probably don't give a second thought about where our drinking water comes from. But how it gets from the ground to the glass is far more convoluted than we might think. In this revised edition of *Drinking Water*, Duke University professor and environmental policy expert James Salzman shows how drinking water highlights the most pressing issues of our time. He adds eye-opening, contemporary examples about our relationship to and consumption of water, and a new chapter about the atrocities that occurred in Flint, Michigan. Provocative, insightful, and engaging, *Drinking Water* shows just how complex a simple glass of water can be. 26 b&w illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Writing in the popular style of world history seen through the lens of a commodity, Duke professor Salzman details the changing approaches that environmentalists, governments, and the open market have taken to this essential of life. Through exploring core questions in water management--whether people have a right to access drinking water, whether it "should be managed as a commodity for sale or a public good," what it means for water to be clean and safe--Salzman lucidly addresses controversial topics, such as the Clean Water Act and what it does and doesn't ensure about the safety of our water supply; risks from arsenic contamination and fracking; the

benefits of system wide versus point of use purification; and whether it helps or hurts communities to sell access to their water sources to private corporations...Salzman puts a needed spotlight on an often overlooked but critical social, economic, and political resource."--"Publishers Weekly" "Salzman (Law and Environmental Policy/Duke Univ.) looks at the history of drinking water and how it is connected to a range of global environmental, social and political issues...An appealing, fact-filled overview of the most basic necessity of human life."--"Kirkus Reviews""What do Rome's aqueducts, Napoleon's death, and the pilgrimage site of Lourdes have in common? All involve water: the leading ingredient of our bodies, essential for our daily lives, and the subject of innumerable struggles. Why does bottled water, the cheapest and most abundant liquid, sell for more than the same volume of gasoline? Even if you prefer to drink wine--it's mostly water anyway--you'll enjoy this book." --Jared Diamond, Pulitzer-Prize-winning author of "Guns, Germs, and Steel" "Instead of buying your next twelve-pack of bottled water, buy this fascinating account of all the people who spent their lives making sure you'd have clean, safe drinking water every time you turned on the tap." --Bill McKibben, author of "Earth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet" "Drinking Water effortlessly guides us through a fascinating world we never consider. Even for people who think they know water, there is a surprise on almost every page." --Charles Fishman, bestselling author of "The Big Thirst" and "The Wal-Mart Effect" "Meticulously researched, grandly conceived, and splendidly executed, "Drinking Water" takes a prosaic subject and makes it endlessly fascinating. Smart, witty, and perceptive, "Drinking Water" is essential reading." --Robert Glennon, author of "Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What To Do About It" "Salzman has produced gem of uncommon value--a fascinating book which slips in among its engaging stories their weighty implications for policy." --William K. Reilly, former Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and former President of the World Wildlife Fund "In his deeply thorough, thought-provoking and ultimately hopeful book, James Salzman shows why water security and quality are set to boil to the surface of world's politics." --John Elkington, author of "The Green Consumer's Guide" and "Cannibals with Forks: The Triple Bottom Line of 21st Century Business" "Immensely readable, the book weaves one entertaining story after "Though he ranges widely, Mr. Salzman, who teaches law and environmental studies at Duke, focuses on what one might call social justice. Access to water may be viscerally regarded as a "right," but he points out that the best way to ensure a reliable supply of pure water, especially in poor regions, is often to privatize it." --"The New York Times" "What do Rome's aqueducts, Napoleon's death, and the pilgrimage site of Lourdes have in common? All involve water: the leading ingredient of our bodies, essential for our daily lives, and the subject of innumerable struggles. Why does bottled water, the cheapest and

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James Salzman is the Donald Bren Distinguished Professor of Environmental Law with joint appointments at UCLA Law School and the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at UC, Santa Barbara.

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