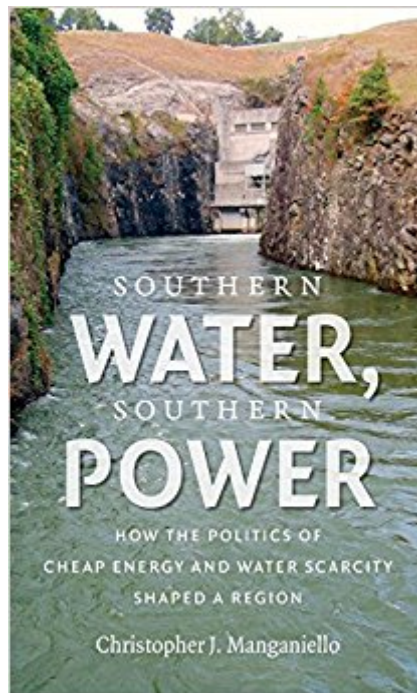




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Southern Water, Southern Power: How The Politics Of Cheap Energy And Water Scarcity Shaped A Region



Synopsis

Why has the American South--a place with abundant rainfall--become embroiled in intrastate wars over water? Why did unpredictable flooding come to characterize southern waterways, and how did a region that seemed so rich in this all-important resource become derailed by drought and the regional squabbling that has tormented the arid American West? To answer these questions, policy expert and historian Christopher Manganiello moves beyond the well-known accounts of flooding in the Mississippi Valley and irrigation in the West to reveal the contested history of southern water. From the New South to the Sun Belt eras, private corporations, public utilities, and political actors made a region-defining trade-off: The South would have cheap energy, but it would be accompanied by persistent water insecurity. Manganiello's compelling environmental history recounts stories of the people and institutions that shaped this exchange and reveals how the use of water and power in the South has been challenged by competition, customers, constituents, and above all, nature itself.

Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press (April 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1469620057

ISBN-13: 978-1469620053

Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 1.1 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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An excellent book that makes an important contribution to southern environmental history and the history of water in the U.S.--American Historical ReviewWith this well-researched study, environmental historian Manganiello makes a valuable contribution to both environmental history and the history of southern industrialization.--CHOICEProvides insights into the nature of political and economic power. . . . Will draw much-needed attention to the history of the southern

environment.--Journal of Southern HistoryA solid piece of work, extensively documented. . . . A useful contribution to the larger field of environmental history and will be a basic reference for future work on the Savannah River basin.--West Virginia HistoryA highly satisfying volume that is an important contribution to southern water politics and environmental history.--Agricultural HistoryA fascinating and well-wrought examination of the relationship between water resources and electricity, drought, state versus private control of water, and even race. . . . Well worth your time.--AAG Review of BooksA strength of Manganiello's analysis lies in his ability to illustrate how the region's political and economic climate shaped the fate of the Piedmont river system. . . . Brings the growing field of southern environmental history more directly into conversation with southern history in general.--North Carolina Historical ReviewExplores the connections between water management and energy production in the American South.--Journal of American HistoryA thought-provoking history of energy and water politics.--Southern SpacesMasterfully researched. . . . A fantastic addition to not only the topic of water in the south, but also environmental history in general.--On the BrinkA worthwhile read and a valuable contribution to the literature of water and the America[n] South.--Journal of Historical Geography

Southern Water, Southern Power greatly enriches the historiography of southern industrial development. The story Manganiello has chosen to tell is important, and he's produced a fine piece of historical scholarship on this vastly understudied topic.--Kari Frederickson, University of AlabamaChristopher J. Manganiello's first-rate scholarship focuses much-needed attention on the crucial role of water in the environmental history and development of the South. Southern Water, Southern Power fills a critical void in our understanding of the relationship between southerners and their water resources.--Timothy Silver, Appalachian State University

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