



# Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water, Revised Edition

By Marc Reisner

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**"The definitive work on the West's water crisis." --*Newsweek***

The story of the American West is the story of a relentless quest for a precious resource: water. It is a tale of rivers diverted and dammed, of political corruption and intrigue, of billion-dollar battles over water rights, of ecological and economic disaster. In his landmark book, *Cadillac Desert*, Marc Reisner writes of the earliest settlers, lured by the promise of paradise, and of the ruthless tactics employed by Los Angeles politicians and business interests to ensure the city's growth. He documents the bitter rivalry between two government giants, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in the competition to transform the West. Based on more than a decade of research, *Cadillac Desert* is a stunning expose and a dramatic, intriguing history of the creation of an Eden--an Eden that may only be a mirage.

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- Sales Rank: #11820 in Books
- Brand: Penguin (Non-Classics)
- Published on: 1993-01-01
- Released on: 1993-06-01
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.40" h x 1.00" w x 5.40" l, 1.05 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 608 pages



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#### Amazon.com Review

The definitive history of water resources in the American West, and a very illuminating lesson in the political economy of limited resources anywhere. Highly recommended!

#### Review

"Masterful. . . Among the most influential environmental books published by an American since *Silent Spring*."

--*San Francisco Examiner*

"Essential background reading for anyone who cares about the drought ravaging the West and the region's prospects for changing course before it is too late."

--**Mark Hertsgaard, *The Daily Beast***

"Timely and of national interest. . . . Resner captures Western water history in Cinemascope and Technicolor. . . . lawmakers, taxpayers, hurry up and read this book."

--*The Washington Post*

"The scale of this book is as staggering as that of Hoover Dam. Beautifully written and meticulously researched, it spans our century-long effort to moisten the arid West. . . . Anyone thinking of moving west of the hundredth meridian should read this book before they call their real estate agent."

--*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"A revealing, absorbing, often amusing and alarming report on where billions of [taxpayers'] dollars have gone-- and where a lot more are going . . . [Reisner] has put the story together in trenchant form."

--**The New York Times Book Review**

#### About the Author

**Marc Reisner** worked for many years at the Natural Resources Defense Council. In 1979, he received an Alicia J. Patterson Journalism Fellowship and began the research for *Cadillac Desert*. He was also the author of *Game Wars: The Undercover Pursuit of Wildlife Poachers* and *A Dangerous Place: California's Unsettling Fate*. Reisner died in 2000.

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