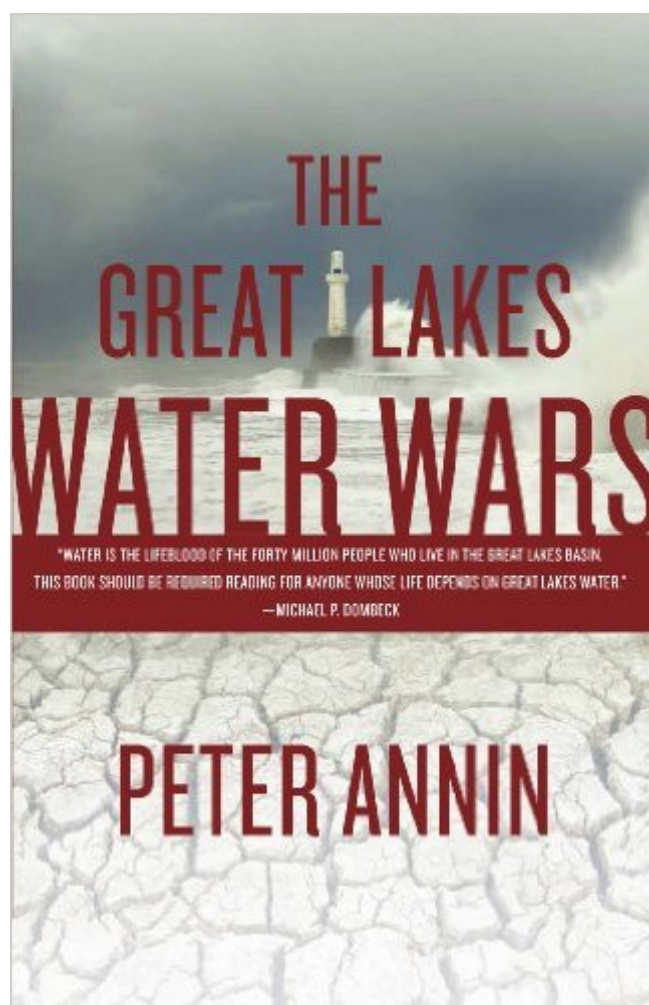


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# The Great Lakes Water Wars



## Synopsis

This title discusses the battle to protect the largest reservoir of fresh water on earth. The Great Lakes are the largest collection of fresh surface water on earth, and more than 40 million Americans and Canadians live in their basin. Will North Americans divert water from the Great Lakes, causing them to end up like Central Asia's Aral Sea, which has lost 90 per cent of its surface area and 75 per cent of its volume since 1960? Or will they come to see that unregulated water withdrawals are ultimately catastrophic? Peter Annin writes a fast-paced account of the people and stories behind the upcoming battles over water rights. Destined to be the definitive story for the general public as well as policy-makers, "The Great Lakes Water Wars" is a balanced, comprehensive look behind the scenes at the conflicts and compromises that are the past - and future - of this unique resource.

## Book Information

Paperback: 303 pages

Publisher: Island Press; 1 edition (August 25, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 159726637X

ISBN-13: 978-1597266376

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (27 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #201,663 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Lakes & Ponds](#) #20 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Regional Planning](#) #52 in [Books > Textbooks > Business & Finance > Real Estate](#)

## Customer Reviews

On May 8, 1892, a gang of workmen hired by Chicago entrepreneur Mr. McElroy invaded the town of Waukesha, Wisconsin. This gang was intent on laying a pipeline from Waukesha's Hygeia Spring to a suburb of Chicago. They were turned back by the citizens of that city in one of the few (to date) physical confrontations over water east of the Mississippi river. In 2006, with their wells dry or contaminated, Waukesha, which lies just outside the edge of the Great Lakes basin, insisted on exemption from the return clause of the water compact signed the year before. The compact was the latest evolution of agreements between the 8 Great Lakes states and 2 provinces of Canada. The latest agreement was so troubled that only two governors attended the signing. As with all the

other agreements, it stood on bog of technical and legal details that could easily be upset by the smallest challenge. "Waukesha is a poster child," admits Dan Duchniak, the embattled head of the Waukesha Water Utility, adding that the debate over Waukesha is "almost like a cyst that has grown into a cancerous tumor, and we need to figure out a way to treat it." (pg. 245) With this and other examples, such as an attempt to ship a tanker of Great Lakes water to China, the author explains the difficulties in protecting this great natural resource. The chapter on the Aral Sea foretells the future of the lakes if governments can't find a way to appease industry while maintaining the lakes for future generations. Anyone trying understand what we, those of us blessed to grow up along their shores, must do to protect the Great Lakes should read this book. Although the material is fairly complex, the author presents several anecdotal stories that are readable. As the author says, the fight has only just begun.

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