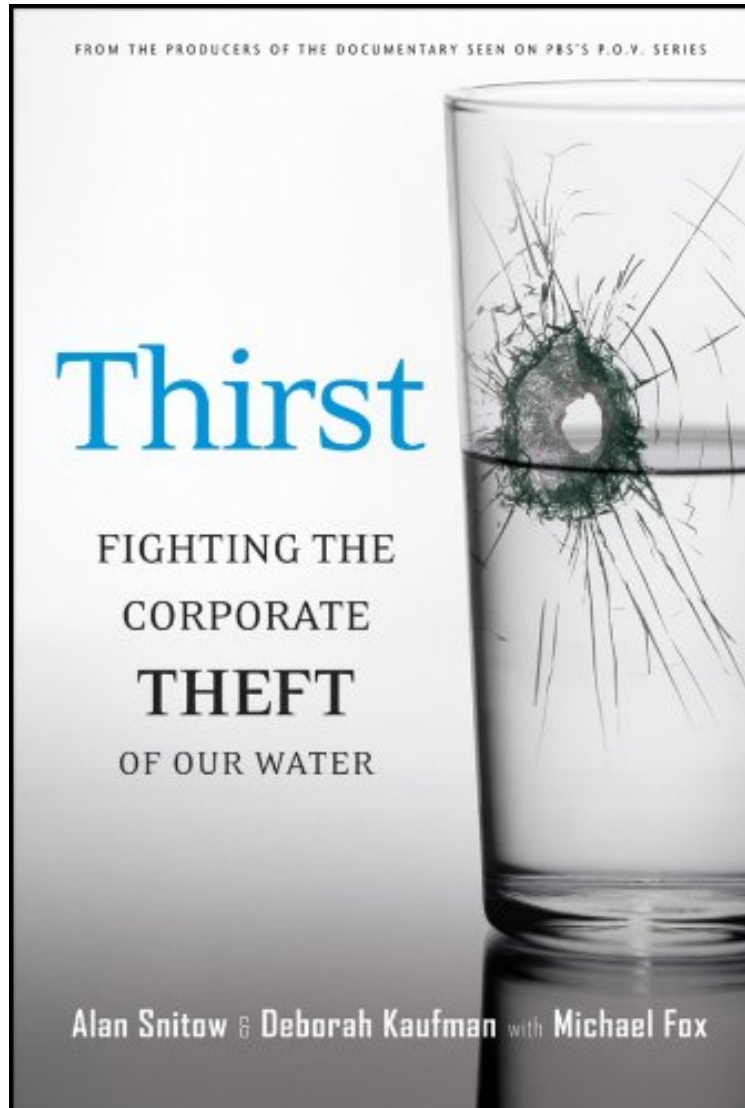


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Thirst: Fighting the Corporate Theft of Our Water

Alan Snitow, Deborah Kaufman, Michael Fox
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Alan Snitow, Deborah Kaufman, Michael Fox : Thirst: Fighting the Corporate Theft of Our Water before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thirst: Fighting the Corporate Theft of Our Water:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Uncle Tom's Cabin for Power GrabsBy Nancy B. JohnsonGive this book all the stars available. It is fascinating and informative, and for me life changing! I am a seventy-two year old retired school teacher who lives in the woods in rural Skagit County, Washington. I am also an avid reader and very concerned about water. The book "Thirst: Fighting the Corporate Theft of Our Water" has become my version of Uncle Tom's Cabin. I am carrying "Thirst" around in my purse and requesting that my friends, neighbors, elected officials,

and even strangers read footnote 11 for Chapter One on page 216. International corporations are no longer a distant threat. They are now in my backyard. The Macquarie Bank of Australia listed in the footnote has made a bid to purchase our electric utility company, Puget Power/Puget Sound Energy (PP/PSE). The purchase will include two dams on the Baker River fifteen miles west of where I live on the Skagit River, the second largest river in the state of Washington. The town of Concrete where one of the dams is located is already selling its water for bottling. This has to be tempting to the thirsty Australians. Could this looming battle be a sequel to Thirst? Macquarie's reach is like a spreading fungus: power companies, toll roads, water and who knows what else. Thank you to the authors, Alan Snitow, Deborah Kaufman Michael Fox, for your excellent book. My life would be a lot simpler if I had never read it, but I'm glad I did. It sure has made things interesting around here. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Our Most Precious Resource By F. Troy This is an easy to read but alarming account of the privatization of public water in eight communities across the United States. It is a book that should be read and understood in our nation's high schools and colleges. THIRST Fighting The Corporate THEFT Of Our Water is an interesting and entertaining read while also providing reasonable and ample documents and records to support the information provided on its pages. Snitow, Kaufman and Fox provide information in their book on how easy it is in today's world to lose our rightful access to the most precious resource we have - water. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Real World Organizing By Kate Mills Today's news told of anti-epileptics, sex hormones, medications, antibiotics and a mood stabilizer found in US drinking water. What that has to do with water privatization isn't clear. But the detailed, in-depth scenarios in "Thirst" have a lot to do with activism to defend a vital resource that ought to be part of the public commons, not part of a Wall Street bottom line. "Thirst" tells the stories of people from all walks of life who have banded together to fight privatization of their water. There's much to be learned from their experiences, perspectives, mistakes and triumphs. "Thirst" documents a few important battles in an on-going fight and offers valuable insights into the delicate art of community organizing.

Out of sight of most Americans, global corporations like Nestle, Suez, and Veolia are rapidly buying up our local water sources—lakes, streams, and springs—and taking control of public water services. In their drive to privatize and commodify water, they have manipulated and bought politicians, clinched backroom deals, and subverted the democratic process by trying to deny citizens a voice in fundamental decisions about their most essential public resource. The authors' PBS documentary Thirst showed how communities around the world are resisting the privatization and commodification of water. Thirst, the book, picks up where the documentary left off, revealing the emergence of controversial new water wars in the United States and showing how communities here are fighting this battle, often against companies headquartered overseas. Read a review... <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/03/18/RVGS9OHPKT1.DTL>

From Publishers Weekly The filmmakers who made the documentary Thirst have put together an account of the push for the privatization of public water works and the pillaging of the countryside as producers of bottled water play fast and loose with the water tables. The authors spotlight eight communities that have fought back against Big Water, and though each case is unique, there are trends. Water privatization is an expensive proposition, and many water companies are forced to "quickly slash costs and raise prices to maximize cash flow and pay down the debt." The means to turn a profit often include soliciting multi-housing developments to create new ratepayers and raising water rates, such as a proposal in Felton, Calif., to hike rates 74 percent over three years. Similar stories appear throughout the book and detail dealings in communities big—Atlanta, Ga., and Lexington, Ky., both privatization battlegrounds—and small—Wisconsin Dells, Wis., and Mecosa County, Mich., where grassroots groups sparred with beverage giant Nestle. The writing is provocative and the topic is an easy bet to raise hackles. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. 2008 Nautilus Book Awards Gold Winner in the category of Conscious Media/Journalism "...an interesting read, well-written and thoroughly documented; completed by 50 pages of careful notes and references, helpful and informative." (World Business, March 2007) Is water a human right or a commodity to be marketed for profit? Should water be run by local governments or by distant corporations? Why do we pay more for bottled water than for gasoline? These are some of the tough-minded questions Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman first asked in their provocative and memorable 2004 documentary, also titled "Thirst." In their new book, the authors investigate how the growing "water business" is trying to privatize water systems in cities scattered across the United States. More often than not, local citizens don't even know their water is being sold. But when people do know what's happening, they form powerful coalitions, fueled by indignation and outrage. In the process, citizens rediscover some of the basic principles of democracy, namely, that they should have a voice in their government. This is the cautionary tale the authors tell through their vivid descriptions of eight conflicts over water -- from Stockton to Atlanta, Ga. Should we worry about these new water wars? Yes. Water is not only a limited resource; it is also necessary for biological survival. "The current conflict between corporations and citizens movements to control this precious resource," they write, "will be decided in the years to come. The outcome of the conflict will surely be a measure of our democracy in the 21st Century." They're right. See their film. Read this

important book. Then decide if you agree that public control of water is essential for our health and the health of our democracy. (San Francisco Chronicle, Excerpts of a review by Ruth Rosen) "As a congressman from the Great Lakes region, I appreciate this timely and important work on a critical public policy question: Is water a natural resource to be protected by the public realm, or is it just another commodity?" mdash;Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Ohio "A riveting and engaging account of one of the most important environmental issues of our time: Will corporations or citizens control our water?" mdash;Carl Pope, executive director, Sierra Club "A smart, gripping narrative of the way 'big money' is cornering the market for life's basic ingredient. It will shock youmdash;and it should!" mdash;Jeff Faux, founder of the Economic Policy Institute, and author, *The Global Class War* "The fight for the right to water has hit the U.S. heartland and this passionate, information-packed book tells the story of ordinary Americans engaged in extraordinary struggles to save their water heritage for future generations. Every American should read it." mdash;Maude Barlow, chair of Council of Canadians, and author, *Blue Gold* "Who really owns your water? It may not be who you think. Read this provocative and insightful book and find out about the politics and economics of growing attempts to privatize our most vital public resourcemdash;the stuff that comes out of your tap." mdash;Peter Gleick, president, Pacific Institute for Development, Environment and Security "A terrific readmdash;startling and motivating. *Thirst* helps us see that the fight for the right to water is in fact a struggle for democracy itself. Read *Thirst* and dive into the twenty-first century's core challenge: Do we save ourselves by the market's logic, or as citizens do we deepen democracy's logic?" mdash;Frances Moore Lappeacute;, author, *Democracy's Edge: Choosing to Save Our Country by Bringing Democracy to Life*