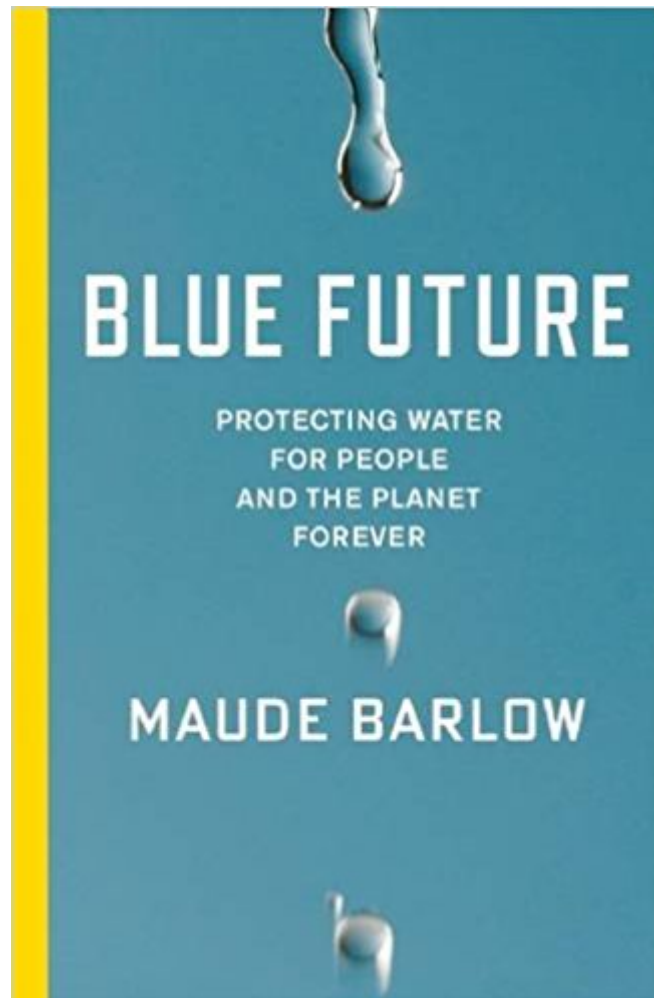




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Blue Future: Protecting Water For People And The Planet Forever



Synopsis

In her bestselling books *Blue Gold* and *Blue Covenant*, world-renowned water activist Maude Barlow exposed the battle for ownership of our dwindling water supply and the emergence of an international, grassroots-led movement to reclaim water as a public good. Since then, the United Nations has recognized access to water as a basic human right—but there is still much work to be done to stem this growing crisis. In this major new book, Barlow draws on her extensive experience and insight to lay out a set of key principles that show the way forward to what she calls a 'water-secure and water-just world.' Not only does she reveal the powerful players even now impeding the recognition of the human right to water, she argues that water must not become a commodity to be bought and sold on the open market. Focusing on solutions, she includes stories of struggle and resistance from marginalized communities, as well as government policies that work for both people and the planet. At a time when climate change has moved to the top of the national agenda and when the stage is being set for unprecedented drought, mass starvation, and the migration of millions of refugees in search of water, *Blue Future* is an urgent call to preserve our most valuable resource for generations to come.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Water activist and author Barlow, founder of the Blue Planet Project, lays out some terrifying unsafe-water statistics as she addresses the need for the international community to move toward a

“water-secure and water-just world.” Barlow asserts that 3.6 million people die every year from water-related diseases, and that by 2030, more than 5 billion “may be without adequate sanitation.” Even more disturbing, the gap between rich and poor, when it comes to water access, is widening, even though they may live in close proximity. All too often, she writes, “tourists and the wealthy have preferential access to clean water . . . while local slums have no running water.” Mindful of how droughts and water shortages are impacting every populated region on earth, including America, Barlow focuses on the growing commodification of the resource and effectively argues against water’s purchase and sale as a material good. With multiple examples of international arguments in favor of open access to water, Barlow makes a rousing case for what will be one of the key environmental challenges of the twenty-first century.

--Colleen Mondor

Advance Praise for *Blue Future*: "With multiple examples of international arguments in favor of open access to water, Barlow makes a rousing case for what will be one of the key environmental challenges of the twenty-first century."#151;Booklist "[Barlow's] work will inspire equal parts outrage and encouragement in anyone who concerned about this most vital natural resource."#151;Publishers Weekly "In a book as clear as a pristine mountain stream, Maude Barlow lays out a practical and inspiring vision for how we can defend water#151;the source of all life#151;from the forces of death. For decades Barlow has been on the front lines of this critical battle, and her insights on how water can serve as our guide to a more just, sustainable world are a gift to us all."#151;Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine* "The world's leading water warrior has issued a call to arms and a road map to transform our economies and priorities to protect our most precious resource#151;water. The book is an explosive rethinking of our future that could save the planet."#151;John Cavanagh, director, Institute for Policy Studies "If you read one book this year, make it *Blue Future*! Brilliant, compelling, and optimistic, it's the seminal work on averting the world water crisis. Barlow's enthralling account of the water justice movement's remarkable progress brought tears, and her road map for the future gives me hope."#151;Wenonah Hauter, executive director of Food & Water Watch and author of *Foodopoly* "We are water#151;it inflates our cells, dissolves nutrients, transports materials, and enables metabolism. Once again, Maude Barlow delivers an urgent warning that we are treating this priceless liquid in ways that are unjust, unhealthy, unsustainable, and suicidal."#151;David Suzuki, scientist, environmentalist, and broadcaster "Maude Barlow is a force of nature. *Blue Future* is the inspiring climax of her visionary trilogy on the world water crisis. With the world teetering on the

brink of a devastating water crisis, humanity urgently needs the vision, wisdom, and solutions in Blue Future."#151;David R. Boyd, author of The Environmental Rights Revolution "Maude Barlow first establishes water as a human right, and then takes us through the titanic struggle, country by country, to make that right come alive. It's jolting, compelling, astonishingly comprehensive, and beautifully organized. No one but Maude could have written this tour de force."#151;Stephen Lewis, author of Race Against Time "Blue Future offers yet another clarion call to action [and] challenges all citizens to embrace water as a public trust. We owe much to Maude Barlow, a great Canadian and a leading global voice for public water."#151;Paul Moist, national president, Canadian Union of Public Employees "Blue Future is by far the most up-to-date treatise on threats to the world's dwindling freshwater supply. The scenario [Barlow] presents is scary. . . . Fortunately, she also proposes what must be done to prevent the corporate control of water. An extremely powerful book."#151;David Schindler, professor of ecology, University of Alberta "Passionate, encyclopedic, prophetic, hopeful#151;no one knows the planet's water better than Maude Barlow. And nowhere has she set out the world's water crisis more starkly than in Blue Future."#151;Alanna Mitchell, author of Sea Sick

If you care about nature and democracy, this book is a must-read. Maude Barlow does an excellent job explaining how interconnected our actions are, and what it seems progress from an angle is pure devastation when looking at the big picture. The subject of the book is water and how modern society use it and abuse it, but the idea is bigger - the globalization experiment is based on deleting resources at an unsustainable pace. The author suggests democratic ways on how we should interact with nature and how to recognize when governments give in to the requests of powerful interests. The body of evidence is alarming. Decision makers at all levels of government should read this book if they are truly committed to their communities.

This is a great book with lots of stats and facts. Everyone who is concerned with our water resources in the future will enjoy reading this book.

The best book I've read on the global water crisis! It is a warning to those complacent about water quality and quantity in the U.S.!

Slow reading but well documented and informative.

You will be enlightened, shocked, horrified, about corporate power run amok, vis a vis the world's most important resource for all life: WATER. Everyone should read this.

I (mostly) agree with the review of Averroes - while I don't think the author overstates her case (water is an extremely important issue), she certainly has a very biased perspective. This would have been a nice read if it was more balanced and more realistic about the real challenge: financing the water infrastructure, which requires trillions (!) of USD worldwide and ultimately has to be paid by someone. She does mention the problem, but clearly lacks the necessary understanding of the harsh reality of infrastructure finance. Wishful thinking hasn't worked in the past and will not work in the future. After having read the book I actually had a chance to attend a talk by the author - unfortunately, instead of honestly discussing the real issues (including also failed community/government management of water) she seemed to be more interested in vilifying the corporate world, coming up with one cliché after the other...

This book is well written, but it is ultimately misleading. The author is concerned about the widening gap between the rich and the poor and about environmental destruction - concerns that are widely shared, including by this reviewer. Few will disagree with some of the principles she advocates - "the human right to water", or "water as a common heritage". But there are three problems with this book. The first is that the author overstates her case. She warns about "drought on an unprecedented scale, mass starvation and the migration of millions of water refugees". She ignores that 275,000 people gain access to drinking water every day, that the UN's Millennium Goal for access to drinking water has been met early, that refugees are mostly on the run because of wars and political persecution rather than water scarcity, and that the share of people living in poverty has consistently fallen globally according to the UN and the World Bank. The second problem is that she has a too narrow view of who the villains are - big corporations. The third problem is that she has an equally narrow view about who the heroes are - grass-roots organizations and civil society. The book leaves no room for subtleties and the complexities of the real world of water, such as how to finance the much needed investments in water infrastructure and how to maintain it in good working order. Nor does it discuss how we can keep water affordable to the poor when most governments are highly indebted, aid is in scarce supply, and the effectiveness of aid is being challenged. In this book, there is no room for the failure of many publicly managed water utilities in developing countries. Nor is there room to discuss why so many wells in rural Africa break down so quickly, or why so many latrines that were given as gifts by charities or governments are not used for their

original purpose, but rather used as storage or living areas. If you feel that the world is being plundered by big corporations, and if grass-roots organizations are your only heroes, then this book will be a good read for you. If you want to better understand how water, the environment, corporations, governments and society interact globally, you may better look for other books.

Very important book. Should be recommended reading for all high school and univ. students. There are unfortunate examples all over the world of mis-use, mis-appropriation of this vital resource.

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