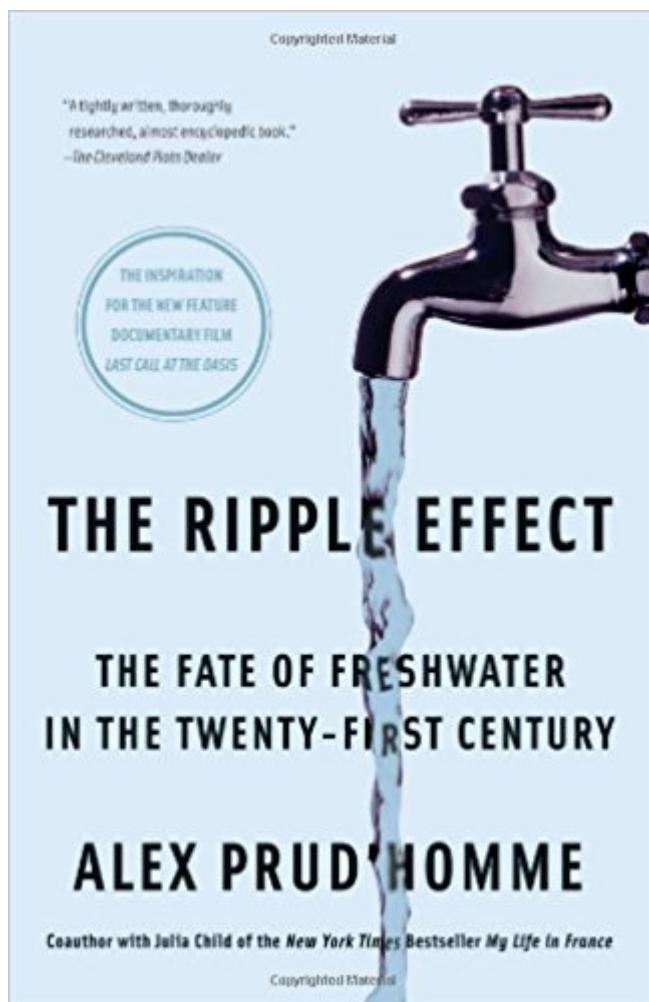


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The Ripple Effect: The Fate Of Freshwater In The Twenty-First Century



Synopsis

From the bestselling coauthor with Julia Child of *My Life in France* —“a balanced and insightful assessment of what could emerge as the dominant issue in decades ahead.” (Associated Press) —“the fate of fresh water in the twenty-first century. Will there be enough drinkable water to satisfy future demand? What is the state of our water infrastructure —both the pipes that bring us freshwater and the levees that keep it out? How secure is our water supply from natural disasters and terrorist attacks? Can we create new sources for our water supply through scientific innovation? Is water a right like air or a commodity like oil? Will the wars of the twenty-first century be fought over water? As the climate warms and world population grows, demand for water has surged, but supplies of freshwater are static or dropping, and new threats to water quality appear every day. The Ripple Effect is Alex Prud’homme’s vividly written and engaging inquiry into the fate of freshwater in the twenty-first century. Like Daniel Yergin’s classic *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money & Power*, Prud’homme’s *The Ripple Effect* is a masterwork of investigation and dramatic narrative. Prud’homme introduces readers to an array of colorful, obsessive, brilliant—and sometimes shadowy—characters through whom these issues come alive. The Ripple Effect will change the way we think about the water we drink.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A tightly written, thoroughly researched, almost encyclopedic book." • The Cleveland Plain Dealer "Prud'homme] patiently lays out the staggering extent of the world's water problems." • The New Yorker "A reader only has to look at the latest headlines to judge the timeliness of Alex Prud'homme's *The Ripple Effect*." • The Denver Post "The Ripple Effect is true to its title, following the myriad reverberations from our use and abuse of this most abundant, ubiquitous resource. The book plunges in and rarely comes up for air." • Washington Post

Alex Prud'homme was born in New York City. A graduate of Middlebury College, he has worked as a fisherman in Australia, an English teacher in Japan, and a janitor in Paris. His other books include *Forewarned* (with Michael Cherkasky) about terrorism and security, and the New York Times bestseller *My Life in France*. He lives with his family in Brooklyn, New York.

I enjoyed this book. It is really long, though. It is a pretty comprehensive look at all aspects of water management, and I learned a lot (I have an easy job this summer and was able to read it all at work). Some of it is redundant, and maybe it has been corrected, but in my Kindle version almost every word that ended in "ft" like soft or lift had the f missing. It took me forever to get around to reading it, so some of the information is a bit outdated, but the underlying message of taking much better care of our water cannot be overemphasized. It makes perfect sense to provide a subsistence level of water to everyone and then to progressively increase rates for overuse, as this book says multiple times. I am not sure why it isn't done. I was playing golf in Ireland last year and our caddie was arguing with us about Ireland's plan to charge for water use. It rains a lot there, but a lot also goes into producing clean water (he also argued with me, a doctor, and my friend, a dentist, about their plan to put fluoride in the water). We really need to mandate rainwater collection in houses (similar to Bermuda) with storage there for land use, etc. and stop using treated water for washing cars, watering lawns, and one of my pet peeves, hosing down sidewalks to clean them. So much can be done, but we have to change the mindset of consumers big and small.

This is a wake up call of the first dimension about the critical importance of and the widespread scarcity of water, of which most people are unaware and ill prepared for the changes in attitude and practices that a new relation with water that will be required of them and of their governments-hopefully..

As a global water expert I was impressed with the first third of this book, but then I got tired of reading old stories. The type and amount of drinking water contamination is a HUGE international problem, and he should have focused on that, not just the Chesapeake. Yes it is a good story, but the complexities of life long ingestion of desalinated water, recycled water, or what we can 'produce' water' is what needs to be discussed. Most human beings have no idea what they are now drinking - yes, even in the most regulated market in the world - USA.

Fascinating read with basic concepts to understand critical issues facing the world's future water challenges. Politics, conflicts of interest, greed, waste, infrastructure breakdown, poor management, conservation, and much more are issues discussed in a very readable way. I found this a very worthwhile book and very well referenced. I learned a great deal. Every one should be informed about the critical problems we face with life resource! This was a good read.

I'm not done reading this book. Some books you just can't gallop through, they must be digested incrementally, and this is one of them. I have felt for some time that water, being indispensable to all life, will inevitably and finally be the one thing that either pits humans against each other or ultimately forces us to cooperate. Let's hope it is the latter. We have done such a whole lot of damage to this planet that I hold slight hope of it (and us) holding on a whole lot longer. Yes, I sound like a nut, but how long could you hold out without water? -- Maybe 3 days. So many people walk many miles each day to obtain water -- and really cruddy water at that. We're still lucky in the US to have fresh water -- just turn on the tap, there it is -- but we're using it up faster than we should. Agriculture and fracking and industry etc etc use billions of gallons per day. I sure don't know what the answer is, and I'm betting that by the end of the book the answer will still not be clear. This is an important issue that should have TRUE cooperation nationally and internationally, it's above politics. It's about the survival of life on planet earth. And we can't survive without water.

Alex Prud'homme's book should be required reading for everyone in the United States. Every person and animal in the US needs fresh water to live a healthy life. And the author shows exactly how much of that water is either under pressure from overpumping of ground water or in danger of being contaminated by the industries we rely upon in our everyday lives. This book needs to be read and discussed widely!

The Ripple Effect covers a huge topic very comprehensively. And it's fun to read. At times even a

page turner. It's well-grounded in science, but makes clear the human impact of the issues we're facing with water.

Everyone should read this. Not that i think those that need to most will. None the less, everyone should read this.

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