



The Water Crisis in Yemen: Managing Extreme Water Scarcity in the Middle East (International Library of Human Geography (Hardcover))

By Christopher Ward

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Since the 1970s Yemen has undergone rapid social and economic change. But the creation of the modern state has come at a cost, and the country has fallen into a severe water crisis. Groundwater is being extracted at such a rate that parts of the rural economy could disappear within a generation. In no other country in the Middle East are the aquifers being exhausted so quickly. Christopher Ward provides the first comprehensive study of the water management crisis in Yemen and presents a complete analysis, covering the institutional, environmental, technical and political economy components. He assesses the social and economic impacts of the crisis and provides in-depth case studies in the key management areas: water resources management; agricultural water management and irrigation; urban water supply and sanitation; and rural water supply and sanitation. He examines the range of policy and programme responses to date and explores their largely unsuccessful outcomes. In the final part of the book the author evaluates the current strategy and looks at future ways in which the people of the country and their government can influence outcomes and make the transition to a sustainable water economy. Combining a historical perspective and an interdisciplinary approach, The Water Crisis in Yemen draws on both new field research and a very wide set of official and unofficial information sources, much of it being made available for the first time. The result offers a comprehensive, practical and effective approach to achieving sustainable and equitable water management in a country whose water problems are amongst the most serious in the world.

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Review

'What makes this book unique is that it draws from the author's two decades of hands-on experience in the design of approaches and solutions, in seeing them implemented and in evaluating their success, all in all enabling him to better diagnose the problem and better identify choices for solutions.' Professor Mohammed al-Eryani, founding Minister of Water and Environment, Republic of Yemen 'The author has kept a promise that so many fail to deliver - an impressively nuanced analysis of a political economy with arguably the most difficult water resource challenges in the world.' Tony Allan, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and Emeritus Professor of Geography, King's College London 'All you need to know about the water problems of a near-waterless Middle Eastern country. A clear-eyed, helpful work by a wise man who obviously knows what is wrong and what needs to be done about it.' Roger Owen, A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle East History, Harvard University

About the Author

Christopher Ward is Honorary Research Fellow, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, UK. He was formerly with the World Bank for twenty-four years, working largely in the field of natural resource management and rural development in the Middle East and Africa. He has lived in Yemen, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Somalia, as well as Kenya, Madagascar and the USA. He is currently a consultant to a number of international organizations, including the World Bank, DfID, the FAO, GTZ, and KfW.

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