

Global climate change, rapid population and economic growth, increasing per capita demands for food, increasing demand for domestic and industrial water supply, the need for maintaining and increasing environmental flows, and conflicts on transboundary rivers, all lead to increased demands being placed upon finite global sources of fresh water. These problems have led many international and national agencies to label this the Global Water Crisis that merits immediate large-scale action. The book has a multidisciplinary point of view and while recognizing that there are serious global water problems, it dispels many of the myths that this is truly a global crisis with the need for immediate large-scale action. The authors present a discussion of where and when severe regional and local water problems occur and make suggestions on how they may be dealt with in a deliberate non-crisis manner. Important in these suggestions are both hard technical and soft socio-political solutions. The roles of recent breakthroughs in desalination technologies, the eco-sanitation revolution, international trade in agricultural products, methods of governance and negotiation in water allocation, and pricing and devolution of property rights all play a major role in dispelling the myths that there is a global water crisis of monumental proportions. Instead, the "crisis" is replaced with a series of solvable problems that need to be dealt with regionally and locally, not necessarily globally.

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