

WATER WARS

Alarming crisis—America's most important resource is in big trouble—tapped out, tainted, and taken for granted.

GLOBALIZATION HAS BROUGHT SOME NEW FORCES INTO THE FRAY. THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND TRADE ORGANIZATIONS THAT AID AND ABET, WANT THE TITLE TO ALL THE EARTH'S RESOURCES.

While the world's population has tripled, water demand has sextupled. Both the United Nations and the United States government estimate that by 2015, at least 40 percent of the world's population will lack an adequate water supply. Water shortages will affect the livelihood of one-third of the world's population by 2025, experts predict.

Twenty-five percent of the world's fresh water goes to non-agricultural industrial projects, everything from automobile to silicon chip manufacturing, which laps up immense quantities of pure water.

China's dam construction has displaced whole populations and created severe ecological imbalances. Manufacturing plants that were once welcomed in third-world countries have had unexpected impacts on communities and their water deposits.

Maude Barlow, chair of Canada's largest public advocacy group protests, "These companies completely reject the idea that water is a common property belonging to all living creatures. Their only goal is to commodify the earth's most precious resource."

According to the World Trade Organization, "Human needs can be supplied by private entrepreneurs for a profit, unlike a human right which accrues equally to everyone." National and international trade associations like the WTO and NAFTA define water as a "commodity" and have agreements requiring governments to permit water exports under specified conditions.

"If the wars of this century were fought over oil, the wars of the next century will be fought over water."

Frank Rijsberman, chairman of a consortium of water scarcity researchers says that "Policy decisions taken in the World Trade Organization are possibly the single most dominant factor shaping the global demand for food and consequently the amount of water required to grow that food." In short, follow the money.

Fortune magazine predicts that water stocks offer consistent returns well into the next century. If interested in more info go to www.hermes-press.com/water.html