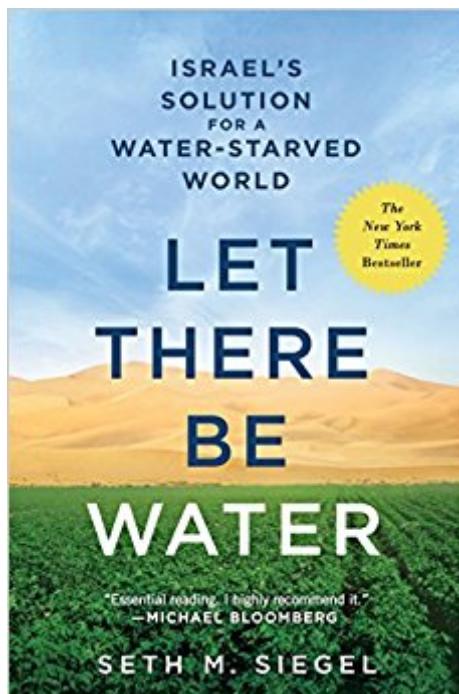


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# Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution For A Water-Starved World



## Synopsis

New York Times and Los Angeles Times Bestseller! As every day brings urgent reports of growing water shortages around the world, there is no time to lose in the search for solutions. The U.S. government predicts that forty of our fifty states-and 60 percent of the earth's land surface-will soon face alarming gaps between available water and the growing demand for it. Without action, food prices will rise, economic growth will slow, and political instability is likely to follow. *Let There Be Water* illustrates how Israel can serve as a model for the United States and countries everywhere by showing how to blunt the worst of the coming water calamities. Even with 60 percent of its country made of desert, Israel has not only solved its water problem; it also had an abundance of water. Israel even supplies water to its neighbors-the Palestinians and the Kingdom of Jordan-every day. Based on meticulous research and hundreds of interviews, *Let There Be Water* reveals the methods and techniques of the often offbeat inventors who enabled Israel to lead the world in cutting-edge water technology. *Let There Be Water* also tells unknown stories of how cooperation on water systems can forge diplomatic ties and promote unity. Remarkably, not long ago, now-hostile Iran relied on Israel to manage its water systems, and access to Israel's water know-how helped to warm China's frosty relations with Israel. Beautifully written, Seth M. Siegel's *Let There Be Water* is an inspiring account of the vision and sacrifice by a nation and people that have long made water security a top priority. Despite scant natural water resources, a rapidly growing population and economy, and often hostile neighbors, Israel has consistently jumped ahead of the water innovation-curve to assure a dynamic, vital future for itself. Every town, every country, and every reader can benefit from learning what Israel did to overcome daunting challenges and transform itself from a parched land into a water superpower.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Insightful...an instructive reminder that climate and geography don't control a state's destiny. Nature, as it turns out, is not as important as government nurture." —The Wall Street Journal "A must-read that is both fascinating and informative." —A. C. Grayling, author of *San Francisco Chronicle* "With global water shortages generating political, military and humanitarian crises across the globe, Israel's astonishing ingenuity for wresting abundance from drought is an inspiring and instructive blueprint for the planet." —Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. "If you are worried about global water shortages—and you should be—read this book. Seth Siegel brings an urgent message of how the world can save itself using remarkable techniques and technology developed in Israel. *Let There Be Water* is essential reading. I highly recommend it." —Michael Bloomberg "A really interesting account of the possibilities for technology to solve one of the greatest and underestimated challenges of our age." —Tony Blair "Water scarcity is one of the most urgent threats to our economy and society. In *Let There Be Water*, Seth Siegel explores the crisis through the lens of a solution, telling the powerful story of how the people of Israel came together to overcome their water problems, so that the rest of the world can learn from their example and get ahead of the looming crisis." —Arianna Huffington "Brilliant." —Bret Stephens, Pulitzer Prize-winning author "This extraordinary work will long be read by people grappling with water shortages and other seemingly insurmountable challenges." —Shimon Peres, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former president of Israel "From the arid front lines of the freshwater scarcity crisis, Siegel provides an eye-opening account how Israel turned adversity into opportunity to become an innovative pioneer in the global quest for a new water paradigm." —Steven Solomon, author, *WATER: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization* "Let There Be Water is an essential look at the unknown story of how Israel has avoided the coming global water crisis despite being mostly desert. Through smart policies, conservation, technology and a new water-focused export industry, this book shares water-independent Israel's lessons that every interested citizen and country needs to know." —Dan Senor, co-author of the New York Times bestseller *Start-Up Nation* "Let There Be Water is the expertly and movingly told story of how Israeli specialists and NGOs greatly helped

many Africans gain access to clean water. Seth Siegel shows how Israel uses its water skills both to help developing nations and as a tool of diplomacy. We all have so much to learn from this superb book. *Ruhakana Rugunda*, Prime Minister of Uganda "Fascinating account....A major contribution to this hotly debated issue and to broader questions of environmental policy." Kirkus Reviews (starred) "With current drought conditions across Western North America, this hard-won water wisdom should be of interest to concerned readers." Library Journal "A fascinating and detailed study that intertwines history, politics, technology and sociology, addressing a subject that is crucial to every living person." Bloomberg.com, "Favorite Summer Reads" roundup "Let There Be Water is an important work of non-fiction, a story that needs to be told. There are lessons in here for everyone." Former U.S. Senator Mark L. Pryor "In the last 50 years, one place has taken water scarcity and turned it into water abundance" *Israel*. The Israelis did it with science, skill, and by thinking 50 years ahead. Seth M. Siegel's book *Let There Be Water* pieces together the surprising story of how Israel made itself into a "water superpower" with clarity, with verve, and most important, with a sense of hope for everyone else facing water problems. Charles Fishman, New York Times bestselling author of *The Big Thirst: The secret life & turbulent future of water* "Capturing Israel's revolution from thirsting wasteland to thriving wellspring, Seth M. Siegel meticulously traces a fledgling nation's quest to emerge as an international "water superpower," in his new book *Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water- Starved World*. The Jerusalem Post "Lively, informative new book." The Jewish Week "Israel's determination to create water security is a half-century-long lesson in the liberating economic power of smart water, and a vivid illustration that scarcity doesn't need to lead to deprivation. It can often drive exactly the opposite: innovation and even abundance." Strategy + Business "Israel's determination to create water security is a half-century-long lesson in the liberating economic power of smart water, and a vivid illustration that scarcity doesn't need to lead to deprivation. It can often drive exactly the opposite: innovation and even abundance." American Associates, Ben-Gurion University Impact magazine "This excellent, well-researched book enumerates the numerous 'bullets' Israel fired in its successful quest for water independence. Additionally, it offers the lessons learned in Israel as models for the world as climate change and population growth continue to stress the global supply of fresh water." San Diego Jewish Book World "A fact-filled and wholly fascinating account of the Jewish homeland's ways

with water.Ã¢â€•Ã¢â€“â€¢ Jewish Journal.com "This smart, engaging, and extremely feel-good book tells one of the stories that best illustrates how Israel consistently turns crises into opportunities and challenges into victories...SiegelÃ¢â€“â€¢s accessible handling of technological issues, his focus on key individuals inside and outside of government, and his boundless enthusiasm for IsraelÃ¢â€“â€¢s accomplishments and international leadership make *Let There Be Water* a highly appealing read." Ã¢â€“â€¢ Jewish Book Council "A great read that addresses our water challenge." Ã¢â€“â€¢ George P. Bush, Texas Land Commissioner "Let There Be Water will change the way you think about Israel. DonÃ¢â€“â€¢t miss it." Ã¢â€“â€¢ Lloyd Goldman, American Associates Ben-Gurion University of the Negev President

SETH M. SIEGEL is a lawyer, activist, writer, and successful serial entrepreneur. His essays on water and other policy issues have appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, and in leading publications in Europe and Asia. Siegel is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is a highly sought-after speaker on a range of topics including water policy, Middle East politics, and national security. He is married and lives in New York City.

A year ago I heard Seth M. Siegel speak at a Jewish National Fund brunch in Boca Raton, FL. I read his book and found it fascinating. He tells the story of Israel's history from before its becoming a nation until the present with respect to dealing with its water needs. The land of Israel has always had water as one of its principal challenges, since it is basically a desert land. The book follows its handling of this issue with respect to water needed for irrigation and drinking. Special commissions in the government were created with the strict purpose of improving the conservation of water and development of the country's water resources, its rivers, lakes and seas. There is discussion of the science of water conservation and the political considerations of the Palestinians, nearby countries (i.e. Jordan, Syria, Egypt). The last part of the book relates the development of desalinization plants near the Mediterranean Sea. Israel has been generous to other countries with their discoveries, even those that constantly vote against them when votes come up in the United Nations (i.e. China). Writing is simple and the science is fascinating and not too technical.

I have been to Israel. I have witnessed a country with difficult social struggles. This book is a beacon of hope created from the monumental history that is the genius of Israel water technology and philosophy. Devided into many segments of reasonable length, the writing is based on science, common sense, and sensitivity to the region's complex history. It is also a testament to the essential

humanism behind Israel's ingenuity as it manifests in her victory over water shortage and the stress of immigration. Even if you have not been to Israel and are not Jewish and do not know the history of the region, Mr. Siegel guides you skillfully through all these and allows you to see that a solution for so many problems on this planet already exists if allowed to flourish. Please accept my opinion of a Must Read.

The very words.. water.. IsraelÃ¢Â¢Â| trigger associations with drought.. shortage.. crisis.. One would never imagine a book on water policy in Israel as a riveting and inspiring read. Yet, Seth SiegelÃ¢Â¢Â|s new book Ã¢Â¢Let There be WaterÃ¢Â¢Â| tells a totally unexpected and most fascinating story of inspiration. One which even those of us knowledgeable on all things Israel seemed to have somehow missed. Over the past decade, 70 years of innovation and development in a multitude of water related fields have all come together to turn Israel into a water super power. Despite the fact that rainfall in Israel today is half of what it was when the state was founded, while its population has grown tenfold, Israel has learned not only to produce more than enough water for its own needs, but to also become a net water exporter for the region. In the process, systems were developed to cheaply turn seawater into drinking water, turn sprawling cities into sources of irrigation water, with 85% of all sewage recycled into a safe and valuable resource for farming. These advances combined with state of the art water conservation, rainmaking cloud seeding technologies, mind blowing seed cultivation and drip irrigation advances - which promise to turn the deserts of the world into ideal environments to grow food - all come together in a comprehensive solution for providing the basic necessities of life; water and food - not just for Israel but for billions of people around the world. Already IsraelÃ¢Â¢Â|s solutions are being eagerly adopted by a multitude of nations around the world, which will result in countless millions of people being lifted out of poverty and being provided with access to clean drinking water and food. All this will make a massive impact both on IsraelÃ¢Â¢Â|s position in its volatile region and in its role in the world. The story as expertly told in Seth SiegelÃ¢Â¢Â|s well researched and page turner book is a most fascinating, must read. It is guaranteed to make anyone who loves Israel smile ear to ear. In an age of growing anti-Semitism and anti-Israeli sentiment, it is also a story which must be shared with anyone and everyone who would listen.

An easy read. Good documentation of how Israel methodically approached the initial water shortage. Necessity was the stimulus for innovation. So Israel had to first conserve what water resources it had; from rivers and underground aquifers. This led to the first innovation of drip

irrigation and other modern agriculture methods. Then to the development of methods to detect water losses or leakages in existing water carriers and pipes. Consumers pay for water consumption. So this develops some form of responsibility in the consumer. However, finding new ways of using or extracting water such as desalination has been crucial in solving the water shortage. Israel now shares water resources with Jordan, as well as supplying Gaza. Israel has 200 companies involved in water engineering and agriculture. This has become a huge export of technology and an important source of trade revenue. As well, it has served as a platform for friendly relations with many countries. I did order the Kindle edition but at times wish that I did have the hard copy, so that I could refer to previous chapters in a more convenient manner. I liked the book.

Great book on an important topic. Here in NJ, there are almost-weekly reports of water issues, from lead to hexachromium and other dangerous pollutants to a long drought. State law requires state government to issue a Water Master Plan every 5 years; the last one was issued in 1996 (today's date is 1/25/17). Why reinvent the wheel? We need our politicians to direct NJ's water management team to learn from people who have proven success. This book was an eye opener to what is being done by world-class leaders.

I read this book because a friend was leading the discussion at a book group I don't usually attend. I was really bowled over--the writing was excellent and the topic was absolutely fascinating. I could hardly put the book down. I highly recommend this analysis of why Israel is a leader in the use of water for anyone worried about how droughts are increasing.

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