

WATER FIRST

Issues and Challenges for Nations and Communities in South Asia

edited by **KUNTALA LAHIRI-DUTT**, Research Fellow, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University **ROBERT J WASSON**, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), Charles Darwin University, Australia

This book brings together current knowledge and cutting edge interdisciplinary perspectives from renowned scholars on the histories, politics, ecologies and cultures of water in South Asia. It explores the complexities of the issues and challenges thrown up by contemporary water management practices in the South Asian region. It also attempts to ascertain whether or not the competing and/or complementary explanations provided for these issues are adequate. The book also offers examples of local action that has been taken. Through a rich offering of case studies firmly grounded in theory, the book elaborates how multiple representations have led to the current system of management of water resources in South Asia. The chapters in this book provide insights into the complex and dynamic relationships that exist between water and human societies—locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Contents

Water First Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt / PART I. THE REGIONAL POLITICS OF WATER IN SOUTH ASIA / National and Regional Water Concerns: Setting the Scene Ramaswamy R lyer / The Monsoon Rivers of South Asia: A Geomorphological Perspective on Managing Monsoon Rivers Avijit Gupta / The Politics of Water in Colonial India: The Emergence of Control David Hardiman / The Regional Politics of Water Sharing in South Asia: Contemporary Issues Douglas Hill / What do the Global Conventions and Regulations on International Rivers Say? Implications for South Asia Binayak Ray / River-Linking and its Discontents: The Final Plunge for Supply-side Hydrology in India Rohan D'Souza / PART II. REGIONAL ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND APPROACHES / Water Quality and Economic Growth in India R J Wasson / When a Public Health Story Goes Sour: Arsenic Contaminated Drinking Water in Bangladesh Bruce Caldwell / Arsenic Contamination of Ground Water: Social Determinants of an Environmental Crisis in India Atanu Sarkar / Gender and Integrated Water Resources Management in South Asia: The Challenge of Community-Managed Alternatives Sara Ahmed/ Institutions for Integrated Water Resources Management: Lessons from Four Indian States Vishal Narain and Saurabh Chugh / Top-down or Bottom-up?: Negotiating Water Management at the Local Level in South Asia V S Saravanan / Watershed Development Programmes and Rural Development: A Review of Indian Policies Sucharita Sen / PART III. INTERPRETING COMMUNITY ROLES AND INITIATIVES / Beyond 'Dispositif' and 'De-politicization': Spaces of Civil Society in Water Conservation in Rural Rajasthan Saurabh Gupta and Subir Sinha / Submerged Voices and Transnational Environmentalism: The Movement Against the Sardar Sarovar Dam Judy Whitehead / Negotiating Water Management in the Damodar Valley: Kalikata Hearing and the DVC Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt / Endogenous Water Resource Management in North-East Bangladesh: Lessons from the Haor Basin Jennifer Duyne Barenstein / Everyday Waterscapes: Perception and Negotiation of Water Locales in Varanasi Stephen Lemcke / The Ganga (or the Problems of Translation) Annie Bolitho

February 2008 / 448 pages (tent.) / Cloth (978-0-7619-3625-1)

