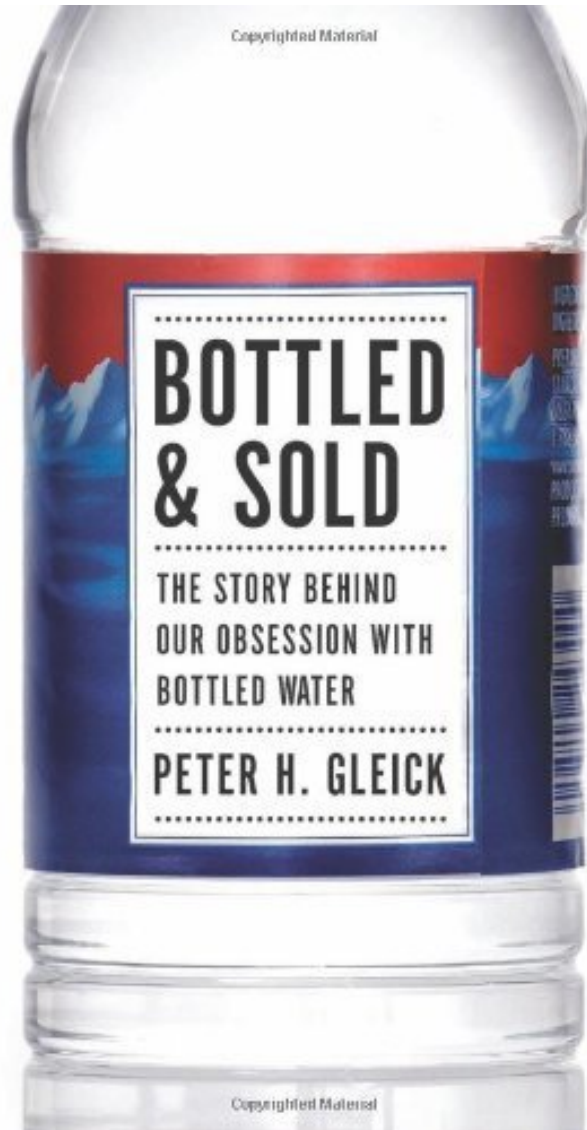


[Read ebook] Bottled and Sold: The Story Behind Our Obsession With Bottled Water

Bottled and Sold: The Story Behind Our Obsession With Bottled Water

Peter H. Gleick

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Peter H. Gleick : Bottled and Sold: The Story Behind Our Obsession With Bottled Water before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bottled and Sold: The Story Behind Our Obsession With Bottled Water:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A real eye openerBy NovaKayPeter Gleick has done an excellent job of presenting the facts about how our growing obsession with bottled water is affecting our public water supply. He raises awareness for the need of all citizens to care about the quality and quantity of our public water and to conserve

this vital resource. Too many people think if they're paying a premium for it, it must be better. In fact most bottled water comes from the same sources as what flows from our faucets - municipal water supplies. We're fortunate in the U. S. that most of us have ready access to clean drinking water. In the places where that is not the case it needs to be addressed at the source, not by putting a bandaid on it with temporary fixes. Rather than turn to bottled water we need to press for upgrades to our public water systems. If we feel our water quality isn't up to acceptable standards then we need to demand changes and improvements be made to raise the quality for everyone, not just for those who can afford an alternative. This book is a must read for anyone who cares about the ready access to clean water for all. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read. By Anna Perez This is an eye opening book. You should know what is going on with the water you drink. A must read. 20 of 21 people found the following review helpful. A great book for anyone who drinks water. By W.E. Polis This is a rare book: its both a pleasure to read and very revealing. From scores of interesting stories and well-researched evidence, an expose emerges -- what seems to be pure and easy (grabbing that bottle) has far-reaching impacts -- not to mention health risks! How did bottled water become so popular? What are the impacts on the environment? What's in the bottle? And, most importantly, what are the alternatives? The author answers these questions in a fast-paced and engaging style. The chapter on the "modern medicine show" is hilarious -- "positive energy water" and "oxygen water" are some examples he discusses. All in all, the author makes a passionate and well-supported case for improving our tap water, rather than hitting the bottle for every sip. And in doing so, he uncovers some of the amazing waste and deception tied up with our current approach. The solutions he presents and the vision he outlines for a "soft path" left me with some hope for the future -- and a thirst for something from the tap.

Peter Gleick knows water. A world-renowned scientist and freshwater expert, Gleick is a MacArthur Foundation "genius," and according to the BBC, an environmental visionary. And he drinks from the tap. Why don't the rest of us? *Bottled and Sold* shows how water went from being a free natural resource to one of the most successful commercial products of the last one hundred years -- and why we are poorer for it. It's a big story and water is big business. Every second of every day in the United States, a thousand people buy a plastic bottle of water, and every second of every day a thousand more throw one of those bottles away. That adds up to more than thirty billion bottles a year and tens of billions of dollars of sales. Are there legitimate reasons to buy all those bottles? With a scientist's eye and a natural storyteller's wit, Gleick investigates whether industry claims about the relative safety, convenience, and taste of bottled versus tap hold water. And he exposes the true reasons we've turned to the bottle, from fearmongering by business interests and our own vanity to the breakdown of public systems and global inequities. "Designer" H₂O may be laughable, but the debate over commodifying water is deadly serious. It comes down to society's choices about human rights, the role of government and free markets, the importance of being "green," and fundamental values. Gleick gets to the heart of the bottled water craze, exploring what it means for us to bottle and sell our most basic necessity.

From Publishers Weekly Tap water is safe almost everywhere in the U.S. So why does someone buy a bottle of water every second of every day? And where do the thousands of plastic bottles discarded daily end up? Gleick, recipient of a MacArthur fellowship and president of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security, argues passionately for a new era in water management. [P]ublic access to drinking water would be easy, and selling bottled water... difficult, he writes, and government regulatory agencies should protect water from contamination and the public from misleading marketing and blatant hucksterism. Bottled water companies should be forced to include the true environmental costs of the production and disposal of plastic bottles in the price of bottled water, leaving it as an expensive option that most people will avoid. With the gusto of a born raconteur and the passion of a believer, Gleick makes a sound case for improving the developing world's access to and the developed world's attitude toward safe, piped drinking water purified by the natural hydrologic cycle. (June) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist At what point, Gleick wonders, did water go from being something readily and freely available at any faucet in the land to a designer commodity marketed through multi-million-dollar ad budgets? Once found within steps of nearly every public building, park, and playground, how did water fountains suddenly become as rare as working pay phones? And with plastic bottles containing vitamin enhanced, oxygen enriched, or carbonated spring water carted around like so many new appendages, why are shoppers so enthusiastically embracing a practice that is both ecologically wasteful and economically reckless? Along with a discerning consumer's demand for accountability, freshwater expert Gleick trains his scientifically objective eye on the bottled water phenomenon to debunk dubious health claims, refute questionable purity standards, and expose environmental hazards associated with the unprecedented mania to purchase what used to be a free, pure, and plentiful natural resource. As landfills overflow with plastic bottles and aquifers drain, Gleick offers a sobering yet sensible look at society's ill-considered thirst for bottled water. --Carol Haggas "Gleick trains his scientifically objective eye on the bottled water phenomenon... [and] offers a sobering yet sensible look at society's ill-considered thirst for bottled water."