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BOOK NEWS

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Managing Southern Waters *Geographer Craig Colten Writes about the Past, Present, and Future of the South's Most Precious Resource*

Baton Rouge—As the urban, industrial, and population growth of the new millennium create unprecedented demands on water in the South, the problems of pollution and water shortages grow ever more urgent. In *Southern Waters: The Limits to Abundance*, to be published in October 2014 by LSU Press, geographer **Craig E. Colten** addresses how the South—in an environment fraught with uncertainty—can navigate the twin risks of too much water and not enough.

From the arrival of the first European settlers, the South's inhabitants have pursued a course of maximum exploitation and control of the area's plentiful waters, investing widely in wetland drainage and massive flood-control projects. Disputes over southern waterways go back nearly as far: obstruction of fish migration by mill dams prompted new policies to protect aquatic life as early as the colonial era. Colten argues that such conflicts, which have heightened dramatically since the explosive urbanization of the mid-twentieth century, will only become more frequent and intense, making the shift toward sustainable use a national imperative.

In tracing the evolving uses and abuses of southern waters, Colten offers crucial insights into the complex historical geography of water throughout the region. A masterful analysis of the ways in which past generations harnessed and consumed water, *Southern Waters* also stands as a guide to adapting our water usage to cope with the looming shortage of this once-abundant resource.

Craig E. Colten is the Carl O. Sauer Professor of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University and the author of *Perilous Place, Powerful Storms: Hurricane Protection in Coastal Louisiana* and *An Unnatural Metropolis: Wresting New Orleans from Nature*.

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