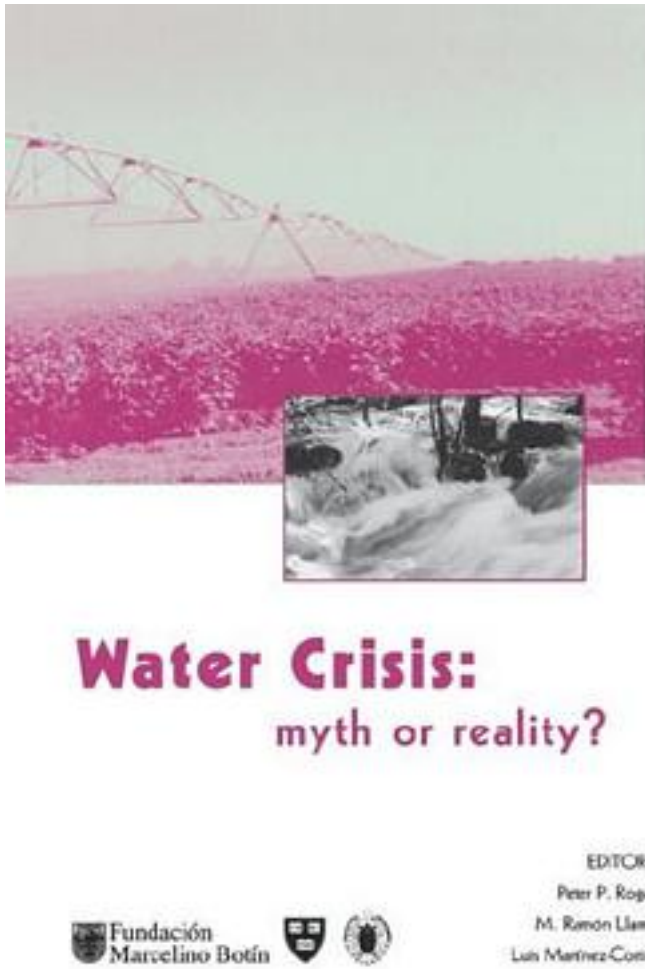


Water Crisis Myth or Reality?



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著者:Rogers, Peter P. (EDT)/ Llamas, M. Ramon (EDT)/ Martinez-cortina, Luis (EDT)

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With increased demands being placed upon our finite global sources of fresh water,

many international and national agencies have labelled this the Global Water Crisis that merits an immediate large-scale response. However, this multidisciplinary review concludes that, whilst there are serious global water problems, it is a myth that this is a global crisis with the need for immediate large-scale action. The authors present a discussion of where and when there are severe regional and local water problems and makes suggestions on how they may be dealt with in a deliberate non-crisis manner, incorporating both hard technical and soft socio-political solutions. The roles of recent breakthroughs in desalination technologies, the eco-sanitation revolution, international trade in agricultural products, methods of governance and negotiation in water allocation, and pricing and devolution of property rights all play major roles in dispelling the myths that there is a global water crisis of monumental proportions and replacing the crisis with a series of solvable problems that need to be dealt with regionally and locally, not necessarily globally.

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