of detailed chapter footnotes. Chapter 1 orients the reader about the region's physical setting, its long history of dependence and abuse of its water resources, and the need for cooperation. The topic of salinization of irrigated lands is introduced and recurs throughout the book. Chapters 2 and 3 successfully weave hydrologic processes into the tale of the rise and fall of the region's ancient civilizations. Chapter 4 reviews the political and social events of the 19th and 20th centuries that led to the current political boundaries and conflicts over water resources. Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8 present detailed case studies of the Tigris, Euphrates, Nile, Jordan, and the rivers of Lebanon. Past, current, and proposed water management activities are critiqued with emphasis on the effects of large dam projects.

Chapter 9 explores the groundwater resources and highlights specific overpumping problems such as saltwater intrusion into the aquifer underlying the Gaza Strip. Chapters 10 and 11 cover the inefficiency of current technologies and policies and propose conservation or augmentation measures to stretch supplies. A first-hand description of the origin of drip irrigation is provided along with a concise review (and defense) of its role in agricultural water management. The book concludes with a review of international water management efforts and a strong argument for a cooperative plan that benefits all water users in the area.

As with all of Dan Hillel's writings, the book is scholarly, well documented, and very readable. But in contrast to his excellent books on soil physics, in Rivers of Eden Dan Hillel is himself a part of the story. He incorporates stories of his early upbringing in Palestine, his role in the development of drip irrigation, his early studies on desert hydrology as a founding member of the first kibbutz in the Negev desert, and his many travels to all parts of the Mideast. The book conveys his personal knowledge and love of the area. Liberal use of Arabic and Hebrew quotes, coupled with biblical stories and quotes from the Koran, lend to the feeling that one is exploring his personal knowledge and love of the area. Liberal use of Arabic and Hebrew quotes, coupled with biblical stories and quotes from the Koran, lend to the feeling that one is exploring the region with an insider. The needs, mismanagement, and opportunities for water resources of each country are subject to intense scrutiny and reflection.

The book is clearly intended for readers of all backgrounds. I found that the case study approach of the book provided an accessible and easy format to learn about the social and political situation. Similarly, I believe that the social scientist would find that the case study format successfully serves to introduce complex hydrologic topics in a straightforward and meaningful fashion. I highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the Mideast, applied hydrology, or with interests in the interactions between society and the earth's resources.

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