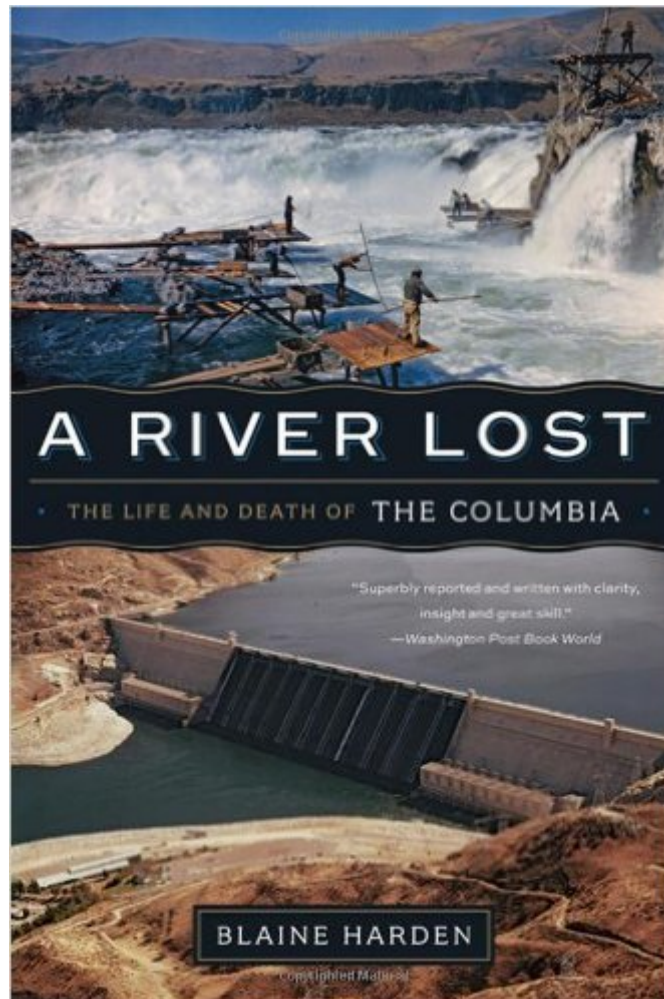


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# A River Lost: The Life And Death Of The Columbia (Revised And Updated)



## Synopsis

"Superbly reported and written with clarity, insight, and great skill." —Washington Post Book World  
After two decades, Washington Post journalist Blaine Harden returned to his small-town birthplace in the Pacific Northwest to follow the rise and fall of the West's most thoroughly conquered river. To explore the Columbia River and befriend those who collaborated in its destruction, he traveled on a monstrous freight barge sailing west from Idaho to the Grand Coulee Dam, the site of the river's harnessing for the sake of jobs, electricity, and irrigation. *A River Lost* is a searing personal narrative of rediscovery joined with a narrative of exploitation: of Native Americans, of endangered salmon, of nuclear waste, and of a once-wild river. Updated throughout, this edition features a new foreword and afterword. 7 maps

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Having grown up next to the Columbia River, I was eager to read this book. I was astonished at how this formerly very wild, free running river has been tamed into the almost placid giant it has become. As a disclaimer, I must admit that my father had a farm on the banks of the lower Columbia River and undoubtedly contributed to the pollution of this river. However, he was an early advocate against what he saw as the unnecessary pollution of both air and water of that region long before such stances were popular. The author spent a lot of time interviewing numerous people who live, work and make their living from this river. Now beset by a multitude of dams, filled with pollution from farms, industry and recreation and with its vast runs of fish now gone, this river is but a sad shadow of its former self. I would definitely recommend this book for anyone who is interested in the

history of the Columbia River, the river's impact on the development of the Pacific Northwest and the devastation of the fish that once thrived in this most glorious river. I think my father would have liked this book.

This was required reading for my PNW History class. I expected it to be a boring factual book, but I was pleasantly surprised. It is a great book if you want to know the truth about the dams on the Columbia and the deceptions of our government. What an eye opener for me. Anyone interested in why and how they are there should read this book.

A great reporter and writer tells the story of how one of America's greatest wild rivers was transformed into a series of puddles. I am very grateful to Mr. Harden for rescuing this story from obscurity. We tend to accept the dams on the Columbia as part of the natural landscape --- and they aren't.

A fabulous review of all the historic and modern day players on the Columbia River. This book shows the complexity of aquatic resource management and the impacts of short-sited development. A great read for anyone interested in the Columbia River basin or regional environmental planning.

In depth history of the Columbia basin project and the building of the dams on the river. Extensive analysis of the ecological impact of the changed river system. The authors deep understanding and professional journalists eye make for a great read.

This book is a collection of short essays. Each essay is based off of interviews on how damming the Columbia River impacted the culture and society of the Pacific Northwest. Easy read and interesting look at how industrialism completely changed the shape of the Columbia Basin.

Only provides US part of story of Columbia. Canadian interests not discussed, which is unfortunate given current negotiations on Treaty.

It was a good read for someone like myself who grew up along the river. At times it strays further into emotion and opinion rather than fact. But it's mostly accurate.

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