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oral history. The recollections of Ojibwe leaders, though often dismissed by Euro-Americans as merely hearsay because they were not written down, in fact compare very well with the written records of Euro-Americans. It is to be hoped that the authors of these fine reports, and other scholars, will continue to study Mille Lacs history. It has much to say, both on the level of local small-scale history and in terms of larger, overreaching questions.

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Fluid Arguments: Five Centuries of Western Water Conflict. Edited by Char Miller. University of Arizona Press, 2001. 354 pages. \$45.00 cloth.

While water covers more than 75 percent of the world's surface the amount of fresh water used by human beings for cleaning, refreshment, irrigation, toilet flushing, mining, other industrial uses, and recreation constitutes less than .08 percent of the total. Yet without this relatively tiny proportion in the form of fresh water human life could not be sustained. Competition between different human interests is intense, and it is mainly concerned with who shall have the primary right to use this .08 percent of the world's fresh water. Players include commercial interests, cities, agricultural interests, and industrial operations including mining, oil, and precious metal extract. At the macro level players include states, trans-state corporations, and Fourth World nations. Water is so precious that its value economically has skyrocketed in the last thirty years so that one gallon may now be purchased in four separate bottles for \$4. *Fluid Arguments*, published by the University of Arizona Press, is a collection of essays that takes what is in fact a global issue of grave concern and focuses on the history, economics, and politics of water mainly (but not exclusively) in the southwestern part of the United States. At the core of arguments over water is the first right of Fourth World peoples, indigenous nations, to the use of water.

William Veeder, that revered jurist of water rights, often said that there is a substantial body of law supporting Native nations' claims to water, and that Natives should do whatever necessary to guarantee the water required for their continued prosperity. In his heated moments, often frustrated and angry about the devious methods he believed the United States government and various state governments used to take water from Indian nations, Mr. Veeder (as he was known by everyone) would charge into the federal court room and demand that the justices seated at the bench hold in favor of one of his client Indian nations "as a matter of simple justice." As he wrote eloquently in his article "Life or Death for the American Indian" (*The Historian* 5, number 2: 4-21): "Seize and take from the Indian people, by whatever means, their life-sustaining Winters doctrine rights to water and you take from them the basis for their continued existence as a separate people."

Water and the original right to access and use water is an inherent right of Indian nations that predates the existence of any of the various states and

predates the existence of the United States of America itself, argued Mr. Veeder and his client Indian nations. No treaty signed between any Indian nation and any pope, potentate, king, or elected head of government ever contained a clause or suggestion that conveyed the right to water in rivers, streams, or underground from an Indian nation to any international state. Where a state or other government of a country claims the right to water in the United States it can be said without hesitation that unless the claim is a product of conquering lands and a people or a right was transferred by some agreement there can be no legitimate claim. Yet despite this fairly simple premise there is now and has been for more than a century a political contest and, yes, even a war over water in the western part of the United States. Competing jurisdictions (city, county, state, and federal) all want assurances that the essential liquid for life, water, is available in abundance to support economic and development plans that any or all of these jurisdictions have or may have in the future. Yet as the water wars heat up in the West it is increasingly obvious that the competitors for water must necessarily include the original owners of the water: Indian nations. With historical claims that predate the very existence of the other contending parties, Indian water rights pose the most serious and complicated dilemma.

Char Miller, the eminent chair and professor of history at Trinity University, specializes in American cultural and social history and environmental history. Among his many accomplishments, Miller found time to edit *Fluid Arguments*. This is a multi-textured book that reflects one of the great difficulties of an anthology, especially one involving contributors from many disciplines: scholarship and writing skills vary from author to author no matter how hard the editor works to make a neat and coherent package. This criticism applies to most anthologies and especially to this one.

Fluid Arguments is an anthology laid out in a way meant to give a sense of the sweep of history within which the reader should consider the abstract and esoteric, yet highly intimate and personal, subject of water rights. Everyone needs and uses water, but very few will consider the social, economic, political, historical, and strategic importance of water. Professor Miller's anthology attempts to put this fluid subject into historical context while considering the contemporary and future of development in the West given decisions that are being made about water.

The future development of rapidly growing cities in the western United States depends on what kind of decisions are made allocating limited and rapidly depleting sources of water. Farms and ranchers, fishermen, hydroelectric facilities generating electrical power for more and more homes, and Indian nations are all in the mix.

The unevenness of depth and writing style characteristic of the essays in Professor Miller's volume cause one to feel dissatisfied with having purchased a book written by historians as well as environmental scientists, anthropologists, and other scholars. The depth of scholarship is seriously tested in the first essays written by Jesús F. de la Teja and Shelly C. Duley. Their failure to draw on considerable literature describing the irrigation technology and water-use methods of Indian peoples in the Southwest United States and

northern Mexico leaves one wishing for more information. This limitation is further exacerbated by Bonnie Lynn-Sherow's piece in which she seems willing to generalize what little she is able to quote about Kiowa attitudes toward water to all Indian peoples. In her attempt to challenge what she sees as a generalization about Euro-American environmental exploitation at the expense of Native American resources, she strains to suggest that the Kiowa fear of water illustrated in one or two stories is somehow evidence that Indians generally had no sense of environmental responsibility.

When authors step into more carefully documented history they end up on safer ground when they discuss social, legal, and political challenges between different interests including Indian nations. Alan S. Newell's piece on "Tribal Reserved Water Rights" and Daniel McCool's piece entitled "Winters Comes Home to Roost" are excellent discussions of legal complications designed to determine water rights. Brad F. Raley's piece on private irrigation in Colorado is well written and thoroughly researched. The technical study in the area of geography is an important inquiry that demonstrates the suitability of another discipline addressing the water question, but things begin to fall apart by the last chapter, when Hal K. Rothman attempts to discuss the very large subject of growing city demands for water. His piece falls flat as a useful discussion about demands for water in the city since it lacks depth and breadth. The piece is eight pages long and fails to do even elementary justice to the subject.

Fluid Arguments is a good attempt at dealing with an enormously complicated subject and does introduce readers to some of the key issues. Its weaknesses are somewhat outweighed by the sheer need for more literature that helps thought leaders and the public get a handle on water and the structured approaches needed to ensure adequate use by all the interests. Failure to find the appropriate solutions will doubtless lead contenders beyond political conflict to a real war of violence.

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"Haughty Conquerors": Amherst and the Great Indian Uprising of 1763. By William R. Nester. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2000. 312 pages. \$72.50 cloth.

At the end of the Seven Years War Indian people in the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes region were stunned to learn that France had ceded their lands to Britain; they were undefeated and the French had no right to give up their country to anyone. In 1763 the Indians went to war against the British, an action that has been variously interpreted as a conspiracy, a rebellion, a revolt, an uprising, a war of defense, and a war of independence from and for status within the British empire. British officials then and Anglo-American historians since saw French hands behind it, but the war was fought for Indian, not French, reasons. The man most commonly associated with the conflict was the Ottawa or Odawa war chief Pontiac, even though he lacked the overarching