



# Thirsty City: Politics, Greed, and the Making of Atlanta's Water Crisis

*Skye Borden*

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**Thirsty City: Politics, Greed, and the Making of Atlanta's Water Crisis** Skye Borden

*Explores the evolution of Atlanta's water system and charts the poor urban planning decisions that created the city's current water shortage.*

Atlanta is running out of water and is in the midst of a water crisis. Its crumbling infrastructure spews toxic waste and raw sewage into neighboring streams. A tri-state water war between Alabama, Florida, and Georgia has been raging since 1990, with Atlanta caught in the middle; however, the city's problems have been more than a century in the making. In *Thirsty City*, Skye Borden tells the complete story of how Atlanta's water ran dry. Using detailed historical research, legal analysis, and personal accounts, she explores the evolution of Atlanta's water system as well as charts the poor urban planning decisions that led to the city's current woes. She also uncovers the loopholes in local, state, and federal environmental laws that have enabled urban planners to shirk responsibility for ongoing water quantity and quality problems. From the city's unfortunate location to its present-day debacle, *Thirsty City* is a fascinating and highly readable account that reveals how Atlanta's quest for water is riddled with shortsighted decisions, unchecked greed, political corruption, and racial animus.

"...[a] well-researched account." — *CHOICE*

"Instead of a date-filled, statistically laden work of history and law, Borden weaves a compelling story full of interesting asides and biographical anecdotes. I found the history fascinating. It represents a real contribution to the literature." — William L. Andreen, University of Alabama School of Law

Skye Borden is the Coordinator of the River Region Food Policy Council in Alabama.

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