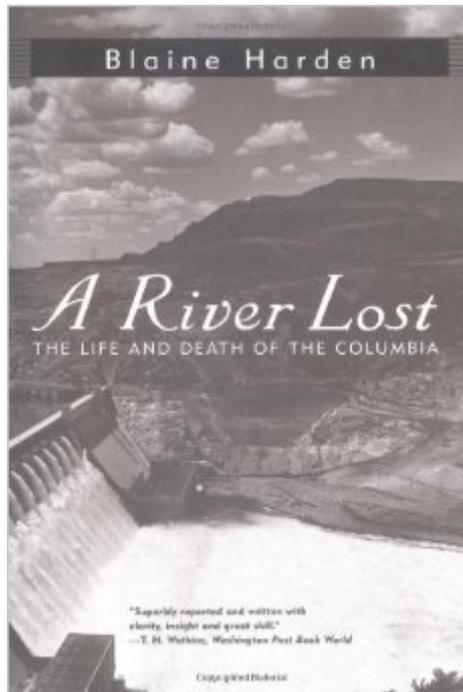


The book was found

# A River Lost: The Life And Death Of The Columbia



## Synopsis

"A River Lost is superbly reported and written with clarity, insight, and great skill." —Washington Post Book World After a two-decade absence, 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. Harden's hometown, Moses Lake, Washington, could not have existed without massive irrigation schemes. His father, a Depression migrant trained as a welder, helped build dams and later worked at the secret Hanford plutonium plant. Now he and his neighbors, once considered patriots, stand accused of killing the river. As Blaine Harden traveled the Columbia-by barge, car, and sometimes on foot—his past seemed both foreign and familiar. A personal narrative of rediscovery joined a narrative of exploitation: of Native Americans, of endangered salmon, of nuclear waste, and of a once-wild river now tamed to puddled remains. Part history, part memoir, part lament, "this is a brave and precise book," according to the New York Times Book Review. "It must not have been easy for Blaine Harden to find himself turning his journalistic weapons against his own heritage, but he has done the conscience of his homeland a great service."

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 37034th edition (November 17, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393316904

ISBN-13: 978-0393316902

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #838,019 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #137 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Pet Loss #744 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Rivers #1041 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Nature Writing & Essays

## Customer Reviews

A River Lost is about much more than just a book about the making of the Columbia River into a barge friendly irrigation system. Harden weaves autobiography, tales of everyday life, unchecked government power, the dynamic tension between the urban and rural in the Pacific Northwest. The book reveals how the River washes over and changes, some would say corrodes, everything it touches. The heart of the book is more the river as it describes the unintended consequences that

flows from good intentions and how affluence changes the political landscape from a focus on jobs to concern about the quality of life. The book should be read not as a conclusive picture of what has happened to the Columbia but as a starting point for further exploration. The book has two weaknesses. The first is that it ignores the changes brought in the region's ecosystem when the salmon runs ceased in the upper Columbia. Millions of pounds of salmon were food not just for the Indians but for a variety of wildlife. A few words about what those changes have meant to the region's biota would have helped the reader to understand that far more than Indians were affected. The second weakness is when Harden brings contemporary politics into a tale of written with a historic perspective. Harden pointedly blames Republicans for stopping what he sees as beneficial change but puts no emphasis on how Democrats designed, sold and implemented the dams and irrigation as an beneficial scheme of social engineering. The book would have been stronger had that part been omitted. Neither party can claim to be on the side of the Gods when it comes to the Columbia.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

A River Lost: The Life and Death of the Columbia (Revised and Updated) A River Lost: The Life and Death of the Columbia J. D. Robb CD Collection 2: Rapture in Death, Ceremony in Death, Vengeance in Death (In Death Series) Life After Death and Modern Day Miracles: Over 50 True Accounts of Life After Death, Modern Miracles, and Angelic Visitations Deep River and the Negro Spiritual Speaks of Life and Death (Howard Thurman Book) A Treasury of Mississippi River Folklore Stories, Ballads, Traditions and Folkways of the Mid-American River Country River of Dreams: the Story of the Hudson River River of Love in an Age of Pollution: The Yamuna River of Northern India Fishes of the Middle Savannah River Basin: With Emphasis on the Savannah River Site Streams to the River, River to the Sea AMC River Guide New Hampshire/Vermont (AMC River Guide Series) AMC River Guide Maine (AMC River Guide Series) Green River, Running Red: The Real Story of the Green River Killer--America's Deadliest Serial Murderer The Death of Money: How to Survive in Economic Collapse and to Start a New Debt Free Life (dollar collapse, prepping, death of dollar, debt free, how to ... how to make money online, shtf Book 1) Death on the River The Death of Albert Johnson: Mad Trapper of Rat River Mind and Life: Discussions with the Dalai Lama on the Nature of Reality (Columbia Series in Science and Religion) Ethnic Variations in Dying, Death and Grief: Diversity in Universality (Death Education, Aging and Health Care) Japanese Death Poems: Written by Zen Monks and Haiku Poets on the Verge of Death Science and the Near-Death Experience: How Consciousness Survives Death

[Dmca](#)