

The History of Large Federal Dams: Planning, Design, and Construction in the Era of Big Dams Hoover, Glen Canyon, Bonneville, Central Valley Project, FDR, Muir, Conservation, Environmental Impact

U.S. Government, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service

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The history of federal involvement in dam construction goes back at least to the 1820s, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built wing dams to improve navigation on the Ohio River. The work expanded after the Civil War, when Congress authorized the Corps to build storage dams on the upper Mississippi River and regulatory dams to aid navigation on the Ohio River. In 1902, when Congress established the Bureau of Reclamation (then called the "Reclamation Service"), the role of the federal government increased dramatically. Subsequently, large Bureau of Reclamation dams dotted the Western landscape. Together, Reclamation and the Corps have built the vast majority of major federal dams in the United States. These dams serve a wide variety of purposes. Historically, Bureau of Reclamation dams primarily served water storage and delivery requirements, while U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams supported navigation and flood control. For both agencies, hydropower production has become an important secondary function. This history explores the story of federal contributions to dam planning, design, and construction by carefully selecting those dams and river systems that seem particularly critical to the story. Written by three distinguished historians, the history will interest engineers, historians, cultural resource planners, water resource planners and others interested in the challenges facing dam builders. At the same time, the history also addresses some of the negative environmental consequences of dam-building, a series of problems that today both Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seek to resolve.

Chapter 1 - "Improving" Rivers in America: From the Revolution to the Progressive Era - Rivers in Early America * Chapter 2 - Theories and Competing Visions for Concrete Dams * Chapter 3 - Early Multipurpose Dams: Roosevelt and the Reclamation Service, Wilson and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers * Chapter 4 - The Boulder Canyon Project, Water Development in the Colorado River Basin, and Hoover Dam * Chapter 5 - Bonneville and Grand Coulee Dams and The Columbia River Control Plan * Chapter 6 - Earth Dams on the Missouri River: Fort Peck and Garrison Dams and the Pick-Sloan Plan * Chapter 7: The Central Valley Project: Shasta and Friant Dams * Chapter 8 - Dams for Navigation and Flood: Tygart and Mainstem Dams on the Ohio, Upper Mississippi, and Tennessee Rivers * Chapter 9 - The Environmental Impact of the Big Dam Era

Rivers as Resource: The American Watershed System * The Rise of an Industrializing Nation * The Origins of Federal Water Resource Policy * WATER LAW AND THE USE OF RIVERS * Mills and Dams in the Early Industrial Era * Water Law in the West * The Western Setting * The California Doctrine: 1851-1886 * THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY * The Corps and the French Engineering Tradition * Commerce, Navigation and the "Steamboat Case" * French Tradition versus Frontier Techniques * Navigation and the Beginning of River Dams: 1824-1865 * Postwar Navigation and the Ohio River: 1866-1885 * The Upper Mississippi and the Headwater Dams:1866-1899 * WATER IN

THE WEST: ORIGINS OF THE RECLAMATION SERVICE * The West Before the Nineteenth Century * Water and Mormon Migration * California Water Development * The Exploits of John Wesley Powell * The Sentimental and Practical during the 1890s * The Chittenden Survey of 1897 * Newell, Roosevelt and the Move to Reclamation * PROGRESSIVISM



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