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***NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL WATER CRISES
EXAMINED BY EXPERT SCHOLARS, RESEARCHERS***

AAUP Releases Summer Edition on Water in *Books for Understanding*

New York (July 15, 2003) — Water, H₂O, is a simple molecule, but not a simple topic.

Water rights and usage has led to moral questioning and wars, environmental battles and exceedingly complex legal arguments. Today, in many areas of the world – from the American West to the Middle East, Aral Sea, and the Amazon – access to water has reached crisis proportions.

Though New York City's reservoirs are now full after weeks of early summer rain, the American West continues to suffer a years-long drought, and is fighting devastating fire while waiting for rain. Access to potable water is an increasing source of tension in Iraq and around the globe. Cross-boundary disputes – between cities, states, and nations – complicate the distribution of increasingly scarce groundwater supplies.

With these issues in mind, water is the subject of the latest free online bibliography from *Books for Understanding* compiled by Association of American University Presses.

More than 100 books currently in print – including titles exploring the politics of water, engineering, conservation, reclamation – are included in this list, available to the public at <http://aaupnet.org/booksforunderstanding.html>. Additionally, and of special interest to journalists, is contact information for expert authors, scholars, and editors who are available for discussion and commentary on national and international issues related to water.

Among the books and experts featured in the new bibliography:

* *Water in the Middle East: A Geography of Peace* (University of Texas Press).
Editors are Hussein Amery, professor of geography at the Colorado School of Mines, and Aaron Wolfe, assistant professor of geography at Oregon State University.

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- * *Green Plans: Greenprint for Sustainability* (University of Nebraska Press). Author Huey D. Johnson is a distinguished environmentalist known for his pioneering work on protecting and managing natural resources.
- * *Floods, Droughts, and Climate Change* (University of Arizona Press). Coauthors are Michael Collier, a science writer, photographer, and physician, and Robert H. Webb, a research hydrologist who studies climate change in the southwestern U.S.
- * *Fluid Arguments: Five Centuries of Western Water Conflict* (University of Arizona Press) and *Water in the West: A High Country News Reader* (Oregon State University Press) . Editor Char Miller is Chair and Professor of History at Trinity University.
- * *Uphill Against Water: The Great Dakota Water War* (University of Nebraska Press). Author is Peter Carrels, head of American Rivers (the leading river conservation organization) and a designer of the traveling exhibit, *Discovering the Rivers of Lewis and Clark*.

Books for Understanding is a one-stop, easy-to-use online resource for anyone looking for in-depth background and expertise on today's news. Sponsored by AAUP, *Books for Understanding* features subject-specific bibliographies on the critically important topics in the headlines. It is a dynamic resource, new bibliographies are compiled when a major news story breaks or heated public debate takes place. Bibliographies are archived on the site, so lists can be accessed for books and experts on Afghanistan, Taxes, Racial Issues, Freedom of Expression, and Business Ethics.

Books for Understanding was sparked by Sanford Thatcher, Director of Pennsylvania State University Press. Immediately after September 11, he noticed a surge of requests for two backlist titles on terrorism and approached AAUP with a request to compile a field-wide listing for people looking for information and insight. The Association of American University Presses is the world's largest organization of not-for-profit scholarly publishers. Formally established in 1937, AAUP promotes the work and influence of its 124 university press members.