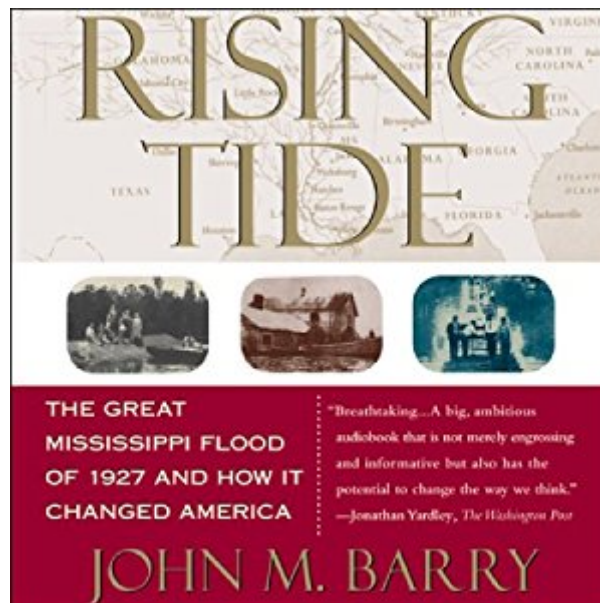




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Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood Of 1927 And How It Changed America



Synopsis

An American epic of science, politics, race, honor, high society, and the Mississippi River, *Rising Tide* tells the riveting and nearly forgotten story of the greatest natural disaster this country has ever known -- the Mississippi flood of 1927. The river inundated the homes of nearly one million people, helped elect Huey Long governor and made Herbert Hoover president, drove hundreds of thousands of blacks north, and transformed American society and politics forever. A New York Times Notable Book of the Year, winner of the Southern Book Critics Circle Award and the Lillian Smith Award. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very good book about what turned out to be a more pivotal moment in American History that affect much more than the area that was flooded.

I'm working on a documentary about the Mississippi River. I've read the book three times and have listened to it as an audiobook. I've learned something new on each pass through it. I rarely give five stars to anything, but this deserves it.

Compelling and well-told story of the Mississippi River Flood and how a small number of very powerful men in New Orleans arbitrarily made a decision to wipe out the mostly poor, rural and African-American population downriver to save New Orleans. If you don't remember ever hearing of this flood, it got short shrift since the Great Depression hit right on its heels and Americans had

other things to worry about besides corrupt politicians. Was also interested to hear that this flood and the Red Cross's response to it is how Herbert Hoover rose to power. It is a shameful chapter in America's history and should never be forgotten. I couldn't stop reading it and couldn't believe such a thing happened in America in the 20th century. I have bought many, many copies of this book and give it to friends to read all the time. Everyone needs to know this story!!!!

I have had an interest in the Mississippi River since boyhood and I have a rather large collection of books about the river. *Rising Tide* is a great addition to that collection. Being pressed for time at the moment but not wanting to forget to post a review of this book, I will be brief. That works because the other reviews have said just about all that can be said about this fine book. I will say that the book's only flaw (if it can be called that) is also one of its strongest points. That is, that it often drifts off from subject to subject until the reader may almost forget that the book is about the great Mississippi flood of 1927. But that drifting is what gives the book such depth and it provides a wealth of information about our history, in general. We learn about the back-room dealings and political maneuvering of a wide range of powerful people. I learned a lot about New Orleans society that I had no idea about before. The story weaves itself into our entire history of an era. This is excellent reading for the history buff like myself or for the professional historian, having extensive lists of source material, notes, indexes, etc. Being a serious history buff, this book was like a huge odd-shaped puzzle piece that filled in many gaps in history. The river itself is really just a back-drop to a much larger and more important story that this book tells so well. I highly recommend this book.

This is a large scale history book, which centers on one disastrous event, and tries to fit it into a more general history of the American South, especially in Mississippi and Louisiana. The discussions of race relations in those areas are highly disturbing, if accurate. The author does explain the rise of Herbert Hoover's career. The history of man's efforts to contain the river and its floods is very detailed. I only wish the last chapter, which discussed the more recent status of the river control system, were longer. It makes the surprising prediction that the Mississippi River may have a new course in the near future. A dense read but worth the time.

This is an excellent historical account of both the event and the people involved in the Mississippi River flood of 1927. It almost reads like a novel in the way the characters are described. This makes the book much more readable as the characters lives before, during and after the flood are the most interesting parts of the book. As a resident of Greenville, Ms., it also allowed me to see my town,

and the Mississippi delta in a whole new way.

Excellent book, with a history that I knew nothing about. A well-researched, excellent historical read.

This book is more a history of southern political game-playing than that of a great flood, the latter being lost in a story of the political skullduggery of local, regional, and even national politicians who played a role, invited or otherwise, in the etiology of the flood and its sequelae. The tragedy of the flood, its human toll, and the devastation of the landscape are all clearly described. Still, it is difficult for the reader to comprehend the range and depth of the devastation, if only because of its immensity. Accountings of the flood itself and how it affected those in its path are well written, but all is overshadowed by the unbelievably self-serving actions of the political leaders of the area, their gross incompetency in providing leadership, guidance, and timely assistance to the untold thousands of their constituencies, and of similar failings in many of the flood control experts, no two of which seemed able to agree on the best way to handle the crisis. It seems that everyone in authority was out to advance his or her career or in some way promote their private agenda without regard for the thousands who were sick, injured, and/or had lost their land, crops, and personal possessions including their homes. On the positive side, the reader will learn a lot about rivers and their behavior patterns and personalities. Who knew? Dr. Gr.

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