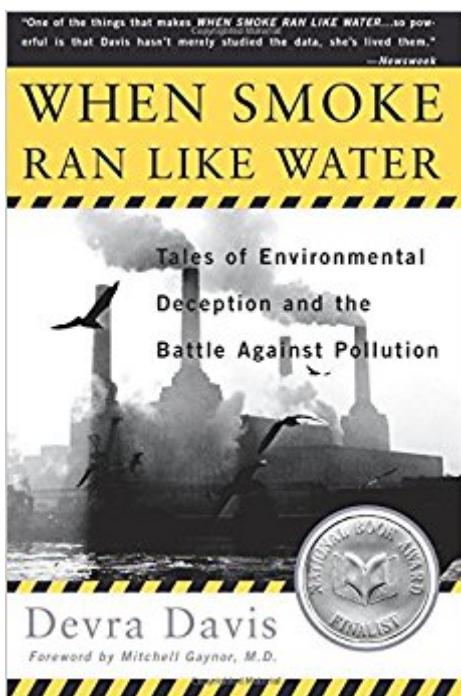


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When Smoke Ran Like Water: Tales Of Environmental Deception And The Battle Against Pollution



Synopsis

In When Smoke Ran Like Water, the world-renowned epidemiologist Devra Davis confronts the public triumphs and private failures of her lifelong battle against environmental pollution. She documents the shocking toll of a public-health disaster-300,000 deaths a year in the U.S. and Europe from the effects of pollution-and asks why we remain silent. For Davis, the issue is personal: Pollution is what killed many in her family and forced some of the others, survivors of the 1948 smog emergency in Donora, Pennsylvania, to live out their lives with impaired health. She describes that episode and also makes startling revelations about how the deaths from the London smog of 1952 were falsely attributed to influenza; how the oil companies and auto manufacturers fought for decades to keep lead in gasoline, while knowing it caused brain damage; and many other battles. When Smoke Ran Like Water makes a devastating case for change.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Davis, one of the world's leading epidemiologists and researchers on environmentally linked illness, writes about her lifelong battle against environmental pollution in strong prose, underlined with some horrifying stories. With a special emphasis on air pollution and its long-term effects, Davis anecdotally talks about some of the most infamous smogs and fogs of all time, including the Donora Fog (October 26, 1948) that left a small zinc-factory town in Pennsylvania blanketed in a thick, toxic fog for over a week. "Within days, nearly half the town would fall ill" and within one 24-hour period

18 people had died. She argues that these incidents are underreported because the industries responsible for the pollutants are often powerful corporations or the major employer in these small towns. Research into the long-term effects of pollution, such as breast and testicular cancer, reveals that people in the Northeast (including Long Island and Connecticut) and in California have a higher incidence of serious illnesses. Most importantly, Davis brings to the fore the long-lasting effects of growing up and living in a polluted atmosphere, clearly demonstrating that "people living in areas with the dirtiest air had the highest risk of dying." She sounds the warning bell loud and clear: the threat to public health is real. This is an enlightening, engrossing read (with an intro by Gaynor, a leading oncologist at the Weill-Cornell Medical College in New York City), which should be on the shelf of anyone who cares about the environment and wants to learn more about policy, health and politics; Davis weaves all of these together with grace. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Epidemiologist Davis documents the struggle to force the auto, oil, coal, and chemical industries to come to terms with the environmental consequences of their unregulated release of toxic substances into our air and water—in particular high cancer rates, heart and lung diseases, infertility, brain damage, and death. She sets the stage by describing the perpetual health problems and deaths in her home town of Donora, PA, caused by toxins from coal, steel, and zinc processing. Her accounts of the devastating black smog that blanketed the town for several days in 1948 and other black smogs in Liege, London, and Los Angeles reveal the global nature of the problem. This is an expos on how industrial polluters deceived the public, belittled scientists and academics, and pressured government agencies to stifle regulations. Davis acknowledges that today's environmental regulations are a tribute to those who fought the polluters and demanded change, but the battle continues. Recommended for all environmental and public health collections; for additional coverage of this issue, see also Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner's *Deceit and Denial: The Deadly Politics of Industrial Pollution* and Sandra Steingraber's *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment*. Irwin Weintraub, Brooklyn Coll. Lib., New York Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The book is a well-told story of how the U.S. clean air laws come about despite fierce opposition from many large corporations. It's also a very personal story of the deadly Donora, Pa. air pollution episode in 1948 when the author as a small child living there, and who is now a leading air-pollution

scientist. The book nicely weaves together the stories of those in Donora and elsewhere who suffered from air pollution and the scientists and others, including the author, who led the struggle--still far from over--to clear the air of deadly pollutants.

Living in pa all my life never heard of this until i seen it portrayed on tv. Need to dig deeper into history of my home state to see what else i never heard of . Read this book and learn why controlling air pollution is a must everywhere.

Awesome book! I had to pick one off a list to read for class, and was dreading it. Lucky me I chose this one. The author really keeps it moving without boring the heck out of you.

The book is used. But it seems like it's new! No Torn or wrinkled pages. I used this book for school. Helped me and my grade. Good book to read too!

Like Dr Davis, I grew up in a town where citizens were poisoned. Dr Davis account of industry poisoning the environment intentionally validated my experience. There is too much of this happening and people need to become aware. This book is very easy to read, loaded with factual and actual accounts and needs to be taken seriously.

very good

Amazing i like the book

I am not a scientist, but I have practiced environmental law, as a regulator, for the past 14 years. Sad to say, what Dr. Davis represents as the roadblocks to a safer and healthier environment for all the earth's inhabitants are, largely, my experiences too. However, this is not a book of all doom and gloom. In the end, on the issues where there are individuals who refuse to give up, or be coopted, justice often prevails -- we just needlessly cause damage in our delay to get there! Dr. Davis is clearly one of those individuals born to fight and lead! You will be inspired.

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