



Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America

By John M. Barry

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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.

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Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America By John M. Barry **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

When Mother Nature rages, the physical results are never subtle. Because we cannot contain the weather, we can only react by tabulating the damage in dollar amounts, estimating the number of people left homeless, and laying the plans for rebuilding. But as John M. Barry expertly details in *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America*, some calamities transform much more than the landscape.

While tracing the history of the nation's most destructive natural disaster, Barry explains how ineptitude and greed helped cause the flood, and how the policies created to deal with the disaster changed the culture of the Mississippi Delta. Existing racial rifts expanded, helping to launch Herbert Hoover into the White House and shifting the political alliances of many blacks in the process. An absorbing account of a little-known, yet monumental event in American history, *Rising Tide* reveals how human behavior proved more destructive than the swollen river itself.

From Library Journal

In the spring of 1927, America witnessed perhaps its greatest natural disaster: a flood that profoundly changed race relations, government, and society in the Mississippi River valley region. Barry (*The Transformed Cell*, LJ 9/1/92) presents here a fascinating social history of the effects of the massive flood. More than 30 feet of water stood over land inhabited by nearly one million people. Almost 300,000 African Americans were forced to live in refugee camps for months. Many people, both black and white, left the land and never returned. Using an impressive array of primary and secondary sources, Barry clearly traces and analyzes how the changes produced by the flood in the lower South came into conflict and ultimately destroyed the old planter aristocracy, accelerated black migration to the North, and foreshadowed federal government intervention in the region's social and economic life during the New Deal. His well-written work supplants Pete Daniel's *Deep'n as It Come: The 1927 Mississippi Flood* (1977) as the standard work on the subject. Recommended for public and academic libraries.

-?Charles C. Hay III, *Eastern Kentucky Univ. Libs., Richmond*

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From [Booklist](#)

The devastating Mississippi flood of 1927 certainly wrought changes in the U.S. on many levels: demographic (more than 1,000 died, over 900,000 were left homeless, and millions of African Americans migrated North); political (Huey Long was elected governor and Hoover president); governmental (the flood inspired New Deal-type policies as the federal government moved to stabilize the diaster); and societal (the plantation aristocracy was wiped out). Barry has fashioned an epic from this dramatic historic incident, beginning with the two egomaniacal engineers, James Buchanan Eads and Andrew Atkinson Humphreys, whose personal conflict over the river muddied, indeed, the system to control it, a problem which still exists. Moving on to the aristocratic family of Senator LeRoy Percy and his battle to control the flood, Barry gives the story depth and frames its multiple effects. And then there is the flood itself and the continuation of power struggles: "Whites liked to think a flood fight represented the best of the community . . . it simply reflected the nature of power." An informative work, interestingly told. *Bonnie Smothers*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Margaret Williams:

The book *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America* give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable much more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem using your subject. If you can make reading through a book *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America* to be your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You could know everything if you like open and read a reserve *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this book?

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Frank Arnett:

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thinking.

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