



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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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 disaster); 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:

Joaquin Hogan:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America*. Try to face the book *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America* as your good friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you sense alone and beside those of course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book makes you more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we should make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Darius Cramer:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children till adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important normally. The book *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America* ended up being making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The guide *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America* is not only giving you considerably more new information but also to become your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with all the book *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America*. You never sense lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

Robert Henderson:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a new book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a publication. The book *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America* it is very good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book offers high quality.

Theresa Tompkins:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America* publication written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still hesitation *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How it Changed America* as

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