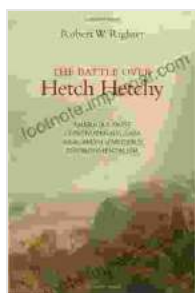


The Battle Over Hetch Hetchy: A Historic Struggle for America's Wilderness

The Hetch Hetchy Valley is a beautiful Yosemite-like valley in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California. The valley is home to giant sequoia trees, cascading waterfalls, and pristine meadows. In the early 1900s, the city of San Francisco proposed damming the Hetch Hetchy Valley to provide water for its growing population. The proposal sparked a fierce battle between conservationists and the city of San Francisco. The outcome of the battle had a profound impact on the development of the American conservation movement and on the preservation of wilderness in the United States.



The Battle over Hetch Hetchy: America's Most Controversial Dam and the Birth of Modern Environmentalism

by Robert W. Righter

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 4346 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 328 pages

Lending : Enabled



The Conservationists

The conservationists who fought to save Hetch Hetchy Valley were a diverse group of people. They included prominent writers such as John

Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson, as well as scientists, educators, and businessmen. The conservationists argued that Hetch Hetchy Valley was a unique and irreplaceable natural treasure. They believed that the valley should be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

The City of San Francisco

The city of San Francisco was in desperate need of water in the early 1900s. The city's population was growing rapidly, and its existing water sources were inadequate. The city's leaders believed that damming Hetch Hetchy Valley was the best way to meet the city's water needs.

The Battle

The battle over Hetch Hetchy Valley was a long and bitter one. The conservationists used every means at their disposal to stop the dam, including lobbying, public relations, and legal challenges. The city of San Francisco fought back with equal determination. The battle culminated in a vote by the United States Congress in 1913. The vote was close, but the city of San Francisco ultimately prevailed.

The Dam

The O'Shaughnessy Dam was completed in 1923. The dam created the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, which supplies water to San Francisco to this day. The damming of Hetch Hetchy Valley was a major victory for the city of San Francisco, but it was also a defeat for the conservation movement. The damming of Hetch Hetchy Valley set a precedent for the development of other dams in national parks and forests.

The Legacy

The battle over Hetch Hetchy Valley is a reminder of the importance of protecting our natural resources. The damming of Hetch Hetchy Valley was a tragedy, but it also helped to raise awareness of the need to protect our wilderness. The conservation movement has come a long way since the battle over Hetch Hetchy Valley, but the fight to protect our natural resources is not over.

The Battle Over Hetch Hetchy is a fascinating and important story. The book tells the story of a battle that had a profound impact on the development of the American conservation movement and on the preservation of wilderness in the United States. The book is essential reading for anyone interested in the history of the American environmental movement, the history of the Sierra Nevada mountains, or the history of San Francisco.



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