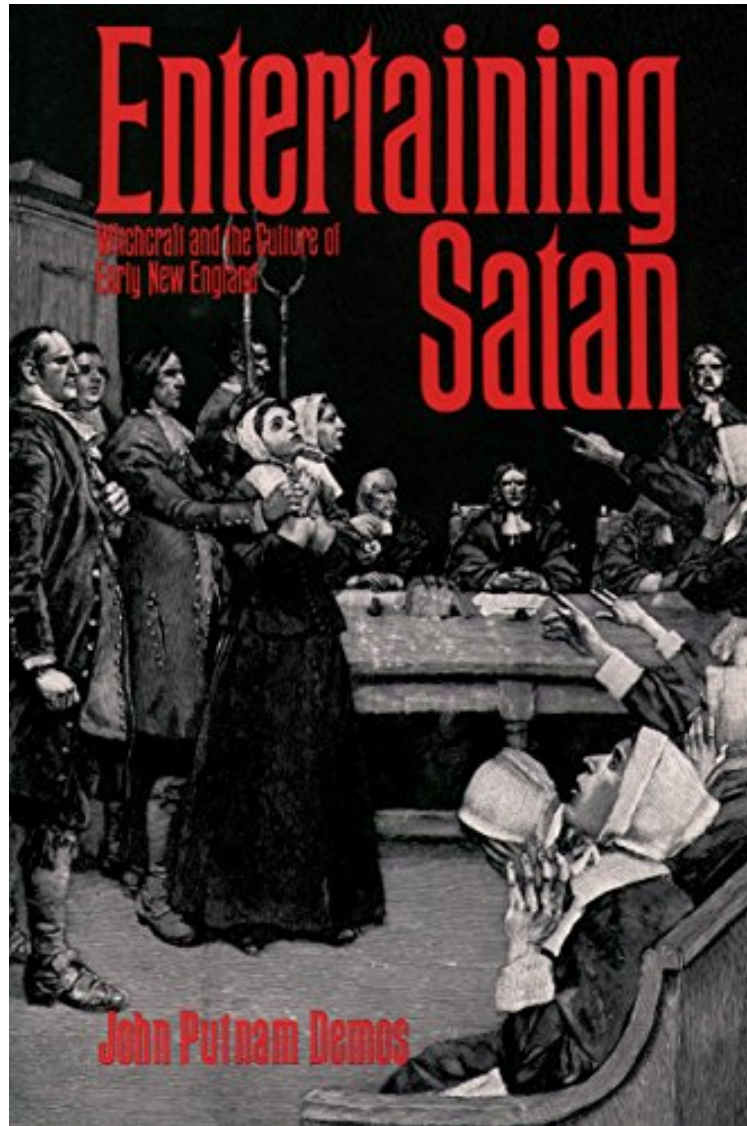


[Library ebook] Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s

## Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s

Von Donald Worster

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**Von Donald Worster : Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Environmental DisasterVon Jon B. ThomasMy mother was born and raised on a west Kansas wheat farm. She grew up in the "dirty 30's" and I spent my summers as a child on that farm in the "filthy 50's". However, I know she saw a lot more blowing dirt in the 30's than I did in the 50's.I think this book does an excellent job of presenting the human side of the dust bowl disaster. He doesn't romanticize the people who lived in that section of the country or their part in the

ecological disaster. He describes in a lot of detail what factors led to the disaster. Apparently it was primarily due to both drought and a short sighted desire to strike it rich plowing up grassy prairie to plant wheat. The growing of wheat during the 1910's was especially profitable because of high prices. Unfortunately, the center of the dust bowl was and is highly unsuited for any agricultural practice that leaves the soil fully exposed to wind erosion. About my only complaint of the book is that it gets a little heavy handed on the idea of an agrarian "utopian" world. When I was younger I liked liberal "utopian" dreams as well. However, I think that human self-interest is never going to fully go away. It's good to appeal to people's idealism, communitarian and environmental values, etc. However, any meaningful solution also needs to be sympathetic to the human beings trying to make a living in this dusty land.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Family from Center of Dust Bowl  
Von Randy Miller  
Our family has farmed in the panhandle of Oklahoma for almost 100 years. We still farm there, and in Texhoma (North Texas) both in the center of the dust bowl. My mother grew up there and was always telling us how severe it was and we (as her children) didn't really believe that it could be as bad as she said. However, since that time, we have reviewed the book, and seen a video of actual motion pictures of that period, - in the very area that was the subject of the book. Everything we have seen, and heard from all of our relatives who lived there at this time appear to be in total agreement with the book. We still farm there and it seems that the cyclical weathern pattern could be developing for a reoccurrence of the same pattern, especially since the water table used for irrigation (so important in that part of the U.S., is decreasing yearly.

Randy Miller  
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent History, Excellent Reading  
Von Ein Kunde  
This remains one of my favorite history monographs. Worster's argument is that the ecological disaster of the dust bowl had its roots in the economic, political, and environmental assumptions of farmers and politicians. These are not the sturdy frontier farmers who love their land and democracy, more akin to miners of the soil who push it far beyond its limits.

Kurzbeschreibung  
In the mid 1930s, North America's Great Plains faced one of the worst man-made environmental disasters in world history. Donald Worster's classic chronicle of the devastating years between 1929 and 1939 tells the story of the Dust Bowl in ecological as well as human terms. Now, twenty-five years after his book helped to define the new field of environmental history, Worster shares his more recent thoughts on the subject of the land and how humans interact with it. In a new afterword, he links the Dust Bowl to current political, economic and ecological issues--including the American livestock industry's exploitation of the Great Plains, and the on-going problem of desertification, which has now become a global phenomenon. He reflects on the state of the plains today and the threat of a new dustbowl. He outlines some solutions that have been proposed, such as "the Buffalo Commons," where deer, antelope, bison and elk would once more roam freely, and suggests that we may yet witness a Great Plains where native flora and fauna flourish while applied ecologists show farmers how to raise food on land modeled after the natural prairies that once existed.

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