

their lifetime, in 1499. There is a series of European maps from the mid-1300s to the end of the 16th century, which kaleidoscope the advances in knowledge that occurred over a couple of centuries. There are dozens of early drawings, prints, and watercolors recording the appearance and customs of the native American population.

One piece owned by the Library of Congress itself is especially revealing. The Huejotzingo Codex of 1531, produced less than a decade after the completion of the Conquest of Mexico, is a painting by indigenous artists on pre-European paper and it records a lawsuit which the people of the town of Huejotzingo (state of Puebla) asked the conqueror of Mexico, Hernan Cortés, to initiate against certain members of the first Audiencia, or high court of New Spain, who had abused the people and unjustly used the incomes and profits secured from the town during Cortés's absence. It contains what may be the earliest known indigenous image of the Madonna and Child. You would not realize this from the exhibit, but the catalogue makes clear a very important point: that the natives looked to Cortés as their protector. In other words, it was not a matter of the good natives versus the bad Spaniards, but instead, of deep factional splits among the Europeans themselves, as well as, no doubt, among the indigenous. These splits must also be examined in the case of the massive introduction of black African slave trading into the Caribbean, a crime which is documented by artifacts in the show associating it with sugar-cane cultivation, but never actually probed in terms of its historical causality.

A glimpse at a more transcendent notion of cause is provided in the section dealing with navigation, cartography, and instruments, which is among the most inspiring parts of the exhibit. This includes a page from the book by Rodrigo Zamorano, *Compendio del arte de navegar (Compendium on the Art of Navigation)*, published in Seville in 1588, showing a compass with the image of the Virgin and Child in the center. It is labeled "*Maris Stella succurre nobis*" ("Star of the Sea, come to our aid"). Columbus and other Mediterranean sailors associated this star with the Virgin Mary, one of whose titles was Star of the Sea (*Maris Stella*).

The Latin hymn, "*Ave Maris Stella*," became the theme of numerous polyphonic Mass settings by the leading composers of the Renaissance, such as one composed around 1510 in Italy by the Franco-Flemish genius Josquin des Prez, and later, by the Spaniard Renaissance composer Tomás Luis de Victoria (1549-1610). One can not help but wonder if this music were not intended to celebrate the discoveries and evangelization of America by Europeans, under the aegis of the Virgin Mary.

If the destiny of the civilization that resulted from that encounter is to build a new model of society in which every individual, regardless of skin color or ethnic origin, is treasured as a creature made in the living image of God, then the Library of Congress exhibition, despite its monstrously flawed premises, presents a formidable compendium of the cultural resources from which this can be made reality.

## British ecologist promotes going thirsty

by Alexander Hartmann

---

### **The Dammed: Rivers, Dams, and the Coming World Water Crisis**

by Fred Pearce

The Bodley Head, London, 1992

376 pages, hardbound, £18

---

When you read this book, you will have the impression that the author really "did his homework," and researched just about every water project in the world—and certainly all the major ones—for their environmental impact. His list of references is long, and often it refers to interviews and observations the author made on "fact-finding tours" throughout the world.

You are introduced to the irrigation techniques invented millennia ago in the Near East, in the Americas, and elsewhere. After all this work, you might think his opposition to each and every major project under way to improve the availability of water for human consumption, whether in households, agriculture, or industry, were the hard-earned fruit of his labor; and his position, that we have to return to the ancient technologies of "harvesting water" to feed an—if possible—non-growing human population, were indeed what should be done; and his polemical language were justified. That is what any reader will think who is not familiar with the issues.

But if you have any knowledge about some of the little details of the issue, you will find that his polemic is less a justified judgment reached after a fair trial, than it is a symptom of incurable bias that prevented the author from seeing the truth—or maybe, just from reporting it.

### **Half-truths and lies**

There is no *audiatur et altera pars*, you are told only one side of the story. Just one example: He claims that the ancient Mexican technique of using "floating gardens" permitted up to six harvests per year on lakes covering about one-fourth of the central Mexican plains, feeding up to 100 million natives at the time of Columbus. He does not report, though, that most of these lakes were too salty for any agricultural use, a fact widely known in Mexico. With the technologies that were in use at the time in the Americas, only about 20 million people could possibly have existed there. There are

plenty of other instances, where he mixes half-truths with facts and straight misrepresentations.

Hence, for most people, the book is worthless to read, since only a very few have the opportunity to check out which of the details the author reports are true, and which are not—and that is indeed necessary for every single assertion he makes.

For those familiar with the author, this comes as no surprise. Fred Pearce, a contributor to British publications, including the *Guardian*, the *Independent*, the *Observer*, and the *New Scientist*, has been on the forefront of every ecological scare the international news media have decided to impose on the world. As with the scare stories expounded in his books *Acid Rain* and *Turning Up the Heat*, the allegations Pearce makes in his newest volume might well turn out to be more hot air than all global warming will ever produce.

## Britain and the geopolitics of oil

by Peter Rush

---

### **A Century of War: Anglo-American Oil Politics and the New World Order**

by F. William Engdahl

Böttiger Verlag, Wiesbaden, Germany, 1993  
283 pages, paperbound, \$19.80

---

The 1974 “oil crisis” was not created by the Arab governments of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), as most people still believe, but by the ruling elites of the West. This one of the revelations of this book by *EIR*’s European Economics editor. The underlying reality was exposed by *EIR* at the time, but William Engdahl has investigated the conspiracy for the first time in detail, and made it the subject of a book written for a popular audience.

Conventional wisdom has it that the fourfold increase in oil prices in early 1974 was OPEC’s retaliation for losing the October War with Israel in 1973. But in reality, in April 1973, six months before the war, and almost a year before the oil price increase, a collection of Europe and America’s most influential people attending the meeting of the Bilderberg Society in Sweden were briefed on the coming “crisis” by U.S. oil analyst David Levy, who announced that OPEC would shortly be quadrupling its oil prices.

Given the devastation this would cause, especially in Europe, the reaction ought to have been one of anger and concern to avert this. Instead, the entire discussion after

Levy’s presentation focused on how to “recycle” the huge inflow of dollars that would pour into Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other OPEC countries. A year later, the topic was called “petrodollar recycling,” but the Bilderberger gentlemen discussed it nine months before there were any “petrodollars.”

Author Engdahl also shows how Henry Kissinger, who attended that Bilderberger meeting, proceeded to provoke the war by systematically lying to both Israel and the Arabs about each other’s plans. All the ensuing devastation to the world economy caused by the OPEC oil price hike—gasoline lines and inflation in the United States, western Europe, and Japan, and economic disaster for the Third World—was thus the result of a plot by behind-the-scenes powers for motives having nothing to do with Arab-Israeli conflicts.

Engdahl’s source for this revelation comes from the mouths of conspirators themselves, a story which he related in a recent public seminar but chose not to include in the book. Five years ago, he spotted a volume containing the 1973 Bilderberger proceedings, marked “Not for Public Distribution,” in a used bookstore in Europe. Hoping the bookseller would not see the inscription, Engdahl paid a pittance for the book and left the bookstore. Inside was a transcript of Levy’s speech, and the discussion that followed, as well as a list of all the participants, and information on the other panels. Since all Bilderberger meetings are wrapped in secrecy, and leaks are rare, this was a most fortuitous find.

But why did these circles seek to provoke the oil shock? Engdahl answers that question, beginning with the mid-19th century decision by Great Britain to become the dominant world power. The British System was based not on an effort to develop the largest economy, but to control world finance, world trade, and the world’s natural resources, toward which goals it also sought to maintain the largest colonial empire. After World War II, the United States became the supreme financial power, and Britain developed “the special relationship” with the United States, which means that leading circles in Great Britain pull the strings of American policymakers.

After World War II, the United States began copying the British blueprint for decline: Rather than investing in new technologies or needed infrastructure, with the partial exception of the Kennedy period, the United States shifted its economic focus from production to the “post-industrial” economy, in which the tangible production of useful goods is suffocated in a mountain of useless paper values. By the early 1970s, the rise of more productive economies in Japan, Germany, and France, relative to U.S. stagnation, was undermining the U.S. dollar. The point was fast approaching when these nations would have dumped the dollar as the primary reserve currency.

But that would have undermined the ability of the Anglo-Americans to run the world financial system. As Engdahl documents, at the same time that OPEC quadrupled the price of oil, it also demanded that all payments for oil be made in dollars. Suddenly, the entire world became dependent on acquiring enormous quantities of dollars to pay for oil. And