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By investigating how the most fundamental element - water - was 'conquered' by draining fens and marshes, straightening the courses of rivers, building high dams and exploiting hydro-electric...

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The Conquest Of Nature: Water, Landscape, and the Making ...

The Conquest of Nature: Water, Landscape and the Making of Modern Germany, by David Blackbourn. London, Jonathan Cape, 2006. xiii, 497 pp. \$29.95 US (cloth), \$17.05 US (paper). A well-told set of stories in an engaging volume is a rarity among historical studies.

The Conquest of Nature: Water, Landscape and the Making of ...

This conquest of nature was seen as a peaceful victory of science and technology; in reality it was often "the handmaiden of war." The "water wars" the book describes, even when they were not at the service of military designs, created their own conflicts: they "set rival users against each other" and local interests against larger ones, who usually prevailed.

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Review: The Conquest of Nature: Water, Landscape and the ...

THE CONQUEST OF NATURE Water, Landscape and the Making of Modern Germany DAVID BLACKBOURN PIMLICO. CONTENTS List of Maps ix Acknowledgements x Preface xi Introduction: Nature and Landscape in German History i Chapter One: Conquests from Barbarism A Wilderness of Water and Marsh zi The Lords and Masters of Nature 37 Colonists ' 46 Fields of Joy ...

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Blackbourn examines attitudes towards nature and civil engineering projects from the second half of the 18th century to contemporary Germany. For much of this period, and despite a fair amount of romanticization of the natural world, the basic attitude was that of control of nature and conquest of nature in the interest of German populations.

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