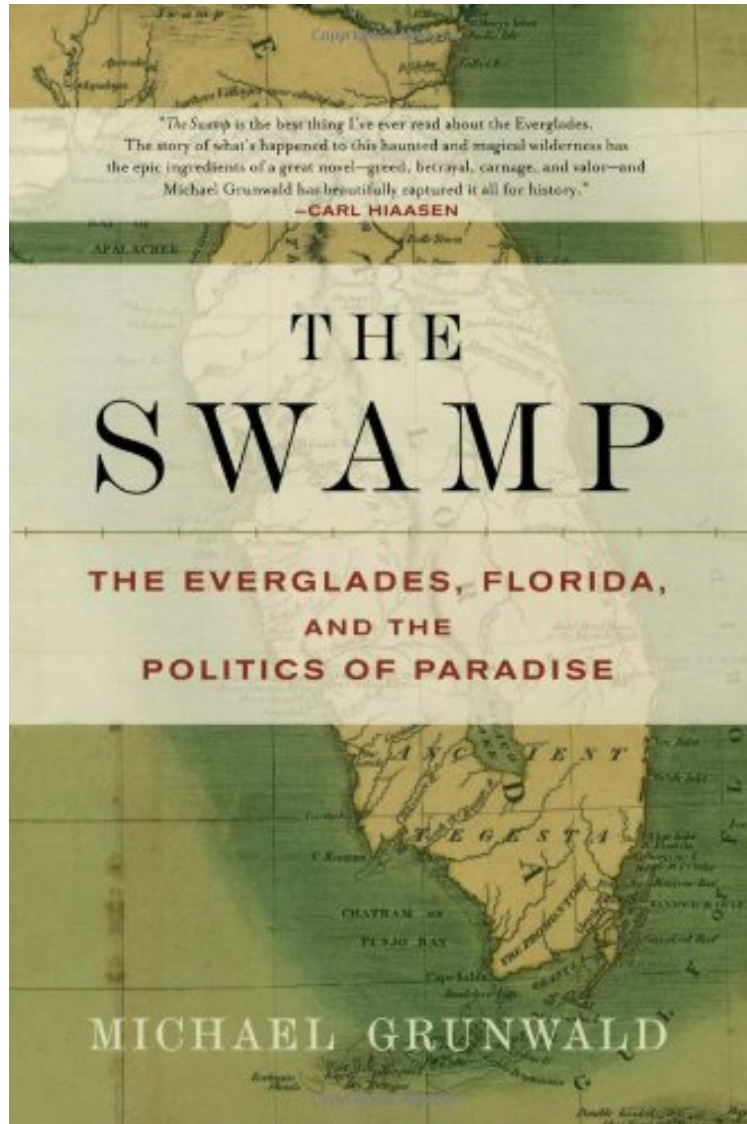


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The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise

Michael Grunwald

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Michael Grunwald : The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. OverwhelmingBy Richard NewtonI'm really not sure how to rate this book. If your goal is to learn about the Everglades I would give this book a 4-star rating. Maybe even a 5-star rating. If your goal is to read a good book then this is at best a 3-star book.The information is simply overwhelming.

Grunwald tells us everything. Unfortunately he does so without separating the important from the interesting. This book would have benefited from more maps and images. I live in the Everglades but even I had trouble at times. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very well researched and well written. By Roger A. Grimes. Hard to believe that a history of the Everglades and its manmade canals could keep your attention, but this book does. I learned so much about the Everglades and how man has completely messed it up and how politics are continuing to kill it. I live in south Florida and I look at every canal in a different light now. Very well researched and well written. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Mucky-muck never appeared this fascinating before! By S. Woodall. Hard to believe a book, with the title "The Swamp" could be so exciting and chock full of history, politics, scandal, you name it, it's all in here. In describing with great accuracy and detail the history of the Everglades in central Florida, Grunwald weaves a complex story about its significance to not only the State of Florida, but about the US as well. Grunwald obviously did a prodigious amount of research for this book. His writing style is totally compelling. An excellent read.

The Everglades was once reviled as a liquid wasteland, and Americans dreamed of draining it. Now it is revered as a national treasure, and Americans have launched the largest environmental project in history to try to save it. *The Swamp* is the stunning story of the destruction and possible resurrection of the Everglades, the saga of man's abuse of nature in southern Florida and his unprecedented efforts to make amends. Michael Grunwald, a prize-winning national reporter for *The Washington Post*, takes readers on a riveting journey from the Ice Ages to the present, illuminating the natural, social and political history of one of America's most beguiling but least understood patches of land. The Everglades was America's last frontier, a wild country long after the West was won. Grunwald chronicles how a series of visionaries tried to drain and "reclaim" it, and how Mother Nature refused to bend to their will; in the most harrowing tale, a 1928 hurricane drowned 2,500 people in the Everglades. But the Army Corps of Engineers finally tamed the beast with levees and canals, converting half the Everglades into sprawling suburbs and sugar plantations. And though the southern Everglades was preserved as a national park, it soon deteriorated into an ecological mess. The River of Grass stopped flowing, and 90 percent of its wading birds vanished. Now America wants its swamp back. Grunwald shows how a new breed of visionaries transformed Everglades politics, producing the \$8 billion rescue plan. That plan is already the blueprint for a new worldwide era of ecosystem restoration. And this book is a cautionary tale for that era. Through gripping narrative and dogged reporting, Grunwald shows how the Everglades is still threatened by the same hubris, greed and well-intentioned folly that led to its decline.

From *Publishers Weekly* Starred . Washington Post reporter Grunwald brings the zeal of his profession—and the skill that won him a Society of Environmental Journalists Award in 2003—to this enthralling story of "the river of grass" that starry-eyed social engineers and greedy developers have diverted, drained and exploited for more than a century. In 1838, fewer than 50 white people lived in south Florida, and the Everglades was seen as a vast and useless bog. By the turn of this century, more than seven million people lived there (and 40 million tourists visited annually). Escalating demands of new residents after WWII were sapping the Everglades of its water and decimating the shrinking swamp's wildlife. But in a remarkable political and environmental turnaround, chronicled here with a Washington insider's savvy, Republicans and Democrats came together in 2000 to launch the largest ecosystem restoration project in America's history. This detailed account doesn't shortchange the environmental story—including an account of the senseless fowl hunts that provoked abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1877 broadside "Protect the Birds." But Grunwald's emphasis on the role politics played in first despoiling and now reclaiming the Everglades gives this important book remarkable heft. 18 pages of bw photos; 7 maps. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Bookmarks Magazine* *The Swamp* emerged from a four-part series that Grunwald wrote for the *Washington Post* in 2002, which focused on the \$8 billion plan to restore the Everglades. From there, Grunwald fleshed out the Everglades's contested history. Critics laud *The Swamp* as an informative, beautifully researched and written tale that links social, political, and environmental history to current events. Many commented on Grunwald's finesse in describing the dreamers and schemers who sold Florida swampland, the engineers who tried to buck nature's forces. A few thought that Grunwald paid too little attention to current controversies, did not adequately explain today's Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and assumed a condition of ecological purity to pre-European contact Florida. These are minor complaints; Grunwald's unbiased story will provoke outrage over our squandered "river of grass." Copyright © 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From *Booklist* *Starred * The phrase teeming with life could have been coined to describe the Everglades in its pristine state, but as Grunwald, an award-winning journalist for the *Washington Post*, so vividly describes, this vast Florida wetland has been under siege since the days of the conquistadors. As enterprising men attempted to drain, tame, and develop this fertile swamp, they wreaked ecological chaos instead, causing droughts, dust storms, wildfires, extinctions, pollution, and water shortages. Grunwald strikes just the right balance of awe, ire, and analysis in his expert and animated chronicle of the history of the Everglades, which encompasses the Seminole wars, a Reconstruction-era land rush, the notorious Roaring Twenties boom that made Florida swampland "a national punch line," the even more

rampant and decimating postwar explosion, on to congressional battles over the beleaguered swamp during the Clinton and Bush years. Grunwald is especially captivating in his profiles of the Seminole warrior Osceola and Marjory Stoneman Douglas, of River of Grass fame, an Everglades activist until her death at 108. The colorful, infuriating, and instructive story of the Everglades is a riveting tale of ambition versus ecological reality, politics versus science, and, on the upside, our gradual awakening to the true nature of nature. Donna Seaman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved