



The Conquest of Bread: 150 Years of Agribusiness in California

By Richard A. Walker

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For over a century, California has been the world's most advanced agricultural zone, an agrarian juggernaut that not only outproduces every state in America, but also most countries. California's success, however, has come at significant costs. Never a family-farm region like the Midwest, California's landscape and Mediterranean climate have been manipulated and exploited to serve modern business interests. Home to gargantuan accomplishments such as the world's largest water storage and transfer network, California also relies on an army of Mexican farm laborers who live and work under dismal conditions.

In *The Conquest of Bread*, acclaimed historian Richard A. Walker offers a wide-angle overview of the agro-industrial system of production in California from farm to table. He lays bare the long evolution of each link in the food chain, showing how a persistent emphasis on productivity and growth allowed California to outpace agriculture elsewhere in the United States. Full of thunder and surprises, *The Conquest of Bread* allows the reader to weigh the claims of both boosters and critics in the debate over the most extraordinary agricultural profusion in the modern world.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Walker, a Geography professor at UC Berkley and co-author of *The Capitalist Imperative*, has written an all-encompassing study of one of California's main cash cows outside the silver screen and dot-coms—food. Methodical and meticulous, he examines key aspects of the state's agriculture industry, delving deep into its history and patiently setting forth explanations of its inner workings. With its 200-plus crops and substantial canned goods business, California is king among the states in production and revenue for both farming and food processing. After introducing this landscape of abundance, Walker discusses the essential components of California's agribusiness: laborers, growers and landowners; the land and its products; machines and biotechnology; and marketing and capital. He explores each topic systematically, providing a chronological view of the industry's development, complete with details about the state's rich historical background. More than a few charts and graphs accompany the text, but Walker's writing is rarely technical or overly academic. Though much has been written about farming in California, Walker's command of that literature and the relevant statistics allows him to present a comprehensive overview of California's thriving agribusiness. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

Walker advances the intellectual project and cause of our discipline like few others.

About the Author

Richard A. Walker is professor emeritus and former chair of geography at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *The Country in the City* and *The Conquest of Bread* (The New Press) and a co-author, with Michael Storper, of *The Capitalist Imperative* and, with Andrew Sayer, of *The New Social Economy*. He lives in Berkeley, California.

Users Review

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Jose Wilson:

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Leonard Palmer:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you actually, why because this *The Conquest of Bread: 150 Years of Agribusiness in California* reserve written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written with good manner for you, dripping

every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still uncertainty The Conquest of Bread: 150 Years of Agribusiness in California as good book not just by the cover but also by the content. This is one e-book that can break don't evaluate book by its handle, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Gayle Skinner:

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