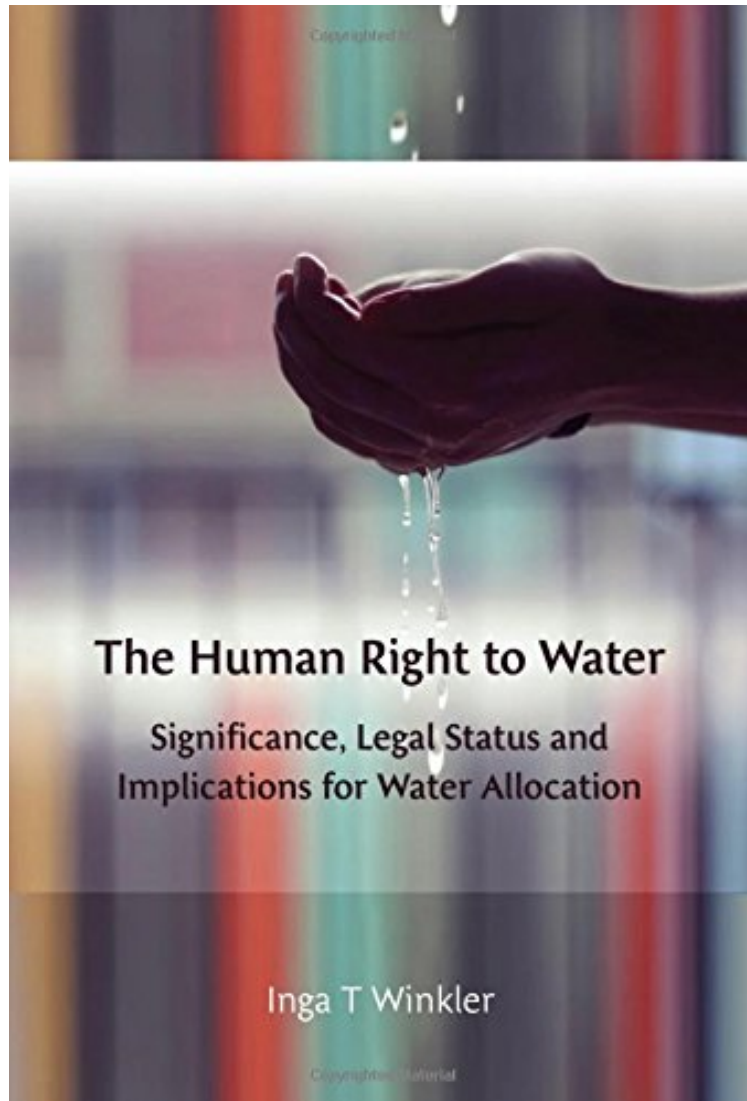


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# The Human Right to Water: Significance, Legal Status and Implications for Water Allocation

*Inga T Winkler*

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**Inga T Winkler : The Human Right to Water: Significance, Legal Status and Implications for Water Allocation** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Human Right to Water: Significance, Legal Status and Implications for Water Allocation:

In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council recognized the human right to water.

This formal recognition has put the issue high on the international agenda, but, by itself, leaves many questions unanswered. This book addresses this gap and clarifies the legal status and meaning of the right to water through a detailed analysis of its legal foundations, legal nature, normative content, and corresponding State obligations. The human right to water has wide-ranging implications for the distribution of water. Examining these implications requires putting the right to water into the broader context of different water uses, and analyzing the linkages and competition with other human rights that depend on water for their realization. Water allocation is a highly political issue reflecting societal power relations, with current priorities often benefitting the well-off and powerful. Human rights, in contrast, require prioritizing the most basic needs of all people. The human right to water has the potential to address these underlying structural causes of the lack of access to water, rooted in inequalities and poverty by empowering people to hold the State accountable to live up to its human rights obligations and to demand that people's basic needs are met with priority. \*\*\* "Overall, Winkler provides a thorough, if somewhat aspirational, description of the international human right to water. She does an excellent job of addressing potential criticisms to her conclusions... This work is highly recommended for anyone with an interest in the content and continued evolution of international human rights law." - Saskatchewan Law Review, Vol. 76, 2013 [Subject: Human Rights Law, Public International Law, Water Rights]

The ability to intertwine human rights with water allocation makes this book invaluable to the scholarship on the human right to water and sustainability. The Human Right to Water no doubt fills a very important vacuum in discussions of the legal status of the human right to water. It asserts the importance of human rights as a tool to provide water, and also establishes the implications of the numerous declarations, resolutions, treaties, Constitutional affirmations and judicial opinions legalizing water as a human right. (Sanghamitra Padhy Law and Politics Book , Vol. 23 No. 12) The work is indispensable for Indian lawyers and judges who have to grapple with the issues arising from the right to water. (A.G. Noorani Frontline)... she provides a strong account overall of the international human right to water, using detailed research and nuanced arguments to challenge the conventional conception of positive rights as aspirational and unenforceable. This work is highly recommended for anyone with an interest in the content and continued evolution of international human rights law. (Michelle Biddulph Saskatchewan Law , Volume 76) With this book, Inga Winkler ... makes an important contribution to clarifying the meaning of this right and to informing the debate about it. It is the first legal monograph on the right to water released by an academic publisher and offers a solid and in-depth treatment of the subject matter... a timely and thorough monograph and a welcome and well balanced addition to the corpus of literature on the right to water, which is growing but nonetheless still short of in-depth studies of the nature Winkler has provided. The book is likely to become an essential standard reference for those interested in the right to water. (Kerstin Mechlem of European Community and International Environmental Law, Volume 22(2))... stands apart as an excellent introduction that provides a thorough and well-balanced legal study of the human right to water in international law. Winkler's publication also serves as a comprehensive overview offering enough background on related issues to assist further research. The work's form is as polished as its content, with the arguments clearly spelled out and summarised through an orderly and elaborate structure that is well complemented by an impressive bibliography and a detailed table of instruments and index. (Hugo Tremblay McGill International Journal of Sustainable Development, Volume 8(2)) [A] useful contribution to the literature. A water lawyer looking for a thorough summary of human rights law as applicable to water, and which also understands the wider water context, will find this book a useful addition. (Sarah Hendry The Journal of Water Law, Volume 22, Issue 6)... an impressive overview of the development of the right and substantial insights into its meaning and application. The Human Right to Water ... provides an authoritative analysis of the foundations, nature and implications arising from the recognition of the right to water. The book contains an impressive survey of the topic looking at both the legal nature of the right and the challenges of prioritisation. Importantly, Winkler concludes that the human right to water is legally binding therefore providing an important accountability mechanism and tool to improve water supply... an important contribution to the scholarship in this area and... essential reading for human rights scholars and practitioners. (Rebecca Bates International Human Rights Law 1) About the Author Inga T Winkler is a Legal Adviser to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation based at the German Institute for Human Rights. She is also a lecturer at the University of Dusseldorf, Germany.