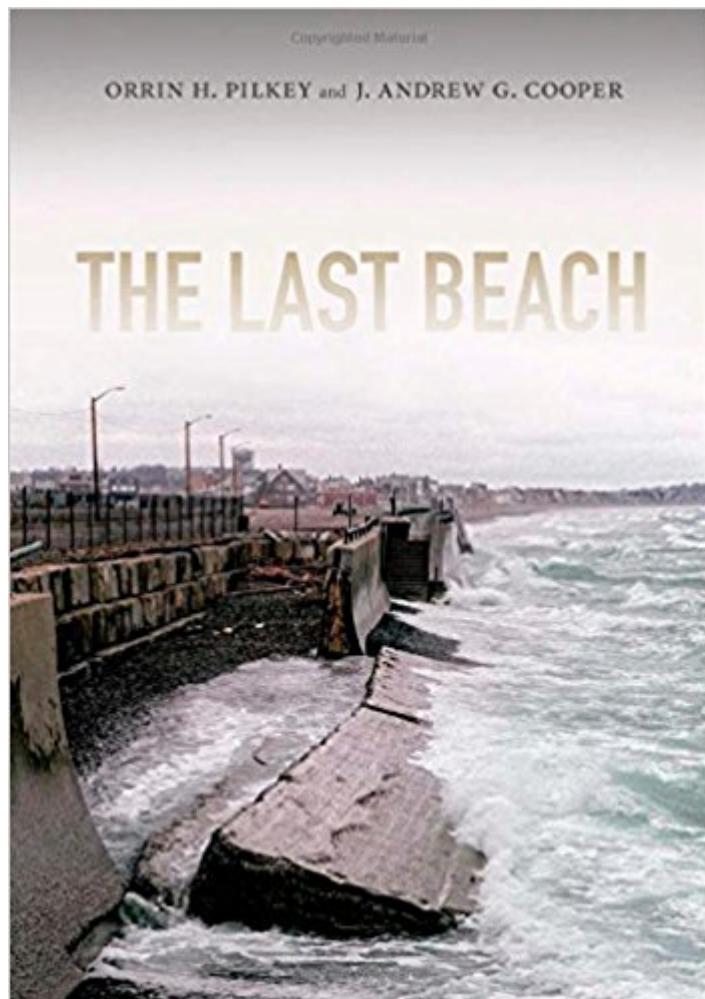


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The Last Beach



Synopsis

The Last Beach is an urgent call to save the world's beaches while there is still time. The geologists Orrin H. Pilkey and J. Andrew G. Cooper sound the alarm in this frank assessment of our current relationship with beaches and their grim future if we do not change the way we understand and treat our irreplaceable shores. Combining case studies and anecdotes from around the world, they argue that many of the world's developed beaches, including some in Florida and in Spain, are virtually doomed and that we must act immediately to save imperiled beaches. After explaining beaches as dynamic ecosystems, Pilkey and Cooper assess the harm done by dense oceanfront development accompanied by the construction of massive seawalls to protect new buildings from a shoreline that encroaches as sea levels rise. They discuss the toll taken by sand mining, trash that washes up on beaches, and pollution, which has contaminated not only the water but also, surprisingly, the sand. Acknowledging the challenge of reconciling our actions with our love of beaches, the geologists offer suggestions for reversing course, insisting that given the space, beaches can take care of themselves and provide us with multiple benefits.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"We're all used to lying on beaches and zoning outâ€”but it turns out that if we want those beaches to be there much longer we better stand up and make our voices heard. This is fascinating new information about one of the planet's most beloved ecosystems." (Bill McKibben, author of *Wandering Home: A Long Walk Across America's Most Hopeful Landscape* 2014-03-13)"The Last Beach is a must-read for anyone interested in the plight of the world's

beaches. This brave confrontation with coastal engineers, coastal planners, developers, politicians, and beachfront property owners lays bare their adverse impact on the world's beaches."

(Andrew Short, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney) "A clarion call for a change of policy that prioritizes the preservation of beaches over property rights." (Kirkus Reviews)"Beaches, whether sandy or stony, are very much part of summer, but if Orrin Pilkey and Andrew Cooper's *The Last Beach* is right, the traditional seaside may soon be a thing of the past. These two geomorphologists argue that the problem is that beaches are dynamic systems, and change position, size and composition as a result of wave action and tidal flow. Their book neatly combines geography with climate studies and conservation, making it an accessible guide to the threats facing a natural resource we mostly take for granted. *The Last Beach* shows that Westerners should not get smug about their future because development and house prices frequently trump environmental good sense." (Adrian Barnett New Scientist)"The Last Beach did not make my swim this morning much happier, but it does provide its own alarm call as well as offering a plan of action to reclaim the beach, for ourselves and for future generations." (Philip Hoare Times Higher Education)"Pilkey and fellow geologist J. Andrew G. Cooper of the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Ulster, warn that we will lose the beaches we have long enjoyed if we do not end our insistence on building whatever we want right up to the shoreline. Their book is packed with photographs of the consequences of poor conservation practices, from Topsail Island in North Carolina to Monopoli, Italy, to Benidorm, Spain, and beyond. They offer some dire predictions about what will happen if we don't change our ways, as well as a way toward a kinder, saner relationship with our beaches." (Cliff Bellamy Durham Herald-Sun)"The professors make one last plea to change course before it's too late, which it probably already is. The book comes with a blurb from Bill McKibben, so you know it's going to be really good, environmentally alarming and totally depressing." (Brian Howe Independent Weekly)"The world's beaches are disappearing, as much due to rising sea levels as to seaside development and the seawalls intended to protect those new buildings from the encroaching shoreline, say geologists Orrin H. Pilkey and J. Andrew G. Cooper. . . . Perhaps copies of this book . . . should have been distributed to the [Israeli] National Council for Planning and Building subcommittee due to meet next week to discuss objections to a seawall construction plan." (Zafrir Rinat Haaretz)"The Last Beach is sprinkled with fascinating trivia about beaches around the world. . . . it is clear and readable." (Theodoric Meyer Washington Monthly)"This monograph differs by providing an all-encompassing review of the many complex factors affecting beaches, notably

ill-advised engineering and development that limits natural beach processes, mining of beach material, myriad pollution sources, and the lack of general understanding of the true value of natural beaches. The clear, well-documented writing is accompanied by 67 photographs that illustrate the authors' case for a "new view" of beaches. **Highly recommended.** All academic and public libraries. (A. S. Ricker Choice) "This is an important book that is critical to the future of the world's beaches. . . . This book is required reading for all those interested in beaches and, indeed, in the very survival of their coastal habitations, infrastructure, and industrial-military complexes that are fronted by beaches." (Charles W. Finkl Journal of Coastal Research 2016-01-01)

Orrin H. Pilkey, deemed "America's foremost philosopher of the beaches," by the New York Times, is James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of Geology at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. Pilkey is a coauthor (with Keith C. Pilkey) of *Global Climate Change: A Primer*, published by Duke University Press, and of twenty books in the Press's *Living with the Shore* series, edited by Pilkey and William J. Neal. In 2013, The Orrin Pilkey Marine Science and Conservation Genetics Center opened at the Duke Marine Lab in Beaufort, North Carolina. Pilkey lives in Hillsborough, N.C.J. Andrew G. Cooper is Professor of Coastal Studies in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Ulster. He and Pilkey are coauthors (with William J. Neal and Joseph T. Kelley) of *The World's Beaches: A Global Guide to the Science of the Shoreline* and coeditors of *Pitfalls of Shoreline Stabilization*. Well known for his advocacy of nonintervention on shorelines and his work on beaches and coasts worldwide, Cooper lives in the town of Coleraine in Northern Ireland.

The Last Beach is MUST reading for anyone who loves beaches anywhere on the planet and MUST reading for our presidential candidates and world leaders who should both read and see what's really happening to beaches all over the world Heart rending photos

World wide we spend billions renourishing beaches in our efforts to save property. Pilkey makes an extraordinarily powerful case for focusing on preserving beaches, not property. A must read for those who love beaches and want the next generation to be able to share that passion.

The many challenges faced by the beach ecosystems, includes pollution and beach driving impacts on wildlife and people. From the tiniest Sand creatures to turtles, birds and people.

A great book showing the utter futility of beach renourishment. Last part of book became somewhat repetitive but still worth reading.

Interesting, thought provoking, informative. The text could stand some editing.

Another excellent book by America's no. expert on Beaches & Barrier Islands.

school bk

Fascinating

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