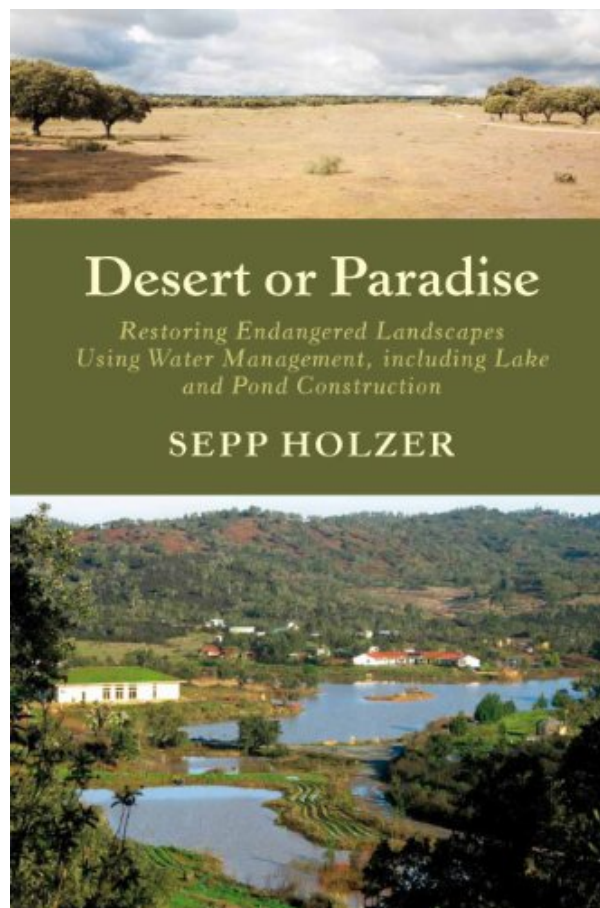
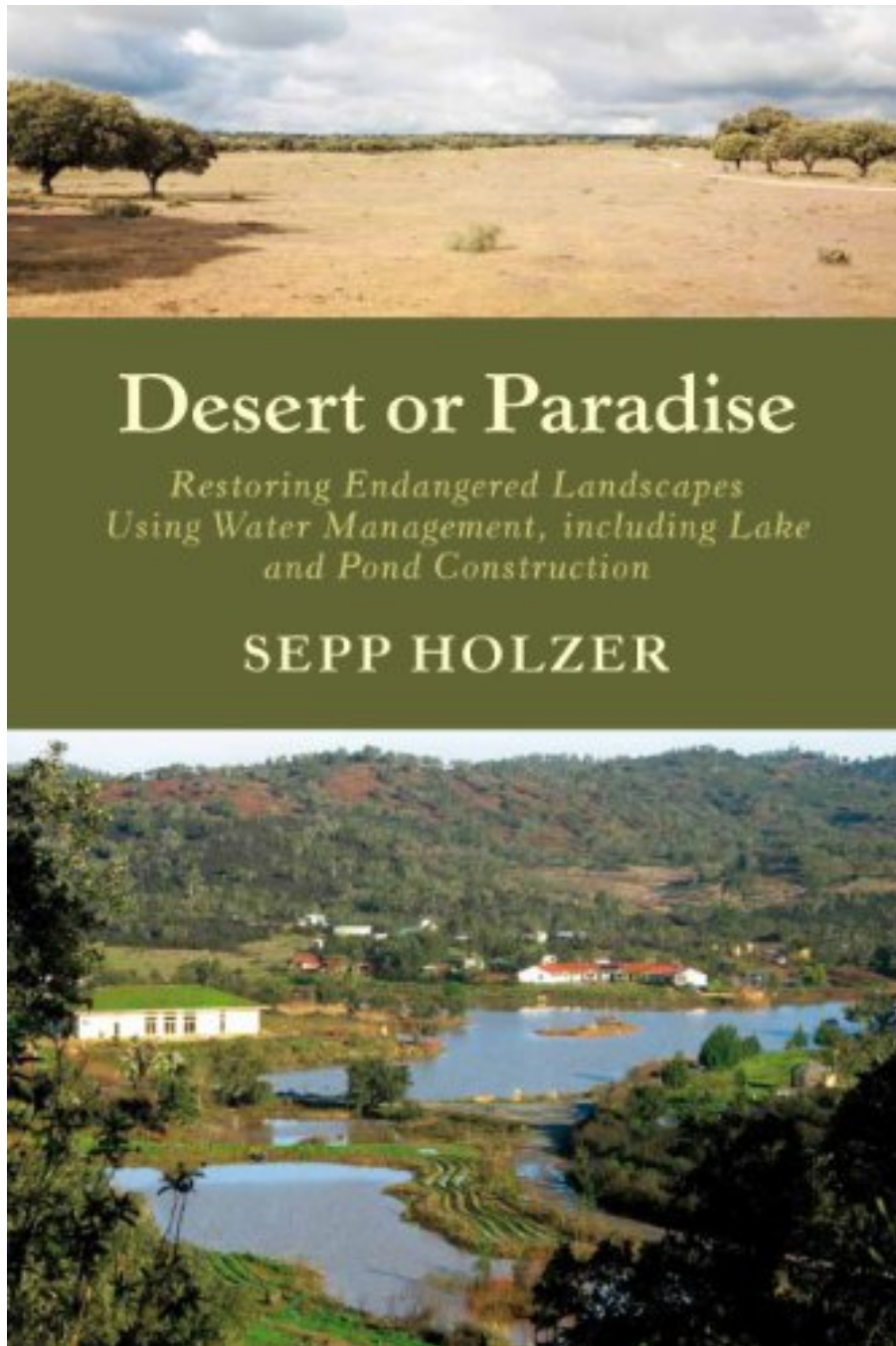


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AND POND CONSTRUCTION BY SEPP
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Desert or Paradise

*Restoring Endangered Landscapes
Using Water Management, including Lake
and Pond Construction*

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Review

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In his new book, Holzer offers examples from countries like Russia and Portugal to demonstrate the breadth of landscapes that can be healed with a greater emphasis on natural water management. He covers an immense range of topics, including using pigs to restore forest-fire areas, constructing ponds with proper shallow zones, restoring hydrological balance in the world, and abolishing industrial livestock farming. Despite the wide range of topics he covers, Holzer creates a cohesive, well-argued, and persuasive handbook that aims to help people "restore paradise."

For Holzer, restoring the earth's balance isn't about economic development and squeezing a few more seasons out of an exhausted stretch of land. It's about a long-term and beneficial view of the world as a resource. He encourages farmers to become rebels, gardeners to become advocates, and everyone to become

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Sepp Holzer farms steep mountainsides in Austria 5,000 feet above sea level. His farm is an intricate network of terraces, raised beds, ponds, and waterways, well covered with productive fruit trees and other vegetation, in dramatic contrast to his neighbors' spruce monocultures. Fans of Sepp Holzer have come from all over the world to see the productivity of his farm, a veritable permaculture paradise. His first book, *Sepp Holzer's Permaculture*, offers a detailed guide to what Holzer has achieved on his farm. Many readers might have wondered-but how can we achieve this on a global scale? Luckily, his newest book, *Desert or Paradise*, examines Holzer's core philosophy for increasing food production, earth health, and reconnecting mankind with nature, applied to reforestation and water conservation across the world.

Through years of consultation with other countries, Holzer has developed a core philosophy for reconnecting mankind with nature even in arid or otherwise "lost-cause" regions. He details a process he calls "Grundierung," a term from painting meaning "base coat," which goes into great detail the importance of water, and *Desert or Paradise* offers his concept and guide to construction of large water reservoirs in arid, rainfall-dependent regions with examples from Greece, Turkey, Spain, and Portugal. Holzer describes the ecological and economic benefits of these changes, as well as the use of a variety of plant and animal species for further integration and regeneration of the surrounding areas, including reasons for reforestation and the cause and use of forest fires.

Holzer also outlines his ten points of sustainable self-reliance and how these methods can help feed the world, such as the need to regulate the water budget, eliminate factory livestock farming, bring more fallow or unused areas into production, enlarge crop areas by using terracing and Holzer-style raised beds, regionalize instead of globalize, fight for land reform and engage in community building, go back to the ancient farming wisdom, and change the educational system. Also included are Holzer's ideas on beekeeping, humane slaughtering, nature spirits, the loss of roots in our society in general, and in politics especially.

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- 224 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

An enjoyable read on Holzer permaculture in practice.

By Reg Appleby Jr

Was very much in line with my expectations on what to expect from Sepp Holzer writing on conversion of dry landscapes to more normal grasslands or silvopasture landscapes. Could have been backed up with some dimensional drawings on placements. Tendency to say "read the landscape" rather than explain how he does it in each specific location - and key variables within that location. An enjoyable read overall for anyone starting on the topic or looking for additional material to support their actions on increasing water within their existing landscape.

13 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent book, title matches content

By Amazon Customer

Let me start this review by describing what this book is not. This is not a book that describes how to build a pond. This isn't a book that describes how to grow lemons in the Alps.

The book gives Sepp's principles for restoring land. First, he describes how the land becomes degraded. Secondly, he explains that water is the key to the fix. Thirdly, he describes ways to use the water to effect change.

There are diagrams and real world examples. Sepp also gives instructions for building equipment he uses, such as the monk, ring waterer, etc. Example plans for a farm are given.

This is a great book. My only knock against it would be translation. The english is muddy in a couple places.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Everyone should read this.

By C.

Love this book. Like Mr Phiri of Africa and Pieter of Groasis we think alike. Their ideas can change the world. This book goes on my bookshelf.

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