CONTENTS

	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	ix
I	INTRODUCTION: Reflections in a Ditch	Center 1
II	TAXONOMY: The Flow of Power in History	17
	Wittfogel, Marx, and the Ecology of Power	
	The Local Subsistence Mode	
	The Agrarian State Mode The Capitalist State Mode	
ill of profit pub Hist	INCIPIENCE: A Poor Man's Paradise	61
	Confronting the Desert: Death and Life	65
	The Lord's Beavers	74
	In the Shadow of the Rockies	
	The Redemption of California	
	The Ideology of Democratic Conquest	111
IV	FLORESCENCE: The State and the Desert	127
	"A Commonwealth Within Itself"	131
	Passages to India	143
	A Long, Strong Rope	156
	Failure	169
V	FLORESCENCE: The Grapes of Wealth	189
	A Place Named Imperial	194
	"I Never Knowed They Was Anything Like Her"	213
	Who Rules the Great Valley?	233

VI	EMPIRE: Water and the Modern West	257	
	"Total Use for Greater Wealth" Accumulation and Legitimation	262 285	
	Leviathan Ailing	308	
VII	CONCLUSION: Nature, Freedom, and the West	327	
	Notes	337	
	Index	389	