



Dreyer Forlag 2023

585 pages

Original title: *Historiens hjul og vannets makt*

*Da England og Europa vant, og Kina og Asia tapte*

ISBN: 9788282656801

#### FOREIGN RIGHTS

Hans Petter Bakketeig

+47 47 674759

[hanspetter@stilton.no](mailto:hanspetter@stilton.no)

#### RIGHTS SOLD TO

<https://stilton.no/books/356-terje-tvedt-water-is-the-missing-link>

#### OTHER TITLES

Water is the Missing Link (2023)

World History: With the Past as a Mirror (2020)

The Nile. History's Greatest River (2018)

Terje Tvedt

## *Water is the Missing Link* *A New Interpretation of the Rise of the Modern World*

Water is the Missing Link delivers a bold, fresh reinterpretation of the Industrial Revolution and the rise of the modern world, challenging the conventional wisdom that has shaped our understanding of modern history. Terje Tvedt argues that the most transformative phase of the Industrial Revolution, up until 1820, wasn't driven by steam engines or coal, as nearly everyone believes. Instead, the true catalyst lay in the harnessing of waterpower in the idyllic English countryside—far from the smoky, overcrowded cities that have become the revolution's enduring image. It was the humble waterwheel, not the steam engine, that powered all the first factories, while goods and heavy stuff like iron and could were transported not by steam locomotives or horse wagons on roads but by boats and barges pulled by human and animals along rivers and canals.

Tvedt's groundbreaking approach shifts the focus from fossil fuels to the natural water landscapes that had shaped societies for millennia. He compares 11 countries – China, England, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the Ottoman Empire, Russia and Spain – exploring how each of them exploited their water resources to strengthen industrial growth and build national transport networks. This comparative analysis uncovers a hidden history about what happened prior to and during this radical shift in the course of history and in power relations in the world.

## Terje Tvedt

Terje Tvedt is a historian and professor of geography and political science. He has written extensively on water, colonial history, and international aid, and is series editor of the 12-volume *A History of Water*, with contributions from scholars in over 80 countries. Tvedt has produced award-winning documentaries such as *A Journey in the History of Water* and *A Journey in the Future of Water* (available on Netflix). His recent books have been bestsellers in Norway and translated into several languages. He has received the Fritt Ord Award and the Norwegian Research Council's prize for outstanding research dissemination. His book *The River Nile in the Age of the British* was shortlisted by the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies as one of the best books on the Middle East in 2005.



Stilton  
Literary  
Agency

Stilton Literary Agency

[stilton.no](http://stilton.no)