

**Book Review: Robert Brinkmann, Florida Sinkholes, Science and Policy**

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Robert Brinkman wrote this book to “provide a comprehensive review of sinkhole science and policy in [Florida]” (p. 3), and the book excels at doing just that. Brinkman uses easy-to-follow language, numerous case studies, and eye-catching photographs to present complex technical, scientific, legal, and policy issues related to sinkholes. In addition to providing a very thorough review of sinkhole science and policy research, the book also provides an overview of how sinkholes form and guidance for people whose lives have been impacted by sinkholes. Thus, this book will be of interest to a wide audience that includes scientists, policy makers, and the general public.

The book has nine chapters that cover sinkhole formation, a comparison of sinkhole occurrences and formation in different regions of the state, sinkhole detection and mapping, sinkhole policy, and evaluation and repair of sinkhole damage. In the chapters that provide an overview of sinkholes in different regions of the state, Brinkman provides details about many of the same sinkholes he uses as case studies to illustrate scientific, technical, and policy concepts in later chapters. Thus, readers going through the book from cover-to-cover will find a fair amount of information repeated in multiple chapters.

Although it does not significantly detract from the overall usefulness of the book or its value as the most comprehensive review of sinkhole science and policy to date, I feel that the book provides too little detail regarding the process of sinkhole formation. In particular, the book did not present a thorough presentation of the chemistry that governs carbonate dissolution. Additionally, I felt that many readers might benefit from a brief overview of hydrogeology since hydrogeologic terms, like aquifer and water table, are necessarily integral to the sections of the book that deal with sinkhole formation. Conversely, there are places where the text goes into more details than are necessary about topics tangent to sinkholes. For example, the fifteen page section on Sinkholes of South Florida in Chapter 4 is mostly an overview of Everglades history and restoration. Although this section is well written and engaging, the majority of its text is, at best, only loosely related to sinkholes.

Despite these minor issues with not enough detail being provided in some places and too much detail being provided in others, Brinkmann has masterfully intertwined sinkhole science and policy and their interactions in a single easy-to-read book. Such an engaging review that is remarkably comprehensive and of interest to such a wide audience is a rare accomplishment.