

# Venice Against The Sea: A City Besieged

**John Keahey**

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Venice is a city of canals, situated in the northern Adriatic Sea. It is famous for its rich history and culture. Wooden walkways must be erected to offer pedestrians a path to walk. Salt water from the sea has damaged the foundations of many buildings and constant repairs are necessary. Water gets into the buildings and destroys the walls and the invaluable frescoes. Industries and tourism have steadily reduced the level of ground water in Venice, making foundations of buildings unstable. The islands have begun to sink at an alarming rate, about 3 to 4 mm per year. City planners are working on the construction of a series of steel gates that hopefully will stop seawater from coming into the lagoon. They