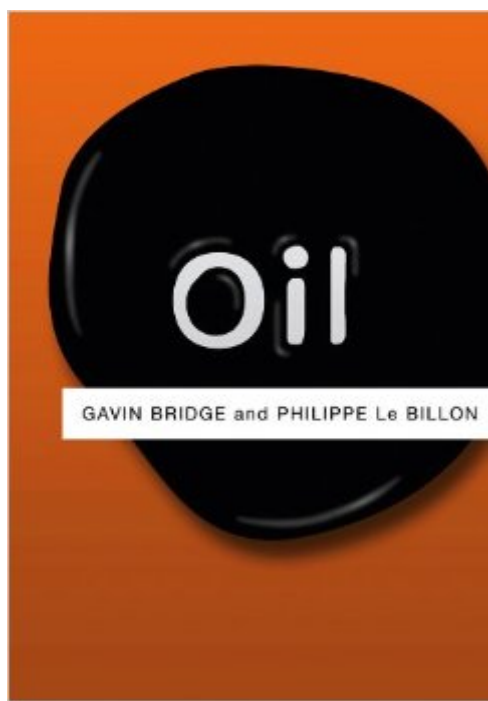


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Oil (Resources)



Synopsis

Oil pulses through our daily lives. It is the plastic we touch, the food we eat, and the way we move. Oil politics in the twentieth century was about the management of abundance, state power and market growth. The legacy of this age of plenty includes declining conventional oil reserves, volatile prices, climate change, and enduring poverty in many oil rich countries. The oil sector is now in need of reform. Yet no one seems at the helm, leaving a vital source of energy at the whim of dictators, speculators and corporate operators, and our societies locked into unsustainable growth models. In this in-depth primer to the world's wealthiest industry, authors Gavin Bridge and Philippe Le Billon take a fresh look at the contemporary geopolitics of oil. Going beyond simple assertions of peak oil and an oil curse, they point to an industry reordered by internationalized state oil companies, Asian consumerism shifting demand, the insecurities and violent assertiveness of declining powers, and the dilemmas of post-oil energy transition. As a new geopolitics of oil emerges, the need for effective global oil governance becomes imperative. Praising the growing influence of civil society and attentive to the institutionalization of producer-consumer cooperation, this book identifies challenges and opportunities to curtail price volatility, curb demand and the growth of dirty oil, de-carbonise energy systems, and improve governance in oil producing countries.

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Customer Reviews

Although a bit dry and academic, OIL by Gavin Bridge and Philippe Le Billon takes a look at the geopolitics that govern our a resource that is also seeing increased demand as the world population continue to expand. The authors discuss many things including giving us a brief history and background on oil exploration and how that has changed from the 20th century when simpler methods of obtaining oil were the rule. This really isn't for the average reader looking for a general discussion of the industry and, quite honestly, the style might put some people off but it is worth reading. The authors also discuss the issues facing a world that must use new methods (fracking) to obtain oil at the expense of the ecology and health as well as the issues facing a post-oil world that has relied on the wealthiest industry in the world (no, it isn't the drug manufacturers who face tight regulation by comparison to the oil industry). The authors point out that we need to have a policy that governs our local oil resources and not leave it to the current market environment which is vulnerable to price volatility as well as developing alternative resources to oil where possible. While some of the conclusions aren't surprising, the depth to which the authors examine the industry, the economic shocks that can occur, as well as, a discussion of environment concerns is exceptional. Whether one agrees with the conclusion of the authors is irrelevant--THEY have asked some important questions about an industry and resources often taken for granted. Love or hate the conclusions and suggestions that the authors make, we all feel the impact not only economically at the pump but in ALL aspects of our lives as oil has many byproducts that we use as well.

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