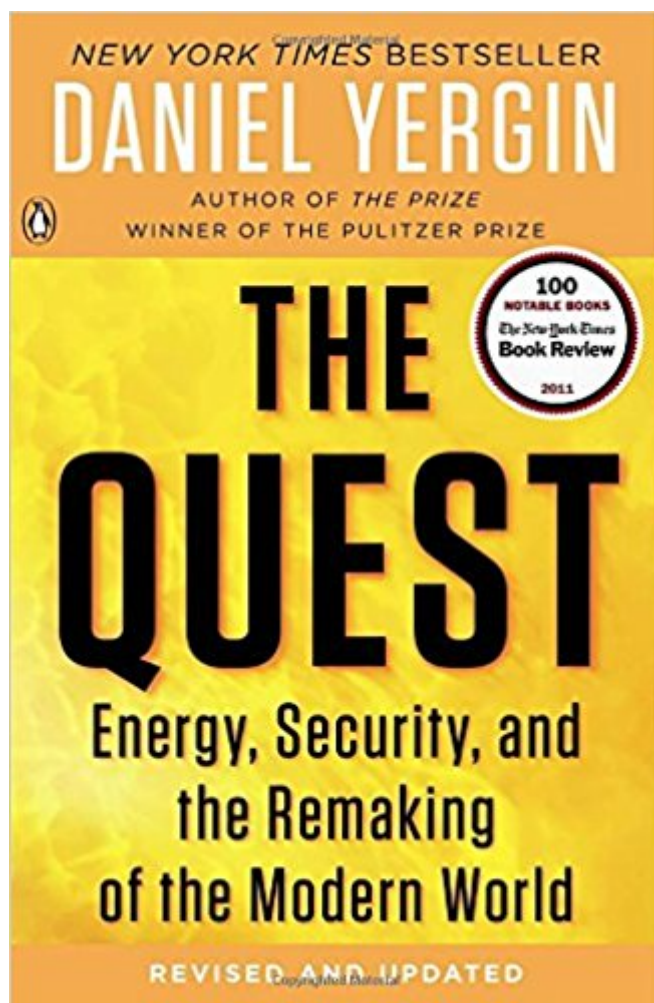


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The Quest: Energy, Security, And The Remaking Of The Modern World



Synopsis

This long-awaited successor to Daniel Yergin's Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Prize* provides an essential, overarching narrative of global energy, the principal engine of geopolitical and economic change. A master storyteller as well as a leading energy expert, Daniel Yergin continues the riveting story begun in his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Prize*. In *The Quest*, Yergin shows us how energy is an engine of global political and economic change and conflict, in a story that spans the energies on which our civilization has been built and the new energies that are competing to replace them. *The Quest* tells the inside stories, tackles the tough questions, and reveals surprising insights about coal, electricity, and natural gas. He explains how climate change became a great issue and leads readers through the rebirth of renewable energies, energy independence, and the return of the electric car. Epic in scope and never more timely, *The Quest* vividly reveals the decisions, technologies, and individuals that are shaping our future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Mr. Yergin is back with a sequel to *The Prize*. It is called *The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World*, and, if anything, it's an even better book. It is searching, impartial and alarmingly up to date | *The Quest* will be necessary reading for C.E.O.s, conservationists, lawmakers, generals, spies, tech geeks, thriller writers, ambitious terrorists and many others | *The Quest* is encyclopedic in its ambitions; it resists easy synopsis.” THE NEW YORK TIMES (Dwight Garner) “A sprawling story richly textured with original material, quirky

details and amusing anecdotes... The tale is generously sprinkled with facts debunking common misperceptions, and Mr. Yergin sagely analyzes how well the energy industry really works. • "THE WALL STREET JOURNAL" It is a cause for celebration that Yergin has returned with his perspective on a very different landscape | [I]t is impossible to think of a better introduction to the essentials of energy in the 21st century. In Yergin's lucid, easy prose, the 800 pages flow freely | The Quest is | the definitive guide to how we got here. • "THE FINANCIAL TIMES" An important book | a valuable primer on the basic issues that define energy today. Yergin is careful in his analysis and never polemical | Despite that, The Quest makes it clear that energy policy is not on the right course anywhere in the world and that everyone "on the left and the right, in the developed and the developing world" need to rethink strongly held positions. • "THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW (Fareed Zakaria)" Mr Yergin's previous book, The Prize, a history of the global oil industry, had the advantage of an epic tale and wondrous timing | The Quest, as its more open-ended title suggests, is a broader and more ambitious endeavour | The Quest is a masterly piece of work and, as a comprehensive guide to the world's great energy needs and dilemmas, it will be hard to beat. • "THE ECONOMIST" The Quest is a book "a tour de force, really" that evaluates the alternatives to oil so broadly and deeply that the physical tome could double as a doorstop | It is best read slowly, perhaps one chapter per day maximum, if the goal is to actually absorb the rich detail and sometimes complicated workings described by Yergin. • "USA TODAY

DANIEL B. YERGIN is one of the most influential voices on energy in the world and a highly respected authority on international politics and economics. Dr. Yergin received the Pulitzer Prize for The Prize, which became a number one bestseller. He received the United States Energy Award for a lifelong achievements in energy and the promotion of international understanding. • He is the chairman of IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates. His other books include Commanding Heights: The Battle for the World Economy; Russia 2010; and Shattered Peace.[www.danielyergin.com]

Fair, factual, and well written. Excellent introduction to the world of energy for any adult, but even more valuable to any budding scientist in engineering, chemistry, biology--or even to the liberal arts majors in political science who only use calculators to compute tips at Starbucks. The geopolitics of the energy industry are huge. Few other books come close to walking one through the various energy alternatives in a readable and informative way while touching on both the positives and the

negatives of the various alternatives. While Mr. Yergin hints at the fact that most of the environmental support of green alternatives is based far more on hype and manipulation of politicians and the media than on the economics and the science, I feel that more information on the economics of the alternatives would be helpful to put the real alternatives in perspective. Governments selecting winners and losers based on politics really distorts the incentive system and wastes time and fortunes in the process. But the author did conclude that most of the green alternatives aren't ready for prime time. But the invaluable contribution of this book is in highlighting many of the challenges with the energy alternatives in such a way that it could ignite the entrepreneurial energies of young scientists who may have the energies to come up with solutions. Solving a huge problem in one area of energy which really doesn't have the potential to supply energy on a major scale is nice. But solving obstacles to major advances in energy production (environmental breakthroughs, capacity, energy storage, transmission & distribution) could be game changers! Such research could end up powering nations and new industries. The individual or teams that can solve the problems around purifying or reusing return fracking fluids containing high levels of salts will and should end up fabulously wealthy because this will provide an alternative to high pressure injection wells that currently are the only realistic option for disposal. And deep high pressure injections wells were first identified as sources of localized tremors in some geologically active areas going back to the 1960s when they were being used throughout the country to dispose of some hazardous wastes.

This book is very well written and organized. It's full of the history of energy, especially oil and coal. And it integrates that with the current situation. The author believes we have an adequate supply of oil and he lays out his reasoning. While I was a believer in Peak oil before reading the book, I now can see why we likely have enough for a long time. Not forever perhaps. But a long time. The reason? New and expanding technology that makes finding the oil and getting it easier and more reliable and, more importantly, possible. And what about the future? "What are the prospects for the future? One answer is drawn from an analysis using a database that includes 70,000 oil fields and 4.7 million individual wells, combined with existing production and 350 new projects. The conclusion is that the world is clearly not running out of oil. Far from it. The estimates for the world's total stock of oil keep growing. The world has produced about 1 trillion barrels of oil since the start of the industry in the nineteenth century. Currently, it is thought that there are at least 5 trillion barrels of petroleum resources, of which 1.4 trillion is sufficiently developed and technically and economically accessible to count as proved plus probable reserves. Based upon current and prospective plans, it

appears the world liquid production capacity should grow from about 93 million barrels per day in 2010 to about 110 mbd by 2030. This is about a 20 percent increase."Highly recommended.--
Susanna K. Hutcheson

This is must buy. I purchased the CD and Audible versions. The book traces the history of the current forms of energy with the focus on the positive and negative impacts on economics and environment, the politics, and the recent developments of the technologies. Interweave is the discussion on the geopolitics of energy and the environmental movement. Obviously, every country is different in its energy use and policy actions. I found the sections on the automobile and energy transportation to be the best parts. In general, the author is apolitical. He advocates two principles. First, he does advocate that the use of the market forces to control the development of energy production and transportation as well as the control of the environmental impact. Although there is a need for government to use taxpayer money to fill the gaps where the market does reach (for example the US government seeded self-sustaining cooperatives to provide rural power generation / transportation which greatly improved agricultural and other remote industries as family homes), in general, command economies are inefficient since they are subject to market forces. Second, he advocates the use of all forms of energy: the traditional forms: oil, gas (all forms), geothermal, hydro, and nuclear (no carbon footprint), and the growing alternatives: solar, wind, and biomass. Diversification reduces the community's risk in the market and encourages competition. Gas is cheaper now and 1/2 of coal's carbon footprint but it was not always so. Changing technology and government regulations and it may make coal cheaper to the point it can not be ignored again. Thus, do not convert the coal fire plant but build a gas one. Do not close the nuclear plant or dismantle dams but encourage the wind and solar farms. He is careful to point out to two dynamics with in current energy status. 1. Scale. Wind and solar are limited in their scale and predictability. Thus, their value is in being a supplement to the traditional forms that produce are mass scale, all the time, and in all weather such as coal, gas, hydro, and nuclear. When the wind blows and the sun shines, they will provide the energy grid with power and the gas / coal plants reduce production. When the wind dies and sun does not shine, the traditional plants increase. 2. All Electric Cars. The prediction of all electric cars is daunting to implement. First, there is no real infrastructure for electric cars when not at home or in the car pool. Even apartment dwellers do not have a place to re-charge and service stations cannot support a large electric fleet quickly with rapid recharge or battery swaps. Second, the electric production may have to double to replace the gas internal combustion engine. The analysis is that hybrid and all-electric will replace gas cars but not completely and not

everywhere, especially remote areas with limited energy grids. In these places it is easier to carry your gas versus plugging in.

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