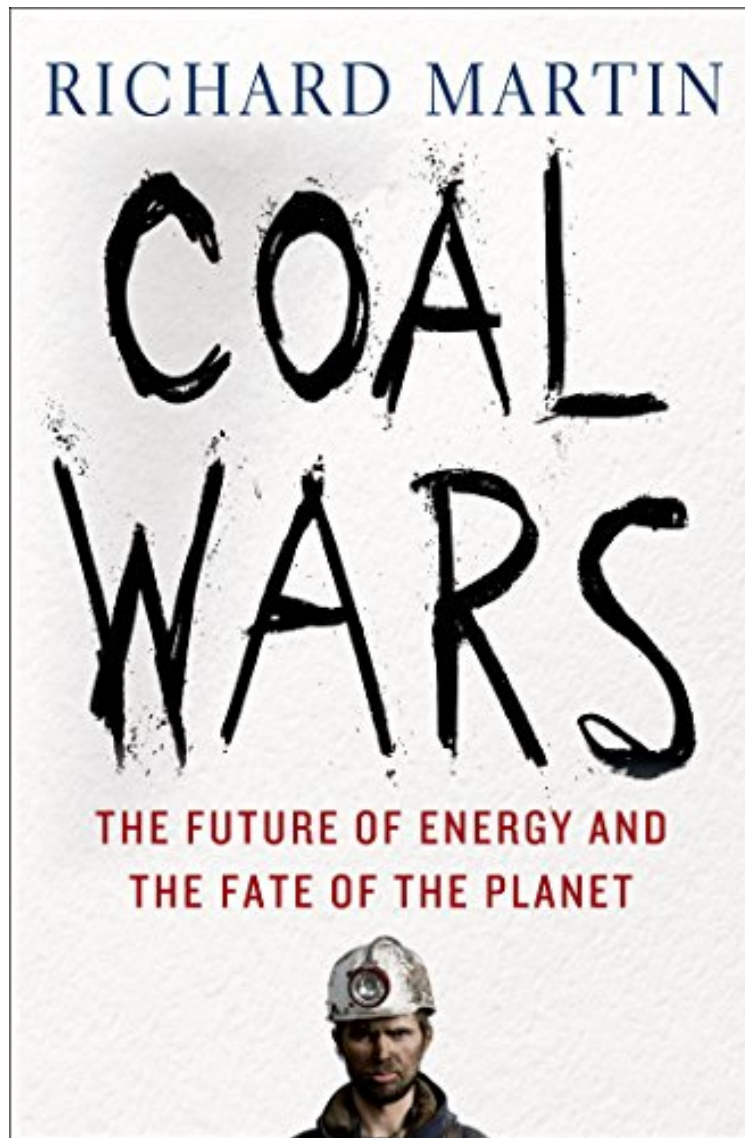


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Coal Wars: The Future of Energy and the Fate of the Planet

Richard Martin

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Richard Martin : Coal Wars: The Future of Energy and the Fate of the Planet before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Coal Wars: The Future of Energy and the Fate of the Planet:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Perspectives broad and specific By Doug Martin Richard Martin gives us perspectives large and small. He delves into the history of the coal industry, how it has fueled economies around the world for centuries, and how it has begun to slow as other sources of energy become economical and environmental awareness expands. In a refreshing example of classic reporting, he travels the world to deliver up-close stories of coal mining operations, and the towns and lives that have been dominated by the industry. He travels to

Ohio, Kentucky, Wyoming, and several parts of China. He describes in poignant detail how these communities are changing. He also interviews industry executives, some of whom are surprisingly forward-thinking, and some of whom adhere to hoary industry themes. Martin's style is natural and assured, and the mixture of information and individual stories keeps the reader interested throughout. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must ReadBy sinan ererProvides the facts about Major conflicts in front of the endeavours against climate change. Which seems to also provide the reasons for the US election results. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wow. the things I did not know or remember ...By Back in YankeedomWow. the things I did not know or remember.

Since the late 18th century, when it emerged as a source of heating and, later, steam power, coal has brought untold benefits to mankind. Even today, coal generates almost 45 percent of the world's power. Our modern technological society would be inconceivable without coal and the energy it provides. Unfortunately, that society will not survive unless we wean ourselves off coal. The largest single source of greenhouse gases, coal is responsible for 43 percent of the world's carbon emissions. Richard Martin, author of *SuperFuel*, argues that to limit catastrophic climate change, we must find a way to power our world with less polluting energy sources, and we must do it in the next couple of decades—or else it is "game over." It won't be easy: as coal plants shut down across the United States, and much of Europe turns to natural gas, coal use is growing in the booming economies of Asia—particularly China and India. Even in Germany, where nuclear power stations are being phased out in the wake of the Fukushima accident, coal use is growing. Led by the Sierra Club and its ambitious "Beyond Coal" campaign, environmentalists hope to drastically reduce our dependence on coal in the next decade. But doing so will require an unprecedented contraction of an established, lucrative, and politically influential worldwide industry. Big Coal will not go gently. And its decline will dramatically change lives everywhere—from Appalachian coal miners and coal company executives to activists in China's nascent environmental movement. Based on a series of journeys into the heart of coal land, from Wyoming to West Virginia to China's remote Shanxi Province, hundreds of interviews with people involved in, or affected by, the effort to shrink the industry, and deep research into the science, technology, and economics of the coal industry, *Coal Wars* chronicles the dramatic stories behind coal's big shutdown—and the industry's desperate attempts to remain a global behemoth. A tour de force of literary journalism, *Coal Wars* will be a milestone in the climate change battle.

“The race to shut down the coal industry is synonymous with the race to save the climate—and from Appalachia to inner Mongolia, brave activists are leading the fight. This comprehensive account makes it clear why their work is so crucial and so hard, pitting them against not just ingrained tradition but against some of the richest resource barons on earth.” Bill McKibben, author of *Earth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet* “Martin has managed to locate dozens of compelling personal narratives that show the human face of a debate that is too often reduced by environmentalists as much as by the coal industry—to numbers and yawn-inducing energy wonkery.” Tim McDonnell, *Mother Jones* “A clear-eyed and beautifully written narrative of the people, cities and companies whose lives and existence are wrapped up in the 4,000-year-old history of this iconic source of power. *Coal Wars* is a gripping account of the stakes at play as the world necessarily winds down its consumption of the fossil fuel. Given that the subject might be grim, it is a surprisingly enjoyable read and a unique contribution to the literature.” Steve LeVine, author of *The Powerhouse: Inside the Invention of a Battery to Save the World* and *Washington Correspondent for Quartz* “Martin chronicles his visits to a handful of places where coal is an important part of not just daily life, but the region's history and economic circumstances. A levelheaded researcher and a caring individual as well as a graceful, commanding writer, Martin is unequivocal and persuasive: The best use of coal is in holiday stockings.” Kirkus “Fresh and provocative, *Coal Wars* brings the hammer down on the world's dirtiest fuel. Richard Martin's deeply reported journey into the dark heart of coal land exposes Big Coal's big lies and offers a new approach to kicking our coal addiction. Entertaining, forceful, and full of insight, *Coal Wars* is must reading for a warming planet.” Bruce Barcott, *Outside* magazine contributing editor and author of *The Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw* and *Weed the People* “Richard Martin's timely and powerfully written book reveals with clarity the multiple dangers emitted by coal combustion as an energy source. His journey takes him to sites around the U.S. where a number of aging and obsolete installations are being shut down as natural gas plants flourish, and to China and Germany, where coal plants are on the rise despite a growing, science-based recognition that their toxic wastes harm life and their carbon-dioxide emissions imperil ecosystems, significantly acidifying the oceans and contributing mightily to the rapid increase in climate change.” Gwyneth Cravens, author of *Power to Save the World: The Truth About Nuclear Energy* About the Author Richard Martin is an award-winning science writer whose work has appeared in *Wired*, *Time*, *Fortune*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Best Science Writing of 2004*. He is the author of *SuperFuel: Thorium, the Green Energy Source for the Future*. He is thenbsp;editorial director of Pike Research, a leading clean energy firm. He lives in Boulder, Colorado.