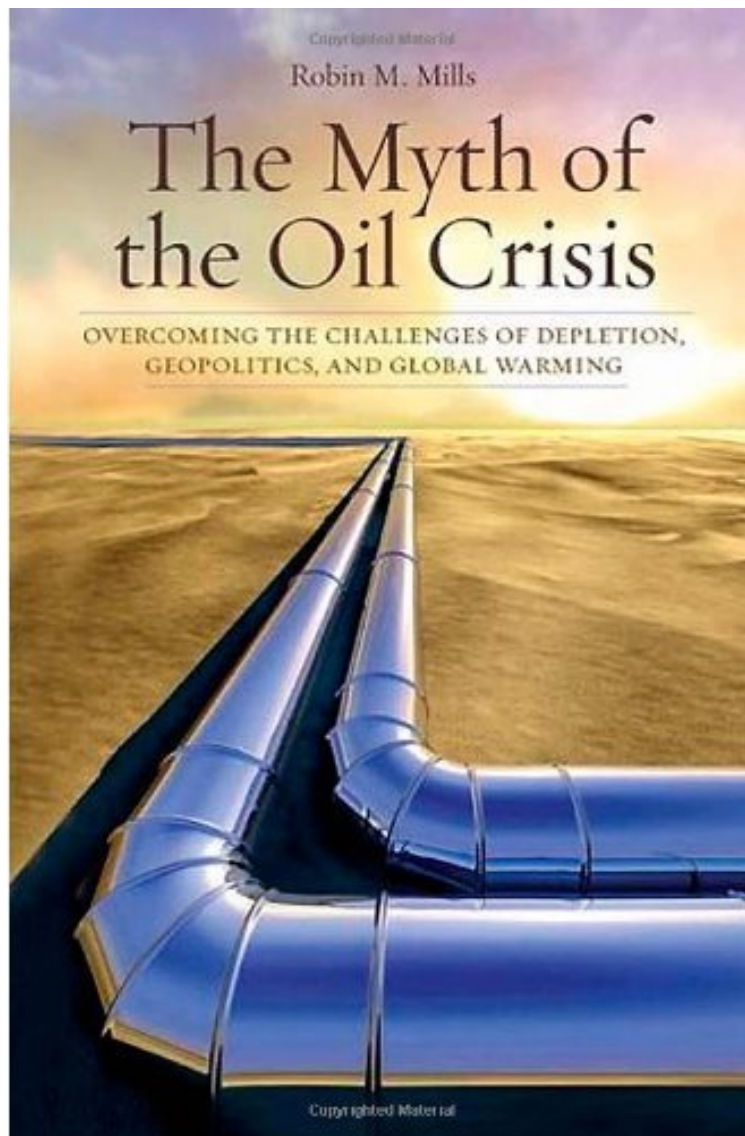


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# The Myth of the Oil Crisis: Overcoming the Challenges of Depletion, Geopolitics, and Global Warming

*Robin M. Mills*

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**Robin M. Mills : The Myth of the Oil Crisis: Overcoming the Challenges of Depletion, Geopolitics, and Global Warming** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Myth of the Oil Crisis: Overcoming the Challenges of Depletion, Geopolitics, and Global Warming:

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of solar-panels and wind-power. Why use these eco-phony methods of garnering energy when natural gas and home-heating oil prices are so historically low? 7 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Great counter to all the peak oil books. By Sculpin. Countless books, web sites, podcasts, articles and more exist that promote the imminence of peak oil. If nothing else, I highly recommend this book if you want to get the "other side." As is obvious from the title, Mills does not believe that peak oil will be coming anytime soon. It's not that he doesn't think it will ever happen; rather, he believes that it is a long way off and that we will have developed other energy sources well before peak oil becomes a major issue. I found Mills' presentation and discussion of the opposing viewpoints outstanding. Often, books never even touch on opposing viewpoints. Mills' entire book revolves around a discussion of opposing viewpoints. He discusses not only why he believes the opposing viewpoint is wrong, but also presents his own beliefs. Mills presents an unbelievable amount of supporting data. For the casual reader, the level of detail and support may be too much. For example, in chapter 5, he goes through 31 different countries or regions and breaks down the oil situation for each area, footnoting his data all the way along. For someone not directly involved in the oil industry, this information may be a bit much, but I can't fault him for including it as others may appreciate the level of detail. The contrast is striking compared with other information that I've read from proponents of peak oil that presented almost no supporting data. However, Mills is not always fair. At one point relatively early in the book, he basically says that peak oil is discredited because prior predictions have proven to be false. He goes so far as to compare proponents of peak oil to prophets of the end of the world, which is unreasonable. Another time, he overstates his case and says that while oil "prices have risen sharply ... at least until 2008, the global economy sailed on almost untroubled. This points out the fallacy of claims by peak oil theorists and Neo-Luddites of the inevitability of economic collapse." I am not convinced that the claims are false just because the economy was in a good state up to 2008. The year 2008 was not exactly a joyride and peak oil theorists will tell you that it will get much worse. My point is that just because it has not happened yet is not proof that it won't happen in the future. Mills did a convincing job discrediting Hubbert's Peak and explaining how we have enough alternative forms of energy, and the time and resources to deploy them, to avoid the economic meltdown proposed by some. In the end I came away feeling like the doom and gloom that I've read from some peak oil authors is overdone. It's difficult for someone not deeply involved in the industry to really know what's right, however, and I suspect that reality lies between Mill's position and the peak oiler's position. One note: Some of the charts are hard to read in the kindle version. If I were buying this book again I'd buy the hardcopy version. 9 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Peaker, save yourself! By T. Umrath. I confess, I'm a recovered peak oiler. I discovered the peakers in 2002 and was rapidly drawn into their apocalyptic world of gloom and disaster. Soon after indoctrination, I felt the euphoric rush that comes with being part of a group that has access to "secret" information all the other morons out there are blissfully ignorant of. Like most peakers, I enjoyed giving self-righteous lectures about the collapse of modern society to my SUV-driving friends. Eventually though, the inflexible peak oil religious doctrine started to bother me. Like other doomsayers, they appeared to cherry pick any data that supported their cause, while completely ignoring any information that suggested otherwise. New oil and gas discoveries were decried as "meaningless". Any new production technology was bashed with the opinion "it'll never work". Reserves estimates were part of "an international government and industry conspiracy". Those who publicly disagreed with their views, I observed, were ridiculed and dismissed as intellectual midgets and "flat earthers". After a while, all that zealotry and hypocrisy got to me, and I vowed to read every scrap of information I could find on energy, not just what was first sanctioned by the high priests of the peak oil church. It took me a while, but I kept an open mind, educated myself, and at last broke free of the cult. The Myth of the Oil Crisis does a very nice job in summarizing the holes in the peakers' dogma - If it had been available a few years ago, my de-programming would have taken place much sooner. If your hopes for the future are being held hostage by worries about running out of oil, I suggest that you start your detox program with this book. Give it a try. You just might change your mind about buying that assault rifle and cabin in the Idaho mountains.

With oil around \$100 a barrel, drivers wince whenever they pull into the gas station and businesses watch their bottom lines shrink. Watch out, say doomsayers, it will only get worse as oil dries up. It's a plausible argument, especially considering the rate at which countries like China and India are now sucking up oil. Even more troubling, the world's largest oil fields sit in geopolitical hotspots like Iran and Iraq. Some believe their nations need to secure remaining supplies using military force, while others consider dwindling supplies a blessing that will help solve the problem of global warming. But wait, is it really the end of oil? Absolutely not, says geologist, economist, and industry-insider Robin Mills. There is no other book by an industry insider that effectively counters the peak oil theory by showing where and how oil will be found in the future. There also is no other book by an insider that lays out an environmentally and geopolitically responsible path for the petroleum industry and its customers. The Myth of the Oil Crisis, written in a lively style but with scientific rigor, is thus a uniquely useful resource for business leaders, policymakers, petroleum industry professionals, environmentalists, and anyone else who consumes oil. Best of all, it offers an abundance of one commodity now in short supply: hope for the future.

"Geologist, economist, and petroleum industry insider Mills makes an intelligent case for oil's continuing role as a major, growing energy source. A Herculean task, one would think, given public sentiment on the matter. Mills manages it by first neatly dividing opposing viewpoints into five camps: geologists (those who espouse peak oil theory), economists (the markets will work it out), militarists (use power to secure energy supplies), environmentalists (fossil fuels: no), and no-Luddites (fossil fuels, consumption, and materialism: no). He then conquers their positions with lively, exhaustive sourced arguments to say that there may be more conventional oil than reported, colossal unconventional sources, and plentiful energy substitutes. Mills shows deep understanding of the complexity of the issue, and while promising no easy fixes, he is yet hopeful: gloomy predictions do not resemble the real world and take no account of human integrity." - Library Journal, Starred "The oil crisis and US energy policy (or lack thereof) has been debated since President Nixon was in office, and this important issue is being revisited again under the Obama administration. Mills (petroleum economics manager, Emirates National Oil Company, Dubai) provides a very good overview of the main issues at hand. He critiques the views of key groups (geologists, economists, militarist, environmentalists, and 'Neo-Luddites') on this issue; discusses sources of current and future oil reserves and other energy sources; and contends that oil supplies are growing. Mills correctly points out shortcomings and exaggerated claims of the pessimists when it comes to oil and the policy implications resulting from their claims. This book is a welcome addition to the literature and an excellent resource for those new to the fieldhellip; Highly recommended. General readers; undergraduate students at all levels; practitioners." - Choice "Robin Mills's *The Myth of the Oil Crisis* is an intellectual nail in the coffin of the peak oil lobby's claims for the end of oil. There is no such drama, as this in-depth analysis demonstrates with empirical lucidity, wide-ranging discourse, and persuasive argument to demolish these modern mythologies and proclaimed wisdoms about our world oil future." (Duncan Clarke, Author of *Empires Of Oil and The Battle For Barrels*)"Robin Mills's book, *The Myth of the Oil Crisis*, is a very welcome and intellectual insight into the role of oil and gas in our future societies. It demonstrates with very clear and well-informed arguments why the theory of Peak Oil is invalid and based on an incomplete set of assumptions. Mills book is well balanced in its mix of industry insight, world politics, and humanitarian interest and anyone with a keen interest in world energy should read it!" (Dr Simon Vroemen, Vice President Strategy RWE-Dea)"Robin Millis's *The Myth of the Oil Crisis* is one of the most insightful books on debunking peak oil theory. With deep industry knowledge, persuasive arguments and some of the best quantitative analysis, his book demonstrates that Peak Oil Theory is a hot air balloon with more PR mileage than real insights. His comprehensive view of green energy includes 'green hydrocarbons'; acknowledging hydrocarbons will continue to play a key role in meeting increasing energy demand across the world. This is a must-read for anybody concerned with energy and environmental issues." (William Zhao, CEO, Gaia Carbon Control Systems)About the AuthorRobin M. Mills is an oil industry professional with a background in both geology and economics. Currently, he is Petroleum Economics Manager for the Emirates National Oil Company in Dubai. Previously, he worked for Shell. Mills, who speaks Farsi and Arabic, is a member of the International Association for Energy Economics and Association of International Petroleum Negotiators. He holds a Master's Degree in Geological Sciences from Cambridge University.