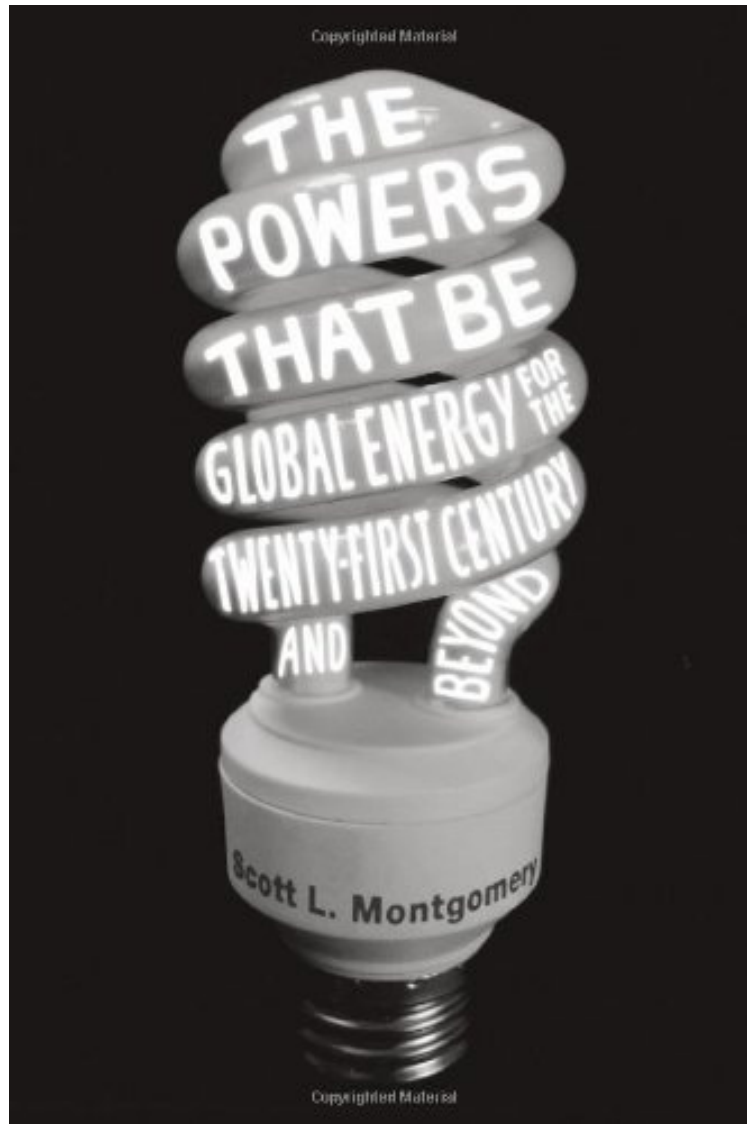


(Download ebook) The Powers That Be: Global Energy for the Twenty-first Century and Beyond

# The Powers That Be: Global Energy for the Twenty-first Century and Beyond

Scott L. Montgomery

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**Scott L. Montgomery : The Powers That Be: Global Energy for the Twenty-first Century and Beyond** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Powers That Be: Global Energy for the Twenty-first Century and Beyond:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Scott L. Montgomery is quoted at length in my ...By Jon Amsden, PhD.Scott L. Montgomery is quoted at length in my "When Empires Fail" (to be published for I-Pad on September 1 current year. Here's what I said: According to Scott L. Montgomery, a writer, geologist, and adjunct faculty member at

the University of Washington in Seattle who has extensive experience in the energy industry, the "global fleet" of automobiles is presently estimated to include 700-800 million cars. Automobiles, power plants, and we human beings as well, emit carbon dioxide, a light-trapping gas, into the atmosphere. As atmospheric carbon continues to increase, world temperatures continue to rise and climate change appears to follow. This would include the rising incidence of tornados, floods, and hurricanes in some parts of the world while other regions (e.g., California) accumulate years of drought. The figures Montgomery presents concerning what appears to be an exponential growth in the automobile population, may yet be on the verge of achieving massive increases. Present rates of growth in car ownership in the emerging market countries (including China's rapidly growing fleet of automobiles which increased in number by 400% between 2000 and 2009) lead Montgomery to suggest that there could be 2.3 billion automobiles (i.e., cars, trucks, buses) on Earth by the year 2050. After a careful review of the statistics of fossil fuel energy presently in use around the world, Montgomery isolates three major problems that he believes will follow from the present global pattern of power production. I then went on to outline the three shock factors indicated by Montgomery. I will conclude here by saying that it was awfully refreshing to find a well informed and well expressed confirmation of the global warming matter. S.L.M. and I are in the same boat (with the sea warming all around us) as I pointed out in my "History of the Earth and Its Mass Extinctions: This Time It's Us" also available on . ja7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read on Global Energy Reality By Urban Planner This is the essential thinking person's guide to global energy, hands down. It covers more material than any energy book I've ever seen, and does so in a truly thoughtful and informed way. I came away feeling it was comprehensive, intelligible, and eloquent, a book I very much wanted to recommend to others. "Powers that Be" is factual, even densely so in some places, but it's really a book about how both science and ideas rule the energy universe. By "ideas," I mean things like attitudes toward progress and the environment, beliefs about society, philosophies related to nature and the economy, government policies, and the like. Montgomery makes clear how these sorts of realities play a powerful role in determining energy choices, no matter how scientifically naïve they might be. I never appreciated this before; it changed my view on our national, or global, conversations about energy. There are chapters on every major energy source (their nature, abundance, advantages, limitations, environmental impacts, status, possible futures), including some not yet in use but probably on the way later in the century (hydrogen, fusion). Montgomery also devotes entire chapters to the big issues like energy history; world trends in production, demand, and consumption; geopolitics; climate change; peak oil; and the role of technology. I don't think you'll find this many subjects handled in any other single volume. The author doesn't preach any one set of solutions. In fact, this wouldn't really make sense. His subject is global, not the U.S. or North America. He wants to inform us to the level where we can judge different versions of a better future on their own merits. He does have his own views, for sure. He believes government must play a part in the energy future, since it can take a long-term view, support research at a high level, and its outlook is not geared to profits but public welfare. This may seem naïve in some ways, but by the end I found it fairly convincing because of the examples discussed. To me, the author (who has spent many years in the energy industry) is level headed. There's no doomsday stuff and no overriding pessimism. He also doesn't feel that everything can be made green in just a few short years. I'd call the tone of the book an example of sober optimism. After reading his chapters on renewables and technology, I feel I am in a much better position to evaluate some of the claims I see made in the media about these sources, positive and negative. I also appreciated the style of the writing. It has some literary qualities and a fair amount of humor, too. This made the book enjoyable to read, something I never expected. If you want one volume on energy to tell you about where the world really is today, as a world, this is the one to get. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Book for All Seasons By interestedreader What I appreciate about this book is that it treats the reader as intelligent and curious, someone able to be informed at a deep level. Too many energy books for non-scientists are like long newspaper articles, offering facts and numbers and stories but never getting very far into things. <sup>3</sup>Powers that Be <sup>2</sup>; is completely different. Its <sup>1</sup>;s high-quality science writing, thoughtful evaluation, and also intellectual history rolled into one. The reasons are simple. First, Montgomery has spent decades in the energy industry writing about it (I checked; he has a long list of pubs on GEOREF and, according to a geologist friend of mine, is well-known in the petroleum industry) and now teaches about its global realities at the university level. As an insider, he <sup>1</sup>;s lived it, studied it, and now makes a living explaining it to others. He writes with style, in a voice that never blindly condemns or congratulates. Second, his book is <sup>1</sup>;t a manifesto (we <sup>1</sup>;renot on the edge of annihilation or nirvana). Instead, he lays out the facts and realities of all major sources, existing and future

Thirty years ago, our global energy landscape did not look remarkably different from what it does today. Three or four decades from now, it certainly will: dwindling oil reserves will clash with skyrocketing demand, as developing nations around the world lead their citizens into the modern energy economy, and all the while, the grave threat of catastrophic climate change looms ever larger. Energy worries are at an all-time high—just how will we power our future? With *The Powers That Be*, Scott L. Montgomery cuts through the hype, alarmism, and confusion to give us a straightforward, informed account of where we are now, and a map of where we're going. Starting with the inescapable fact of our current dependence on fossil fuels—which supply 80% of all our energy needs

today—Montgomery clearly and carefully lays out the many alternative energy options available, ranging from the familiar, like water and solar, to such nascent but promising sources as hydrogen and geothermal power. What is crucial, Montgomery explains, is understanding that our future will depend not on some single, wondrous breakthrough; instead, we should focus on developing a more diverse, adaptable energy future, one that draws on a variety of sources—and is thus less vulnerable to disruption or failure. An admirably evenhanded and always realistic guide, Montgomery enables readers to understand the implications of energy funding, research, and politics at a global scale. At the same time, he doesn't neglect the ultimate connection between those decisions and the average citizen flipping a light switch or sliding behind the wheel of a car, making *The Powers That Be* indispensable for our ever-more energy conscious age.