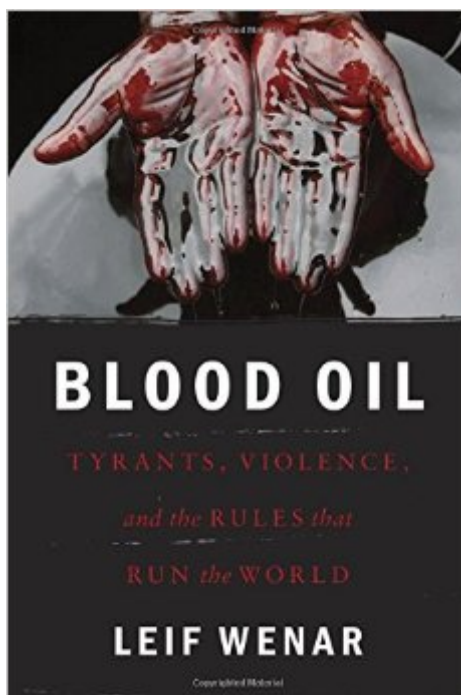


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Blood Oil: Tyrants, Violence, And The Rules That Run The World



Synopsis

Natural resources empower the world's most coercive men. Autocrats like Putin and the Saudis spend oil money on weapons and repression. ISIS and Congo's militias spend resource money on atrocities and ammunition. For decades resource-fueled authoritarians and extremists have forced endless crises on the West - and the ultimate source of their resource money is us, paying at the gas station and the mall. In this sweeping new book, one of today's leading political philosophers, Leif Wenar, goes behind the headlines in search of the hidden global rule that thwarts democracy and development-and that puts shoppers into business with some of today's most dangerous men. Readers discover a rule that once licensed the slave trade and apartheid and genocide, a rule whose abolition has marked some of humanity's greatest triumphs-yet a rule that still enflames tyranny and war and terrorism through today's multi-trillion dollar resource trade. **BLOOD OIL** shows how the West can now lead a peaceful revolution by ending its dependence on authoritarian oil, and by getting shoppers out of business with the men of blood. The book describes practical strategies for upgrading world trade: for choosing new rules that will make us more secure at home, more trusted abroad, and better able to solve pressing global problems like climate change. This book shows citizens, consumers and leaders how we can act together today to create a more united human future.

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Customer Reviews

Even those who keep their ears firmly closed to news and current affairs can surely not have failed

to discover that people fight over oil. Fighting is everywhere, whether it is at nation state-level or further down the food chain, with terrorists stealing and smuggling oil to finance their activities. This fascinating, engaging book looks at how democracy and development is being impeded in oil producing and exporting countries. This impacts the world, as many strive to lead an ethically focussed life whilst struggling with the fact that so much of our modern-day society uses oil and oil-based products. You can't normally fill your tank with petrol from a 'good country' whilst ignoring a 'bad country'. You absolutely cannot expect to determine where the oil came from that was transformed into derivative components that, in turn, were turned into products you use daily. If you had to boycott everything manufactured with an oil-derived product, you'd have a very restricted daily routine. The author believes that the problem can be improved upon, even if it cannot yet be totally eradicated, and he has developed some 'democracy-enhancing clean trade policies' that can help, even if it only sidesteps the dictators and warlords who rely on natural resource sales to perpetuate their rule. Cut off demand for their supply and you may cut them out of the picture in due course. This is no casual read, even though even the most general of readers could stand to gain a lot by reading it. This book is something you invest time in, allowing the author's insightful commentary, research and thoughts to sink in. It probably is not the sort of light reading you would take on holiday.

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