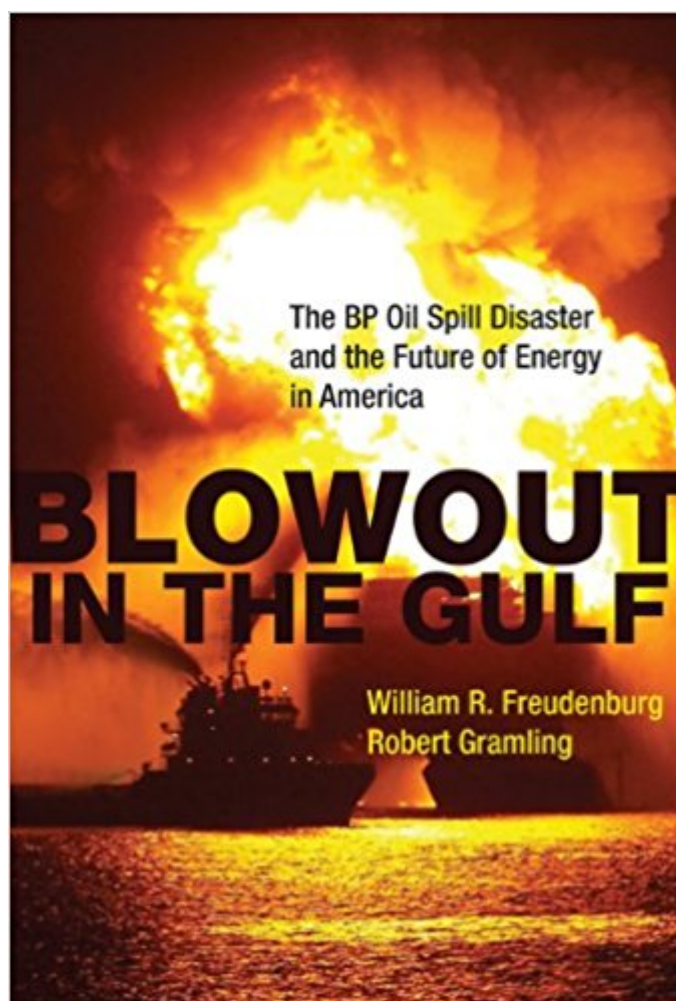


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Blowout In The Gulf: The BP Oil Spill Disaster And The Future Of Energy In America (MIT Press)



Synopsis

On April 20, 2010, the gigantic drilling rig Deepwater Horizon blew up in the Gulf of Mexico, killing eleven crew members and causing a massive eruption of oil from BP's Macondo well. For months, oil gushed into the Gulf, spreading death and destruction. Americans watched real-time video of the huge column of oil and gas spewing from the obviously failed "blowout preventer." What was missing, though, was the larger story of this disaster. In *Blowout in the Gulf*, energy experts William Freudenburg and Robert Gramling explain both the disaster and the decisions that led up to it. *Blowout in the Gulf* weaves a fascinating narrative of failures, missteps, and bad decisions, explaining why this oil spill was a disaster waiting to happen -- and how making better energy choices will help prevent others like it.

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Customer Reviews

A gush of books about the BP oil disaster approaches as the investigation into its causes proceeds apace. Freudenburg and Gramling have a head start: they've been studying and writing about energy issues and offshore oil drilling for three decades. Drawing on their deep knowledge, they set the deadly BP blowout within a technologically precise history of oil in America, from the first primitively constructed well on land to the development of offshore rigs, explaining that the Deepwater Horizon was actually a technical marvel -- if only its operation hadn't been compromised. Here is a full accounting of BP's many previous accidents and

violations -- the company was the worst in the industry for its safety-sacrificing cost cutting. Freudenburg and Gramling also tell the story of the corporation's first incarnation as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in 1909 and how it became British Petroleum in 1954. Science, commerce, and the politics of oil are all newly illuminated here, accompanied by invaluable explanations of the risks of offshore drilling and a pragmatic look at the energy conundrums we now face. --Donna Seaman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

For a comprehensive and systematic walk-through of how the BP spill played out before, during, and after the Macondo blowout, this book's a good pick. Exploring the technical side of things without sacrificing readability, the authors explain the disaster in its social, political, and scientific contexts. (Green Life (Sierra Club))For readers interested in knowing more about events leading up to the spill, Blowout in the Gulf provides a solid description of what is now known. The authors examine the technology, geology, management decisions, and regulatory actions involved, and they also provide enough background for general readers to digest these specifics. (Times Higher Education)Here is a full accounting of BP's many previous accidents and violations -- the company was the worst in the industry for its safety-sacrificing cost cutting. Freudenburg and Gramling also tell the story of the corporation's first incarnation as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in 1909 and how it became British Petroleum in 1954. Science, commerce, and the politics of oil are all newly illuminated here, accompanied by invaluable explanations of the risks of offshore drilling and a pragmatic look at the energy conundrums we now face. (Booklist)In this intelligent and refreshingly readable -- if inevitably depressing -- expose, Freudenburg and Gramling, professors of environmental studies and sociology respectively, and longtime collaborators and observers of the oil industry, analyze the origins of the Deepwater Horizon explosion and its aftermath....Readers interested in energy crisis, peak oil, environmental and climate change issues will appreciate the straightforward analysis and will hope this important book finds its way into the hands of policy makers. (Publishers Weekly)The authors make solid points about the way the U.S. government has allowed big oil companies to march into public waters, about how the much-admired interstate highway system contributed to a fateful boom in U.S. oil consumption and about the way Americans ravenously consume oil and gas today. (The Washington Post)An excellent book for seminar courses on energy. Highly recommended. (Choice)A smashing book. Freudenburg and Gramling put the spill into the perspective of energy dependence, take us gracefully through technical details blurred by the popular press, grasp the local and national politics (offering some political deterrents of their own along the way), and give the spill what will likely be its most masterful handling. The

authors' years of work on oil drilling and the carbon economy get a dramatic payoff in this very timely book. (Charles Perrow, author of *The Next Catastrophe: Reducing Our Vulnerabilities to Natural, Industrial, and Terrorist Disasters*) *Blowout in the Gulf* is a fast-paced, vivid account of the century-long rush to exploit that led to the BP disaster. As finite and remote oil and gas supplies dwindle, the risks, human and environmental, will only increase. As the age of oil approaches an end, the authors point us in other, sustainable, directions. (Bruce Babbitt, Former governor of Arizona and secretary of the Interior, board of directors, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy) An extremely timely and important offering from two of the world's preeminent environmental scholars. Accessibly written for a wide audience, *Blowout in the Gulf* is both a brilliant analysis and an indictment of the energy-growth machine that gave us one of the signal environmental assaults of our time. (Lee Clarke, author of *Worst Cases: Terror and Catastrophe in the Popular Imagination*)

Obviously written by someone that has no understanding of the oil industry and had no real knowledge on the inside

Blowout in the Gulf is a good read. The academic authors address the impact of BP's blowout and link it to a number of chapters about the environmental tragedy, social impacts, politics, and energy independence. Their book became a good resource as I wrote my book about the cause of the disaster
Â The Simple Truth: BP's Macondo Blowout

The first 2 chapters in this book are about the BP oil spill...the 3rd chapter is also somewhat helpful but most of this book is about the oil industry with the added context of the oil spill which is not what I was wanted. If you want a comprehensive report of exactly what happened in the gulf this is not what you want. You want the final report at oilspillcommission.gov. Granted it's fairly long but it includes a lot of good information and is totally free.

Do not get a Kindle version of this book, at least until figures out how to convert figures and charts. Most of the "figures" in the book are just black boxes.

This is a great book (although I agree the Kindle version is pretty frustrating as the charts don't show up). Rather than just stating "Oil Bad!", the authors do a great job of explaining the history of oil drilling in general and deep water drilling in particular. I was also surprised to hear how many years it has been since the United States was even marginally "energy independent". This book

presents an excellent wake-up call for the rest of us! Highly recommended, but get the print version as advertised

I was on shore when I saw the Deepwater Horizon burning on CNN. I mentioned that the ocean was the only thing that was going to put that fire out, which it did about 4 hours later. I've been waiting to read a book-length exposition of the chain of human failures leading to what I knew then was going to be an area problem for twenty years. This is not the book. This is a good collection, all in one spot, of the author's collection of 3x5 index cards, loosely organized to show the historical development of the extraction of natural resources for our use here in America, and the failure of responsible management along the way. The truth is that engineering resources have provided an amazing opportunity these past hundred years for people and companies to supply convenience and simultaneously earn mind boggling sums of money, and that opportunity has been largely unrestrained up to now. I'm still looking for a book that can give us a responsible path forward. I can recommend '\$20 per Gallon' in this genre of work, or the biographies of Howard Hughes or Armand Hammer for more background information. If you haven't read through the 'Confessions of an Economic Hitman' series yet, your time and money would be better spent. As more information on the Deepwater Horizon comes out in various courts, I expect we'll see dramatic changes in practice and oversight.

Bill Freudenburg was a mentor of mine in college, who, sadly, passed away two years ago. The tenacity and aggressiveness in his writing was complimented by his brilliant sarcastic wit, and passion for finding systematic problems in environmental issues. His research on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill contributed to many presentations by scientists to Congress in the BP hearings. This book captures much of his passion, and reveals a great deal of systematic challenges not just in off shore oil, but in American energy policy in general. Some of these are actively being dealt with, such as the dissolving of the Minerals Management Service due to poor institutional control.

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