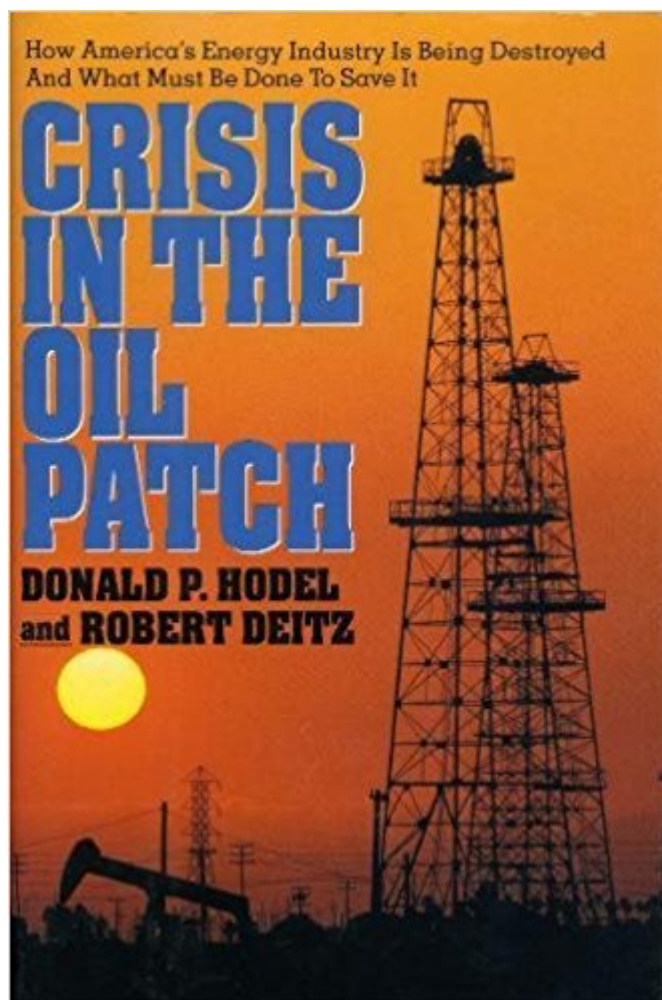


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Crisis In The Oil Patch: How America's Energy Industry Is Being Destroyed And What Must Be Done To Save It



Synopsis

Crisis in the Oil Patch combines the knowledge and experience of former Secretary of Energy Donald Paul Hodel and Dallas business writer Robert Deitz to show how our government has forced American dependence on foreign energy to dangerous levels. Using stories of people whose lives have been overturned by the decline of the U.S. industry, and startling statistics and public policy discussions, the authors detail a stripped industry that has seen ten times the job losses of the auto industry, but none of the public sympathy.

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Customer Reviews

Hodel, who served as Secretary of the Energy and Interior Departments during the Reagan administration, and Dallas journalist Deitz here assert that America's oil industry is overregulated by Washington and pulverized by "environmental extremists." They argue that the "domestic oil and gas industry is being destroyed by imprudent public policies that are making the nation increasingly dependent on foreign energy supplies." Unfortunately, their specious solutions lack objectivity. Hodel and Deitz maintain that America must avoid "politically correct" but "technologically flawed" policies (e.g., Clinton's short-lived BTU tax), remove "the alternative minimum tax on domestic oil and gas exploration," curtail foreign oil imports, restore "an oil depletion allowance" and "open up for oil and gas exploration and development all promising federally owned land." Alternative scenarios are eschewed by the authors. Though titillating and likely to spark vitriolic policy debates in Washington, their arguments run out of gas. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Not since Ruth Sheldon Knowles's 1980 diagnosis of America's Energy Famine (LJ 12/15/80) has such an unabashed psalm to big oil appeared. The subtitle leaves little doubt of the book's direction. For the slow, however, the chapter titles will dispel any lingering doubts. The industry's inability to develop our "Oceans of Oil" can be traced to the financial and environmental restrictions we impose on it. The outcome: "The Golden Goose Murder" and resultant economic, social, and political "Wages of Imprudence." Curiously, the book's overkill also makes it attractive. There has been no shortage of balance-free writing on the other side, and Hodel's analysis offers an interesting return visit to the leave-it-to-the-free-market energy philosophy of the Reagan administration, in which he served as both secretary of energy and of the interior. Recommended only for libraries seeking comprehensive collections in the energy field. Joseph R. Rudolph Jr., Towson State Univ., Md. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Would that current and future policy makers read and learn from this master of conservative thought as they consider and try to prevent future crises at the pump.

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