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Groundswell: The Case For Fracking



Synopsis

From the bestselling author of *Ethical Oil* comes a provocative exploration of the shale gas rush. Levant explains what fracking is and explores what its enemies do not want you to know and why it has the potential to change our future. In *Groundswell*, Ezra Levant examines the fracking revolution. Fracking (from "fracturing") involves injecting millions of gallons of water mixed with sand and chemicals into a well deep underground to fracture shale rock and release previously inaccessible reserves of oil and gas. The United States, Canada, North Africa, and the Middle East have vast reserves of shale gas and accessing it will mean a seismic shift in energy geopolitics. With natural gas in abundance, prices fall and the stranglehold by energy companies like Russia's Gazprom loosens. OPEC, environmentalists, and communities throughout North America are fighting hard to stop fracking, and Levant debunks their motivations and arguments, while arguing that fracking's benefits outweigh its costs, even environmentally. With *Ethical Oil*, Levant completely changed the debate surrounding Canada's oil sands. In this timely and controversial book he provides desperately needed perspective on a subject of growing global importance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The new book *Groundswell* is a highly recommended read. It is more an economics and politics book than a science treatise, and there are plenty of issues in fracking economics and politics to discuss. In an easy conversational writing style, Ezra Levant powerfully debunks a litany of myths

regularly asserted by anti-fracking activists. New Promise for Proven Technique Levant quickly dismisses the idea that hydraulic fracturing is anything new, noting the technique was first used on a vertical well in 1947 by Standard Oil and Gas Corporation, which patented the process in 1949. He also provides an illuminating discussion of horizontal drilling, which has gone hand-in-hand with hydraulic fracturing to launch our nation's recent oil and natural gas renaissance. Levant provides a bent-straw analogy to explain how a drill string turns over and ends up drilling horizontally, following a shale seam for thousands of feet instead of vertically for hundreds of feet. The modern process was first tried 10 years ago in a well in the Barnett Shale in Texas. Levant notes fracking has revived America's oil and natural gas industries, turning the United States into the Saudi Arabia of natural gas. The word "revolution" is tossed around liberally, but it truly fits our natural gas renaissance. He quotes a 2013 Goldman Sachs report stating fracking will give the United States an economic advantage in the world energy market for years to come. Of greater importance, the Goldman Sachs report recognizes it is not just energy we are talking about, but also the positive impact of affordable and abundant energy on steel, metals, chemicals, infrastructure, and other industries that are massive users of energy.

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