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The Elements of Power: Gadgets, Guns, and the Struggle for a Sustainable Future in the Rare Metal Age

David S. Abraham

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DAVID S. ABRAHAM

THE ELEMENTS OF POWER

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David S. Abraham : The Elements of Power: Gadgets, Guns, and the Struggle for a Sustainable Future in the Rare Metal Age before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Elements of Power: Gadgets, Guns, and the Struggle for a Sustainable Future in the Rare Metal Age:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Calibrate your opinions about sustainability and circular economies with this insightful bookBy F.J.H. MouwenVery insightful book around the dynamics and realities of rare-metal

mining and recycling. Critical enablers of today's products are often hidden in many traces of such metals in the details of its components - with no economical chance of recycling. The book may calibrate your opinions about sustainable technology and notions of circular economies. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Important for all to know about. Well written, loads of notes and provide very valuable knowledge. I recommend this to all that want to understand, where the next conflict will come. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars. Probably should have just been a 15 page special feature, but still worth the read. Unique perspective.

Our future hinges on a set of elements that few of us have even heard of. In this surprising and revealing book, David S. Abraham unveils what rare metals are and why our electronic gadgets, the most powerful armies, and indeed the fate of our planet depend on them. These metals have become the building blocks of modern society; their properties are now essential for nearly all our electronic, military, and "green" technologies. But their growing use is not without environmental, economic, and geopolitical consequences. Abraham traces these elements' hidden paths from mines to our living rooms, from the remote hills of China to the frozen Gulf of Finland, providing vivid accounts of those who produce, trade, and rely on rare metals. He argues that these materials are increasingly playing a significant role in global affairs, conferring strength to countries and companies that can ensure sustainable supplies. Just as oil, iron, and bronze revolutionized previous eras, so too will these metals. The challenges this book reveals, and the plans it proposes, make it essential reading for our rare metal age.

"A thought-provoking book. Using vivid detail, he injects life and purpose into the story of elements. He persuasively explains the danger of underestimating a business that...plays a critical role in systems worth about \$4 trillion." --The Economist
"A remarkable book that genuinely changes how one views such objects as the iMac I am typing this review on...extremely engaging." --Literary (UK) Michael Burleigh
"In *The Elements of Power*, David Abraham explores a phenomena essential to our everyday lives and our future, but rarely studied or understood in the context of global policy or daily life. This is a book not just for specialists but also for those who are trying to chart a sustainable future for the world." --Christie Todd Whitman, 50th governor of New Jersey, former Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
"Abraham deftly explains why the age of technology is also the age of rare metals--and what that could mean for the world. This book lays the groundwork for an important discussion we need to have." --Ian Bremmer, president of Eurasia Group, and author of *Every Nation for Itself*
"For those of us who marvel at hybrid cars, smartphones, and wind turbines, but don't really know where indium, europium, and tantalum come from, an uneasy feeling is beginning to gnaw. In this extraordinary book, Abraham shows that the countries that control rare metals will control the future. His exhaustive research and vivid explanations are alarming and compelling." --Robert C. (Bud) McFarlane, former National Security Advisor and cofounder of the United States Energy Security Council
"[Abraham] makes the subject matter highly accessible and engaging...in this sweeping and fascinating narrative." --The US of Books
"With intelligence and nuance, Abraham sounds the alarm and brings attention to a coming resource conundrum. We are entering an age when the need for mere grams of obscure-sounding metals will have vast geopolitical consequences." --James Stavridis, Dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and Supreme Allied Commander, NATO (2009 to 2013)
"Extraordinary...Although I've written extensively about modern mining and its consequences, I've never read anything that approaches the comprehensive expertise of *The Elements of Power*...Abraham's reporting deserves special praise." - Pacific Standard (Tim Heffernan)
"David Abraham makes a complex, hidden but important subject both accessible and fascinating. Combining first-hand accounts with global statistics, he portrays the full picture of rare metals. His warnings and recommendations deserve our attention." --Dennis Blair, Former Director of National Intelligence
"A compelling, illuminating, and hugely important analysis...a brilliant discussion of what we need to do in the coming 'Rare Metal Ages'." --General David H. Petraeus, U.S. Army (Ret.), Chairman, KKR Global Institute
"Compelling...*The Elements of Power* makes a green case for rare metals... His passion for rare metals is genuine, and can be inspiring." -- The New Scientist
"[A] Fascinating and important book" -- The Times (UK)
"Fast-paced...It succeeds in welcoming readers of any background to the otherwise impenetrable conversations about rare metal politics...[which] could scarcely be relayed more engagingly." -- Royal Society of Chemistry, Chemistry World
About the Author
David S. Abraham is a natural resource strategist who previously analyzed risk on Wall Street and at an energy-trading firm, oversaw natural resource programs at the White House Office of Management and Budget, and ran a water-focused NGO in Africa. Previously, he was a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Tokyo University and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. He currently directs the Technology, Rare and Electronics Materials Center. He speaks widely and his writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.