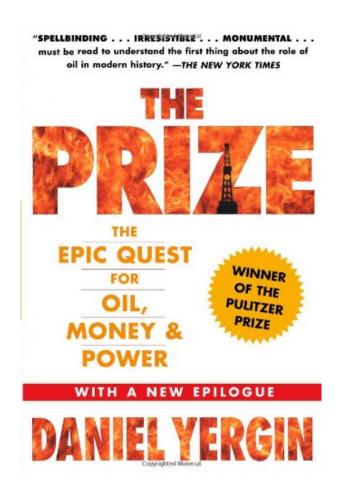
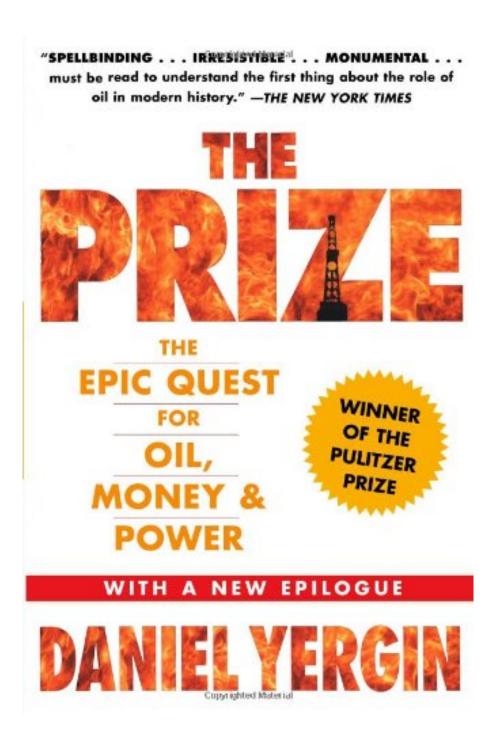
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Daniel Yergin's first prize-winning book, Shattered Peace, was a history of the Cold War. Afterwards the young academic star joined the energy project of the Harvard Business School and wrote the best-seller Energy Future. Following on from there, The Prize, winner of the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction, is a comprehensive history of one of the commodities that powers the world--oil. Founded in the 19th century, the oil industry began producing kerosene for lamps and progressed to gasoline. Huge personal fortunes arose from it, and whole nations sprung out of the power politics of the oil wells. Yergin's fascinating account sweeps from early robber barons like John D. Rockefeller, to the oil crisis of the 1970s, through to the Gulf War.

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Energy consultant Yergin limns oil's central role in most of the wars and many international crises of the 20th century. "A timely, information-packed, authoritative history of the petroleum industry, tracing its ramifications, national and geopolitical, to the present day," said PW. Photos. Author tour. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

This book does not require recent events in the Persian Gulf to make it an essential addition for most public libraries as well as all college libraries. Written by one of the foremost U.S. authorities on energy, it is a major work in the field, replete with enough insight to satisfy the scholar and sufficient concern with the drama and colorful personalities in the history of oil to capture the interest of the general public. Though lengthy, the book never drags in developing its themes: the relationship of oil to the rise of modern capitalism; the intertwining relations between oil, politics, and international power; and the relationship between oil and society in what Yergin calls today's age of "Hydrocarbon Man." Parts of the story have been told as authoritatively before, e.g., in Irvine Anderson's Aramco: The United States and Saudi Arabia (LJ 7/81), but never in as comprehensive a fashion as here.

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Deemed "the best history of oil ever written" by Business Week and with more than 300,000 copies in print, Daniel Yergin's Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the global pursuit of oil, money, and power has been extensively updated to address the current energy crisis.

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I was pleasantly surprised at all the fantastic history, details and information this book contains By Capt Pierce

Having spent the past 26 years working in the oil, refining and chemical industry, I finally took it upon myself to read this book. While I knew some of the information and history, based on word of mouth and working at multiple different refining companies, I was pleasantly surprised at all the fantastic history, details and information this book contains. It is truly the premier history of the oil industry within the US. An easy read, too - it is engaging, keeps your interest, and presents information at a level that everyone can understand - no need to be an engineer to understand the book. Nice job!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.
The Prize — Buy the 2008 Edition
By Steven Stoft
The new edition costs the same.

Yergin's prize-winning history stretches from the first Pennsylvania oil rush in 1860 to the crash of world oil prices in 2008, and it all reads like a novel. Well, not quite. The epilogue, which covers the period after the Gulf war in 11 pages, skims along ten times faster than the rest and feels a bit more like a history lesson. But it gives you a balanced view of recent events.

I bought the original version as I started researching energy. Two full bookshelves later, I can tell you, no other book in this field holds a candle to it for fascination and information. I've read complaints about what it doesn't cover so here are some alternatives, but if you want tales of the way greed, ignorance, and cleverness respond to natural wealth and, in turn, shape world history and current global politics, this is your book.

For oil geology and exploration, read Hubbert's Peak: The Impending World Oil Shortage (New Edition). Oil industry nitty-gritty: Oil on the Brain: Petroleum's Long, Strange Trip to Your Tank. What to do about OPEC: Carbonomics: How to Fix the Climate and Charge It to OPEC. Alternatives to Oil: Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization, Third Edition. Big Oil's power: The Tyranny of Oil: The World's Most Powerful Industry--and What We Must Do to Stop It.

There's no summarizing such a book, but here's the sort of tales he tells. The 1930 discovery of the Black Giant in East Texas nearly destroyed the oil industry, sending prices down to thirteen cents a barrel. After a voluntary shutdown failed, the Governor of Texas sent the Texas Rangers in on horseback. They shut down production and sent prices back up. This led to the Texas Railroad Commission becoming the first government-organized oil cartel — a model for OPEC years later.

As an economist I really appreciate the fact that Yergin gets his economics right. This is crucial for a book about price manipulation, and it's quite uncommon among popular books. For example he understands why the Saudis tried to hold price down in 1979 and why Bush Senior flew to Saudi Arabia in 1986 to try to get

them to raise the price back up. Yergen helps you understand exactly why things happen in this topsey-turvey world. In any case, The Prize has been selling like hotcakes for 18 years. Whether you're fascinated by powerful historical forces or disgusted but intrigued by fossil fuel, you won't be disappointed.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Thank you

By Ian Grohsgal

I am amazed by how comprehensive and yet fascinating of a history Daniel Yergin has woven together. Perhaps one of the best and most relevant histories I have read. If you are at all concerned about oil's impact on the environment, this is a must read in order to better understand the oil industry and its beginnings. Thank you, Mr. Yergin.

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