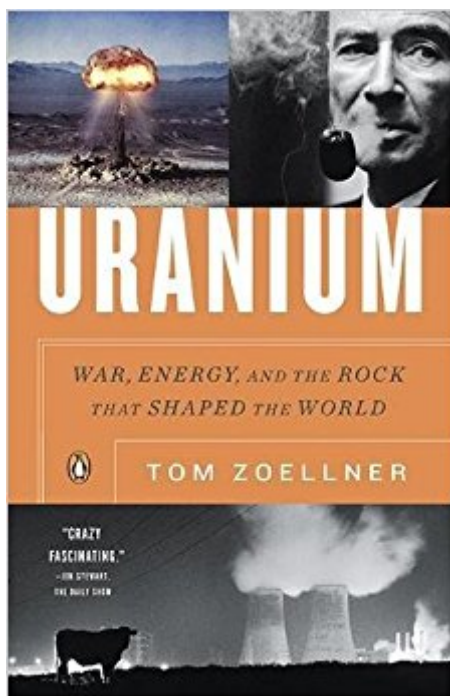


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# Uranium: War, Energy, And The Rock That Shaped The World



## Synopsis

The astonishing biography of a mineral that can sustain our world- or destroy it Uranium occurs naturally in the earth's crust-yet holds the power to end all life on the planet. This is its fundamental paradox, and its story is a fascinating window into the valor, greed, genius, and folly of humanity. A problem for miners in the Middle Ages, an inspiration to novelists and a boon to medicine, a devastating weapon at the end of World War II, and eventually a polluter, killer, excuse for war with Iraq, potential deliverer of Armageddon and a possible last defense against global warming-Uranium is the riveting story of the most powerful element on earth, and one which will shape our future, for better or worse.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. In this fine piece of journalism, Zoellner does for uranium what he did for diamonds in *The Heartless Stone*—he delves into the complex science, politics and history of this radioactive mineral, which presents the best and worst of mankind: the capacity for scientific progress and political genius; the capacity for nihilism, exploitation, and terror. Because Zoellner covers so much ground, from the discovery of radioactivity, through the development of the atomic bomb, he doesn't go into great depth on any one topic. Nonetheless, he superbly paints vivid pictures of uranium's impact, including forced labor in Soviet mines and lucky prospectors who struck it rich in harsh environments, the spread of uranium smuggling, as well as an explanation of why it was absurd to claim that Saddam Hussein was attempting to purchase significant quantities of uranium from Niger.

The only shortcoming is Zoellner's omission of the issue of radioactive wastes generated by nuclear power—a significant problem given the possibility of a growing reliance on nuclear power. (Mar. 9) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

In an element low on the periodic table, Zoellner discovers the focus for events at the top of the world's list of troubles. Having traveled extensively through the savannas of Africa, the mountains of Eastern Europe, and the deserts of Utah, Zoellner knows well what uranium looks like, why peril pulses in its every atom, and how scientists exploit its nuclear volatility. But most readers will find the drama not in the science but in the weaponry uranium has spawned—terribly demonstrated at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In pursuit of this raw power, the U.S. let Navajos die extracting needed ore and let southwestern cities sicken beneath clouds from reckless testing. The Soviet Union sentenced tens of thousands to lethal gulag mines. Israel diverted ore through deception on the high seas. Pakistan stole European refining technology. Alive with devious personalities, Zoellner's narrative ultimately exposes the frightening vulnerability of a world with too many sources of a dangerous substance and too little wisdom to control it. A riveting journey into perilous terrain. --Bryce Christensen --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

One of my favorite books of all time. It really does read like a novel at different points. A wealth of interesting information about one of the most influential substances on modern human history. Lots of great perspectives and many varied stories about everything possibly relating to Uranium. I can't think of a nonfiction book that I liked reading as much as this one.

An excellent book, and a truly fascinating reading experience. If you have never been afraid of radioactivity, this book will do it for you! Deep background on what really is 'the rock that shaped the world.' My very highest recommendation!

This is great stuff! I'm in the middle of it now and I think it's one of the best books I've bought on . Richard Rhodes' classic was just too ponderous for me to get through at the time, but 'Uranium' gives me just what I need to know about the nuclear world without knowing exactly what every well-known physicist of the era had for breakfast that morning. All of the disparate info you've ever known/not known about nuclear physics and its politics comes together here in a very coherent style that doubles as both travelogue and suspense novel. Plus, you have to get it now to figure out just

what the heck the title of this review has to do with anything, right?

A very good book with a view of Uranium in a different way. The effects of this mineral on the world, in ways other than the obvious bomb, are presented. A very entertaining and educational read.

Uranium: War, Energy, and the Rock That Shaped the WorldI purchased this book because I want to learn more about the element Uranium. This book is well written and load with facts and dates about this mysterious element from its earliest discovery. It's an excellent in its presentation of the history and the current role it plays in our lives today. I started this book 3 days ago and finished it this afternoon. I was not disappointed in my purchase.

Read the book 2 times, too informative and beefy but lacks pictures and tells historic tails for people indulged in the processThe writer stood away from the scene as an observer which is a clever approach in writing historic evidences.Since the book is with no pictures, while reading it, it gave the reader to imagine the sites, places and people who where involved in the Uranium Industry.

first let me say i am a science geek and a history buff. i started this book and couldn't put it down. this is a well researched well thought out book. i learned so much from this book. i would recommend this book to anyone who is a curious person or someone who likes to learn while being entertained. it is a good read

This is an interesting book covering a mix of geopolitics and mining. However several of the critical 'facts' about Australia (I am an Australian) are very inaccurate which makes me wonder about other countries. It is written from a U.S. right wing perspective which, while understandable does wear a bit. As a light coverage of dubious accuracy in parts it is worth reading as it explains many things about uranium that aren't clear.

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