

# REVIEW OF THE NEW MAP: ENERGY, CLIMATE, AND THE CLASH OF NATIONS BY DANIEL YERGIN

Reviewed by Zin Mar Khing

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have attracted widespread opposition, it has helped the U.S. achieve energy self-sufficiency and security, thereby shifting the balance of power in its favor and heightening its flexibility in

production and consumption, and thus the subsequent shifts in global geopolitical balances, flows from this development in the U.S. energy sector.

Against this background, Yergin describes how the rise of the U.S. as an energy powerhouse overlaps with, or even threatens, other major powers, sometimes with dangerous geopolitical implications. On the supply side, the most direct impact is on the traditional energy producers:

the end of Cold War. Vladimir Putin perceiv  
its power and a key to restoring Soviet-era great power position and regional dominance (Yergin, 2020, p. 91). Thus, Tergin notes that the emergence of the U.S. as an energy supplier poses a direct economic and geopolitical threat to this contention. Economically, while Russia is heavily dependent on its oil and gas exports especially to Europe where it is the largest supplier and often relies on these resources as leverage for political objectives, the increased supply of and demand for U.S. shale oil and shale gas diversifies the energy market and





ambitious rates promised by net-zero targets – such as the U.S. aim to be powered entirely  
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2020, p. 388). Thus, Yergin writes that peak oil demand may have arrived, but it is less about the viability of these alternatives and more about the consequences of the geopolitical clashes among nations. Despite globalization and economic interdependence, he concludes that the world will remain increasingly fragmented as the new global map will be redirected from time to time – while fossil fuels will likely remain at the heart of this ongoing energy mix.

## Critical Assessment

Overall, while most reviewers are often reluctant to declare any book flawless as no book can be all things to every reader, *The New Map* approaches these ideals. It offers readers timely and comprehensive narratives of the current energy outlook – why it matters, how it works, and how it affects global geopolitics today – while simultaneously accounting for subsequent challenges and uncertainties associated with these transformations. The most persuasive part of this book is its analysis of the shale revolution and its far-reaching economic and geopolitical

from being a consumer to a supplier that increases competition for the traditional suppliers, Russia and the Middle East, while China emerges as the biggest market for energy. This book also shows how such a phenomenon translates into clashes not only between OPEC and non-OPEC countries, but also among these states – New Cold War between the U.S. and Sino-Russian alignment, and OPEC+, for example. The discussion of the implication of new technology and climate change may be lacking, as argued later, but Yergin deserves credit for explaining how the growth of viable substitutes can undermine global demand for fossil fuels despite being skeptical of this potential.

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environmental effects of fracking technology and political opposition (legal banA4 0cdv4 (al dem)7d106 l(ite be



While one may expect any analysis of the importance of this revolution to begin with major American oil and gas producing companies, ExxonMobil, Chevron, and others are entirely excluded. His main subjects are the shale frackers and entrepreneurs such as George Mitchell and Mark Papa. They are undoubtedly important for their innovations in fracking technology; however, they matter not as individuals but as a collective, which together allows the U.S. to envision its energy dominance, not energy dependency. Yergin may be right to point out that the U.S. grand vision to expand its sphere of influence beyond the Western hemisphere is made possible by this energy dominance, but it can only be achieved and sustained if the U.S. knows how to use it effectively. Yet, Yergin is relatively silent on what the U.S. grand strategy would be in achieving these ends. Perhaps he is reluctant to discuss the controversy of the U.S. grand strategy since War on Terror, or he is undecided by polarization in the U.S., or because such strategy may be lacking throughout the Trump administration, when his book was written.



competition lies at the heart of the region's inability to unify its efforts in the face of the oil collapse since 2014.







provide a one-size-fits-all solution to contemporary issues, but simply introducing and reminding readers about the important intersection of energy with geopolitics and economics. Researchers in energy economics can take cues for context and motivation and may find convenient points of entry to new questions. Environmentalists have spent little time seriously engaging with the geopolitical implications of their advocacy, and *The New Map* can fill in this gap. Therefore, this book is highly recommended to anyone interested in a quick knowledge update on the changes in the global energy markets and their geopolitical implications.



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