



We have spent the last two centuries building a civilization on coal and the last century building it bigger still on oil. Fossil fuels have been the wellspring of our complex, glorious modern world, but they are about to run out. By the end of the 21st century, our oil and natural gas supplies will be virtually nonexistent, and limited coal supplies will be restricted to only a handful of countries.

In *Life without Oil*, environmental scientist Steve Hallett and veteran journalist John Wright make abundantly clear that we are at the crest of a remarkable two-hundred-year glitch in the history of civilization and are about to embark on the decline. Experts may argue about whether peak oil production has already arrived or will come in a decade or two, but in any case, as Hallett and Wright show, we must plan for a future without reliance on oil.

But successful planning depends on a realistic assessment of the facts about our current situation. To that end, Hallett and Wright describe how the petroleum interval of the last century, on which our civilization is based, fits in to the larger history of civilization. They describe the fate of civilizations and empires of the past that have come and gone based on their vital connection with the environment.

Turning to an even longer timeframe, the authors make a compelling case that the key determinant of our global economy is not so much the invisible hand of the marketplace but the inexorable laws of ecology. When it comes to the long term, nature will impose limits beyond which our economy cannot go. Despite increased emphasis on renewable and environmentally friendly energy sources, our current obsession

with growth is ultimately unsustainable. The authors foresee the coming decades as a time of much disruption and change of lifestyle, but in the end we may learn a wiser, more sustainable stewardship of our natural resources.

This timely, sobering, yet constructive discussion of energy and ecology offers a realistic vision of the near future and many important lessons about the limits of our resources.

STEVE HALLETT is an associate professor in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Purdue University. His previous appointments include McGill University, Canada, and the University of Queensland, Australia.

JOHN WRIGHT is a journalist specializing in energy and environmental issues with over twenty-five years of experience. He is currently the Latin America news editor for *Energy News Today*, but has also worked for Knight-Ridder, Dow Jones, and the Associated Press. He is the author of *The Obama Haters*.

LIFE WITHOUT OIL: Why We Must Shift to a New Energy Future

Available March 23 from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Borders and others.

Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/Life-Without-Oil-Energy-Future/dp/1616144017/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1299689539&sr=1-1

B&N: <http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Life-without-Oil/Steve-Hallett/e/9781616144012/?itm=1&USRI=steve+hallett>

Borders: <http://www.borders.com/online/store/TitleDetail?sku=1616144017>

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

"**This is a book of fundamental importance**, especially as it is written in a very readable style. It explains the Oil Age, which is a brief epoch in an historical context. The first half saw the rapid expansion of industry, transport, trade and agriculture, driven by easy oil-based energy. It allowed the world's population to grow ten-fold, but also caused much damage to the natural environment. The second half, which now dawns, will be marked by a corresponding contraction due to the natural depletion of the resource. The book stresses the scale of the challenge but comes forward with useful suggestions for how people, and eventually their governments, can begin to adapt and successfully react to what unfolds. **It is essential reading for everyone.**" (C.J. Campbell, Founder of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas "ASPO")

"Hallett and Wright deliver **a brilliant overview** of the dilemma posed by our society's profound dependence on a depleting, non-renewable resource that is becoming more scarce and unaffordable almost by the month. Readers new to the "Peak Oil" discussion will find this an excellent entry point." (Richard Heinberg, Senior Fellow, Post Carbon Institute)

Booklist:

Sobering yet compelling....**a lucid and inspiring plan** for international energy-conserving cooperation.

Library Journal:

We live in a rich society, whose prosperity is based on one thing: oil. Fossil fuels powered the Industrial Revolution, and our reliance on oil goes far beyond providing gas for cars and planes. Everything from manufacturing plastics for computers to fertilizer for agriculture depends on the precious liquid. But the black fuel's days are numbered, since more than half of the earth's reserves has already been extracted. As future oil production decreases, countries around the world will be forced to change drastically. Hallett (botany & plant pathology, Purdue Univ.) and journalist Wright explain that the situation will be exacerbated by environmental problems created during the oil age. This volume reviews the benefits and limitations of the prospective alternative energy sources and shows that none of them alone can meet our current energy demands. It might be too late to avoid upheaval; however, there is much we can do to hasten the recovery. **VERDICT: An important yet darkly blunt description of the energy situation; readers interested in the energy crisis and the green movement will enjoy it.**—William Baer, Georgia Inst. of Technology Lib., Atlanta