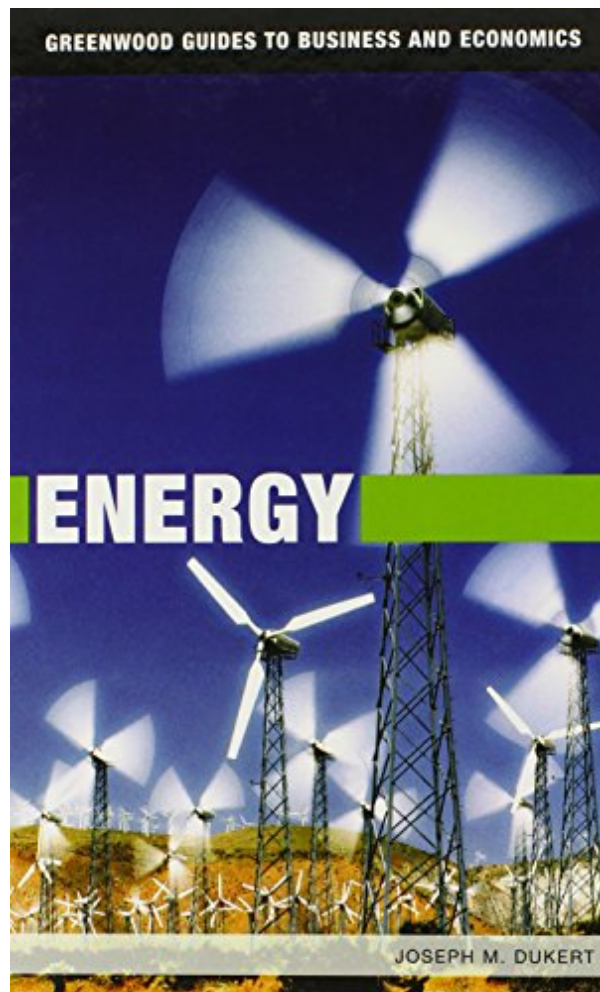


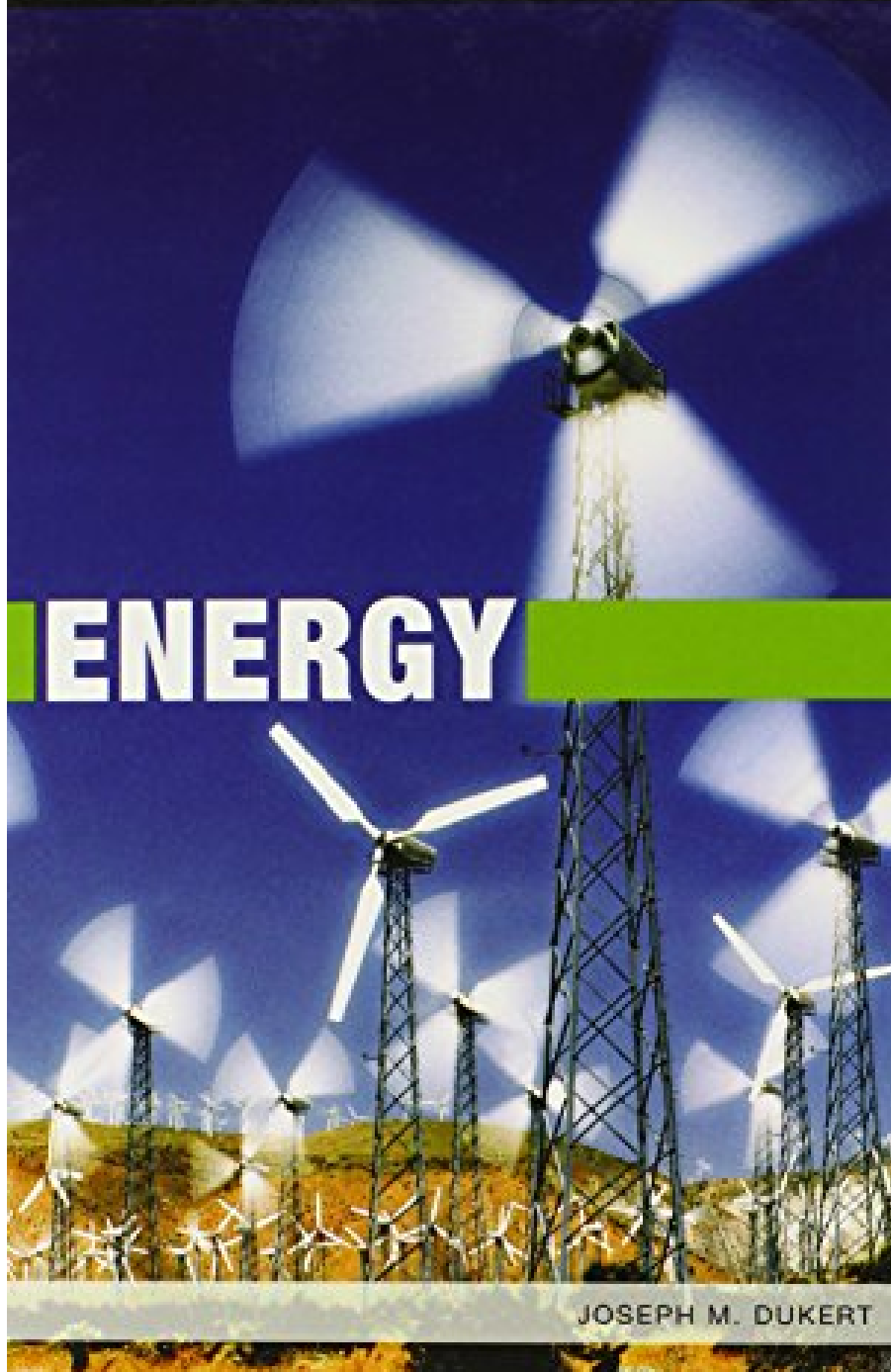
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## Review

"Dukert's book stands out as an authoritative, wide-ranging treatment of energy, well suited as a core resource for undergraduate courses or general audiences. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All collections." - Choice

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Energy: We want it affordable, we want it available in ample quantities and from reliable sources, and we want it to be produced and used in ways that are safe and environmentally benign. In other words, we want plenty of energy too cheap to meter and with no impact on the environment. Ha! With a refreshing lack of bias, this book dissects all major sources of energy, from oil and coal to renewables like solar and wind power. In an easy, understandable style, energy expert Joseph Dukert explains how each fits into the overall global energy mix that powers everything from automobiles and appliances to assembly lines and space stations.

As Dukert details, all energy sources have pluses and minuses. Those who champion any single energy source (or even energy efficiency by itself) as the sole answer to our energy problems are off track, he argues, as are the cynics who condemn one source or another or pooh-pooh the threat of global warming. In short, we need every significant source of energy we have today, while also making greater efforts to improve the efficiency of energy production and energy consumption.

Dukert also explores the choices made by individuals, businesses, and society as each group juggles conflicting, interconnected factors: affordability, reliability, adequacy of supply, environmental concerns, and time. In explaining why there's no magic bullet solution to the energy crisis, the author blends simple technical descriptions, economics, and real-world politics. Besides providing a cogent overview of a huge and hugely important industry, this short, comprehensive volume helps readers decide for themselves which choices are in their best interest. As Dukert suggests, energy independence is probably not a realistic goal for any country, but the search for a dynamic, practical energy balance can nonetheless result in a wiser national energy policy.

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Clear, insightful presentation of a multifaceted subject

By W. Maly

This book is a gem, and its timing is just right. With the recent leadership change in Washington, DC, there is renewed hope (though no guarantee) for responsible, intellectually honest discussion and actions to address U.S. and worldwide energy needs and energy-related issues. This book should help inform the policy debate. On the one hand, it is a thoughtful primer on energy resources, technologies, and systems--an Energy for Dummies, if you will. On the other hand, it is a level-headed presentation of interrelationships and tradeoffs--of the need for balance among many worthy goals, including security, convenience, affordable supplies, and respect for the environment. The author seems to have no agenda other than to share the knowledge and insights he has gained over the years. My only quibble is that this gem deserved a better setting; the publisher could have spent a few extra dollars sprucing up the graphics and layout. I highly recommend this book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

"Energy" -- Unbiased, thoughtful, and informative

By Louis DeMouy

"Energy" is an unusually readable and highly worthwhile distillation of principles for understanding the difficult subject of energy. I read it over a few evenings and would recommend it for anyone interested in energy or simply being an informed adult. The experienced analyst will benefit from the integration of discussion across energy issues and the newcomer will learn about the "basics" of the subject. This book is part of a series of Greenwood Guides to Business and Economics -- a series written for the non-expert reader who wants to gain an understanding of an important topic. In this instance, the book delivers the goods. I say this having an appreciation for the complexities of energy issues developed over a long career at the U. S. Energy Information Administration and carried into my retirement. At EIA we developed and disseminated information about national and international energy markets and dealt with every conceivable energy question. There are few simple answers but "Energy" has provided an excellent means for looking at the issues and deriving one's own ideas.

"Energy" opens with a chapter titled "Energy in the Balance" -- presumably a wordplay on Al Gore's "Earth in the Balance" but meant to convey that understanding the markets requires a sense of the elastic nature of supply and demand by looking at the integration of types of energy through supply/demand balances for individual fuels, overall energy balances across types of energy, influences of externalities, energy substitutions, geographic sources and influences, societal goals, and so forth. The chapter concludes with some basics for reading and interpreting energy statistics (an ability which can be elusive even for the most knowledgeable experts). Every page is highly readable and Dukert is not afraid to step on the toes of those casually espousing what is not feasibly achieved, e.g., near-term U.S. energy independence. Other chapters include a very interesting discussion "How Much is Enough" followed by chapters discussing the broad concept of energy's cost, reliability of supply, environmental factors, time as a factor for policy and business decisions, national energy policy and its economic implications, and issues for sustainable development.

The author, Joseph Dukert, and Greenwood Guides have done us a favor with this book. I would hope that it gets a broad reading and teachers would consider "Energy" as supplemental reading for courses in energy, economics, business, government, political science, engineering or other disciplines requiring a firmer background in the subject.

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Energy



By H. G. McArthur

Excellent balanced text; used for post-grad class. This book in a version for young readers would make a superb resource for middle- or high school studies of a topic of keen interest to adolescents.

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