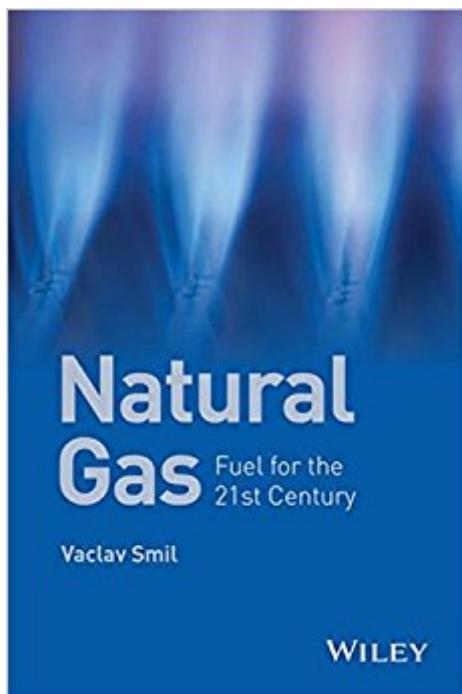


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# Natural Gas: Fuel For The 21st Century



## Synopsis

Natural gas is the world's cleanest fossil fuel; it generates less air pollution and releases less CO<sub>2</sub> per unit of useful energy than liquid fuels or coals. With its vast supplies of conventional resources and nonconventional stores, the extension of long-distance gas pipelines and the recent expansion of liquefied natural gas trade, a truly global market has been created for this clean fuel. *Natural Gas: Fuel for the 21st Century* discusses the place and prospects of natural gas in modern high-energy societies. Vaclav Smil presents a systematic survey of the qualities, origins, extraction, processing and transportation of natural gas, followed by a detailed appraisal of its many preferred, traditional and potential uses, and the recent emergence of the fuel as a globally traded commodity. The unfolding diversification of sources, particularly hydraulic fracturing, and the role of natural gas in national and global energy transitions are described. The book concludes with a discussion on the advantages, risks, benefits and costs of natural gas as a leading, if not dominant, fuel of the 21st century. This interdisciplinary text will be of interest to a wide readership concerned with global energy affairs including professionals and academics in energy and environmental science, policy makers, consultants and advisors with an interest in the rapidly-changing global energy industry.

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## Customer Reviews

Vaclav Smil receives 2015 OPEC Award for Research "In *Natural Gas*, Smil provides much valuable background on the relative amounts of carbon emissions produced by all of our major energy sources. He explains why natural gas is the best of the fossil fuels in terms of energy output

relative to carbon emissions (while noting that leaks of natural gas — methane — could in fact outweigh the savings in carbon emissions)." (Resilience, April 2016)

Natural gas is the world's cleanest fossil fuel; it generates less air pollution and releases less CO<sub>2</sub> per unit of useful energy than liquid fuels or coals. With its vast supplies of conventional resources and nonconventional stores, the extension of long-distance gas pipelines and the recent expansion of liquefied natural gas trade, a truly global market has been created for this clean fuel. *Natural Gas: Fuel for the 21st Century* discusses the place and prospects of natural gas in modern high-energy societies. Vaclav Smil presents a systematic survey of the qualities, origins, extraction, processing and transportation of natural gas, followed by a detailed appraisal of its many preferred, traditional and potential uses, and the recent emergence of the fuel as a globally traded commodity. The unfolding diversification of sources, particularly hydraulic fracturing, and the role of natural gas in national and global energy transitions are described. The book concludes with a discussion on the advantages, risks, benefits and costs of natural gas as a leading, if not dominant, fuel of the 21st century. This interdisciplinary text will be of interest to a wide readership concerned with global energy affairs including professionals and academics in energy and environmental science, policy makers, consultants and advisors with an interest in the rapidly-changing global energy industry.

True to form, Vaclav Smil, one of Bill Gates' favorite authors, presents a timely compendium on natural gas that is complete in all regards. From its history, to its location, production, and transport, this book also offers careful analysis of environmental advantages and impacts. Nobody who claims to be an earth scientist or environmentalist should pass up the opportunity to read this outstanding piece of work. As an aside, I think it would be less distracting if one system for units of measure were utilized throughout the book instead of showing equivalent units in parentheses at every turn. Smil uses real numbers and calculations constantly, and conversion nomographs for other units of measure could easily be appended to the front or back of the book. His readers are fully capable of understanding unit conversions on their own. In keeping with the theory that it is best not to learn your science from politicians or mainstream media, you must read this book to get the apolitical perspective on this "fuel for the 21st century."

I am an energy professional. I analyze natural gas and electricity markets for a living. This is one of the best books I've read about the energy industry in the last five years. Vaclav Smil is an impressive researcher, thinker, and writer.

A pleasure to read-- very well written. Of course this is dry and technical material but I feel it flowed well and had a correct amount of scientific basis. I wanted to learn more about the industry from an investors standpoint; I got what I wanted here.

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