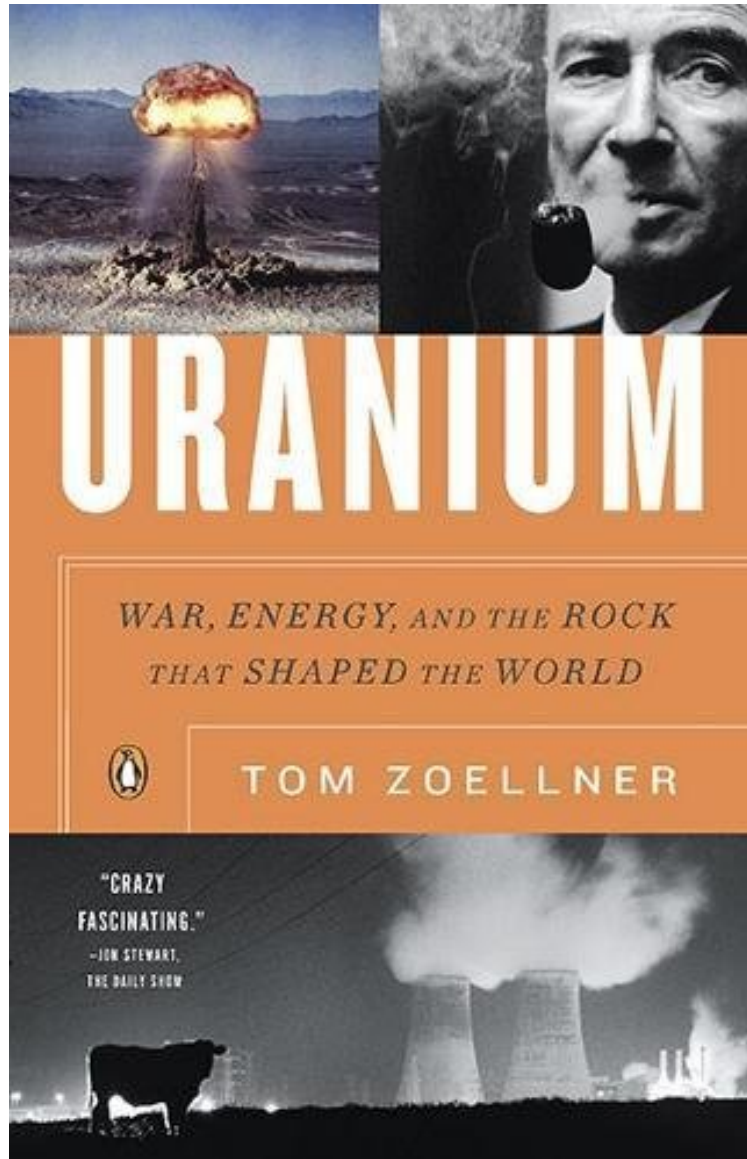


# Uranium: War, Energy, and the Rock That Shaped the World

Tom Zoellner

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#201385 in Books Tom Zoellner 2010-02-23 2010-02-23 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.39 x .80 x 5.52l, .66 #File Name: 014311672X368 pages Uranium War Energy and the Rock That Shaped the World | File size: 30.Mb

**Tom Zoellner : Uranium: War, Energy, and the Rock That Shaped the World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Uranium: War, Energy, and the Rock That Shaped the World:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. One of my favorite books of all time By Anonymous 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. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. READ AND UNDERSTAND! By Stephen Lee Morgan 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! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. 'Now we're ALL sons of bitches!' By S. Rogers 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?

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.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . 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. From Booklist 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 "CRAZY, FASCINATING" - JOHN STEWART