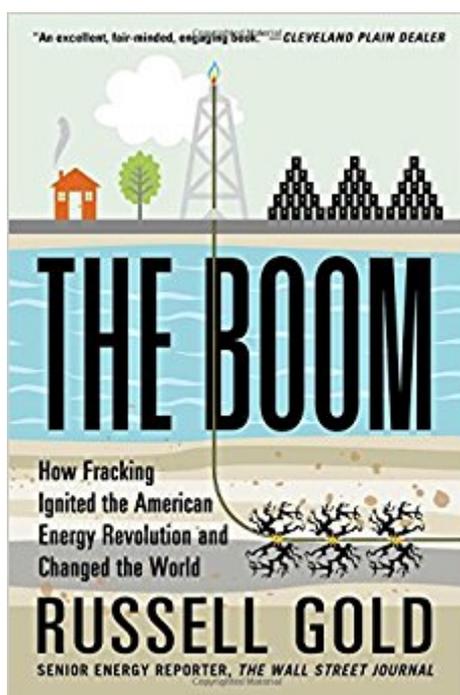


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# The Boom: How Fracking Ignited The American Energy Revolution And Changed The World



## Synopsis

The “best all-around book yet on fracking” (San Francisco Chronicle) from a Pulitzer Prize finalist: “Gold’s work is a tour de force of contemporary journalism” (Booklist). First invented in 1947, hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has not only become a major source of energy, it is changing the way we use energy, and the energy we use. It is both a threat and a godsend for the environment, and it is leading the revival of manufacturing in the United States. A definitive narrative history, *The Boom* follows the twists and turns in the development and adoption of this radical technology. It is a thrilling journey filled with colorful characters: the green-minded Texas oilman who created the first modern frack; a bare-knuckled Oklahoman natural gas empire-builder who gave the world an enormous new supply of energy and was brought down by his own success and excesses; an environmental leader whose embrace of fracking brought an end to his public career; and an aging fracking pioneer who is now trying to save the industry from itself. A fascinating and exciting exploration of one of the most controversial and promising sources of energy, *The Boom* “brings new clarity to a subject awash in hype from all sides” a thoughtful, well-written, and carefully researched book that provides the best overview yet of the pros and cons of fracking. Gold quietly leads both supporters and critics of drilling to consider other views (Associated Press).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**\*Starred Review\*** Fracking is a colloquialism that has entered everyday conversation only in the last dozen years, as the drilling operation it refers to, fracturing underground shale deposits to extract oil and gas, has literally and figuratively burst onto the American energy-production landscape.

Tagging along with it are all the ideas the word evokes, both good and bad, from energy independence to possible contamination of underground water aquifers. Gold, an award-winning senior energy reporter for the Wall Street Journal, has the ideal background for creating an engrossing history of fracking, while weighing its benefits against its potential hazards. He describes the scene at a typical fracking operation in North Dakota near a well surrounded by water tanks and monitoring hardware. He profiles Aubrey McLendon, one of fracking's most enthusiastic champions, whose star fell quickly when he mismanaged company funds. Gold also adds a more personal touch to his report when he describes the unpleasant impact drilling companies had on his parents when they sold the mining rights to their rural Pennsylvania property. Combining lucid explanations of fracking's technical aspects with the practice's more dramatic backstory, Gold's work is a tour de force of contemporary journalism that will captivate anyone concerned with the future of energy consumption and our rapidly changing climate. --Carl Hays --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Russell Gold's *The Boom* is a double quest. He tells the story of the biggest innovation in energy so far in this century—the shale gas revolution. He captures the personalities, and the drama and surprises, and brings clarity to the debate about the environmental impact—and what it means for the U.S. economy and energy independence. But it's also a more personal story about "The Farm" in rural Pennsylvania where he spent time as a child, and his quest to understand what is happening in this new age of shale gas." (Daniel Yergin, author of *The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World* and of *The Prize*) "In *The Boom*, Russell Gold provides a compelling account of the last half century of natural gas technology development. Driven by hunches, large ambitions and even larger personalities, the story of fracking is the story of innovation, American style. Gold delves into the growing conflict between economic development and concerns over environmental damage, and explains why fracking is seen by some as a vital bridge to a sustainable energy future and feared by others as another excuse to postpone addressing the risks of climate change. *The Boom* puts a human face on the unfinished story of our struggle to transition to a sustainable world." (Steven Chu, Former United States Secretary of Energy) "Gold's book is an early must-read for 2014: it is both a thorough and fascinating examination of the fracking

economy and the technological innovations that have made these new riches accessible (including the often catastrophic damage done in the process of obtaining them)." (Gizmodo)"An insider's guide to the most controversial energy-production technique in the United States." (Kirkus Reviews)"Gold delivers an engaging and expansive education on the promise and risks involved with the sudden rise of fracking for oil and natural gas in the United States| Gold delivers a balanced analysis weighing the benefits (the reduced use of dirtier coal, an end to the reliance on foreign oil and foreign entanglements, and sudden and reliable abundance of energy supply) against the pitfalls (the impacts on the environment and quality of life as energy companies stampede to secure leases and rush to drill, often in populated areas). Worthy of the attention of both fracking's boosters and opponents, Gold's insightful reportage supplies a well-rounded view of a polarizing subject. (Publishers Weekly (starred))"Whether you think fracking is our salvation or an agent of environmental destruction, The Boom is worth your time. (Forbes.com)"Combining lucid explanations of fracking's technical aspects with the practice's more dramatic backstory, Gold's work is a tour de force of contemporary journalism that will captivate anyone concerned with the future of energy consumption and our rapidly changing climate. (Booklist (starred))"This deftly handled account of the shale revolution provides a sobering assessment of the current limits of alternative energy, making for a nuanced treatment of an issue too many would prefer to see in black and white| Mr. Gold performs a valuable service by looking at it from a historical, economic, political and environmental perspective| his clear, thorough treatment of the subject is the starting point for a more informed discussion of energy and environmental policy. (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)"[The Boom] brings new clarity to a subject awash in hype from all sides| a thoughtful, well-written and carefully researched book that provides the best overview yet of the pros and cons of fracking. Gold quietly leads both supporters and critics of drilling to consider other views. (Associated Press)"Russell Gold's The Boom, authoritative and fairly balanced, is a welcome guide - the best all-around book yet on fracking." (San Francisco Chronicle)"[An] engaging story about the rise of fracking and how it has changed the energy landscape. Deep down, the book is a story about individual choices playing out against the wider energy landscape | And, in the steady hands of Gold, a Wall Street Journal energy reporter and Pulitzer Prize finalist, the book ranges into a thorough explanation of fracking itself. (Austin American Statesman)"The Boom marries the muscly prose of a beat reporter with a flair for finding compelling characters and telling anecdotes around this once-obscure oilfield technology. (Houston Chronicle)"An excellent, fair-minded, engaging book|

Gold's words tell a dramatic and engrossing story. The book is well-informed and well-told: a great job of reporting. (Cleveland Plain Dealer) "Gold brings clarity to a subject awash in hype from all sides. It's a thoughtful, well-written and carefully researched book that provides the best overview yet of the pros and cons of fracking. (Contra Costa Times) "[A] revelatory and a cautionary tale illustrates how dramatically America's energy equation has been rewritten in less than a decade. (Texas Monthly)

Very thorough, extremely well researched and written, tremendously informative and very even handed about a controversial practice. Really opens your eyes to what goes on in the oil fields and some of the unregulated cowboy operators out there causing environmental and economic chaos.

This book was very helpful in my understanding of the oil and gas industry. It also provided a neat insight into the industry without the political and environmental rhetoric that is found in many other books about modern-day drilling practices. Gold does a great job at making sure the book is interesting to the laymen, as well as informative enough for interested parties.

For years I have lived right in the middle of the fracking business and never really knew what it was. One of my sons-in-law works in it and I still didn't know what it was. This book reveals the whole thing from Day One, naming names and pointing out where they went wrong and where they went right. There is some humor, some irony and a wealth of good story telling in the volume. Anywhere there is oil, even in YOUR backyard, there could be fracking which could make you a millionaire. You owe it to yourself and your heirs to read this book! ... besides, you'll have a lot of fun doing it!

As a Pennsylvanian I have been subjected to endless bulletin boards and radio ads touting the benefits of Range Oil and Chesapeake Oil and natural gas their companies extract. This well documented book is a must read for those interested in how the fracking boom came to be. The other side of the beneficent coin is terrifying indeed. Read it and weep.

Fantastic overview of the oil industry with amazing historical facts

Excellent and engaging reporting, a human part to all of the noise about hydraulic well fracturing

from both the proponents and the opponents. If you think you hate "fracking" but you don't understand how the machines do the job, you should read this to understand the real risks that we should be worried about, and hint-hint it isn't "burning tap water"... If you think you love fracking, and want to follow Sara Palin's "Drill Baby Drill" advice, you should ready this understand the major economic and environmental issues created by the pell mell capital consumption rush started by Chesapeake Energy. The typical anti-carbon agenda is present but does not prevent the author from examining what effects the availability of cheap natural gas will do both in help and hinderance to the migration of American energy production to cleaner and better fuels than thermal-electic coal and diesel. This is the best honest reportage I've seen anywhere about the benefits (local, macro-economic, even environmental) and the drawbacks and risks of hydraulic fracturing hydrocarbon production (local, macro-economic and environmental at all levels from backyard noise, runoff, water-table, and long term problems that might come to us from poor well sealing and improper drilling practices).

I was and still am part of this fracing story and know many of the players It is an accurate portrayal except for giving more credit than I think should be given to A M. for his part in the historical significance of the shale boom. Its a good fast moving read.

Interesting and well done history of horizontal drilling and massive hydraulic fracturing.

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