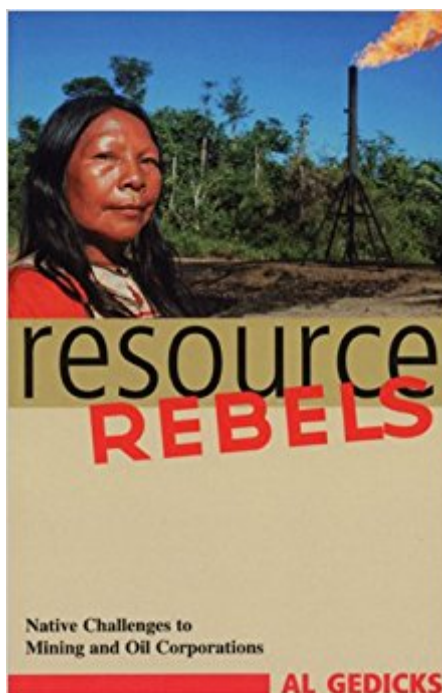


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Resource Rebels: Native Challenges To Mining And Oil Corporations



Synopsis

The greed of mining and oil companies is driving Native peoples to the brink of extinction. Acclaimed scholar of Native and environmental issues Al Gedicks describes how a multiracial, transnational movement is fighting back. >In Mexico, the Philippines, Colombia, Ecuador, Nigeria, West Papua, Canada, and the United States, indigenous peoples are working with environmentalists and anti-racists to stop corporate and state takeovers of their traditional lands and waters. Al Gedicks looks at these and other regions and documents how mining and oil companies subvert local opposition and rely on military forces to carry out their exploitation. Global activists will find Resource Rebels an essential key to effective campaigns. As native communities have come under assault, there has been an extraordinary growth of native organizations asserting their rights on the international stage. Gedicks documents how a growing transnational environmental and human rights network has come to the assistance of native communities under siege by the international oil and mining industries. Praise for *The New Resource Wars*: • Useful to all people concerned with sustaining life on this planet. • "The Circle" • Clear and compassionate. • "The Progressive" • A definitive documentation. • Higher Values: The Minewatch Bulletin • Exhaustive. • "Toward Freedom" Al Gedicks is a professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and an environmental and native rights activist. He has written extensively about the impact of mining on native populations and is the author of the critically acclaimed classic, *The New Resource Wars: Native and Environmental Struggles Against Multinational Corporations* (ISBN 0-89608-462-0, South End Press 1993).

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Customer Reviews

Al Gedicks's *New Resource Wars* (0-89608-462-0) Sales 400 is a classic book in environmental and Native studies. Gedicks is professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, and a longtime activist in environmental and Native solidarity movements in the upper Midwest. He is executive director of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council and director of the Center for Alternative Mining Development Policy.

Following his earlier book "The New Resource Wars", Al Gedicks eloquently presents numerous negative case studies regarding exploitative mining. In this book, I was hoping there would be more direct social science analysis as well. However, there is simply more descriptive and investigative material about pernicious cases of exploitation. Instead, it would have been useful to also consider some cases of corporate responsibility, or cases where Native communities have in fact chosen to go forward with mining and have had positive experiences -- indeed cases of mines such as the Raglan project in Quebec, The Red Dog Mine in Alaska, Argyle in Australia, mining in Botswana and Ghana or oil in Brunei might also have provided an interesting comparison. Nevertheless, the book certainly has some good expository material on some of the "bad boy" companies. It is important to consider that there might also be some better players in the mix -- which the activist perspective in this book does not want to even acknowledge.

It's refreshing to read about Indian tribes who hold to the old traditions against destroying and soiling our planet and not just about the certain tribes who just want more casinos.

It takes a lot of strength to pour over the sort of bad news that Gedicks brings us in "Resource Rebels." It's an emotional challenge to witness the ways in which the Indian Wars continue, how few people are aware of this indigenous holocaust, and how hopeless people can feel in the face of its inertia. The inhumanity shown by the executives of these extractive industries and the military and media hit men that serve them - it's all rather sickening. The soul that Gedicks exhibits is also evident in these "Resource Rebels" who show tremendous courage to confront these impossible odds. There are other important books that look into the attempts to slow the progress of this destructive leviathan the planners of our hi-tech militarist society have created: *Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Globalization*. The interests of these transnational

conglomerates are not human interests. And when the U'Wa in Colombia, the Shuar in Ecuador, the Komoro of West Papua, and the Chippewa of Wisconsin challenge their oppression and the destruction of the earth - they are defending all of humanity and future generations. In the chapter on "The Military, Trade and Strategies for Sustainability" Gedicks notes how demanding our military is of minerals and oil resources. He cites a study that estimates "that military consumption accounts for 10 to 20% of U.S. mineral consumption." And in opposition to the desires of the general public, we continue to construct newer fleets of fighter planes and aircraft carriers all the time. Budgets are always tight for new libraries, health care, university educations, etc.; but there's always money for the warfare state. Why We Fight! I've purchased a couple copies of this book, because the author and publishers like "South End" are so deserving of support.

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