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The New Map: Energy, Climate, and the Clash of Nations

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Daniel Yergin is a Pulitzer Prize winning author. He is a highly respected authority on energy, geopolitical issues, and economics. Energy and climate politics are alive today and will remain so in the future as well. Geopolitical environment is driving regional and global tension among nations, especially in energy and climate issues. Why? Nations derive political power from their strong economies. Climate changes bring unexpected drought, water, and food shortages. The recent coronavirus epidemic has brought grief and suffering to all nations and has created labor force shortages, sluggish economic growth, and global supply chain disruptions.

This book explains the New Map, one in which cold wars are developing between the United States and China, as well as between the United States and Russia. Why? Because today's CLASH OF NATIONS is the result of geopolitics, energy, and climate. The aftermath of the Treaty of Versailles created new nations as well as new borders for existing sovereign nations. This book discusses energy clashes and the American determination for energy independence. Additionally, it makes it clear how climate concerns are shaping the energy map.

This book is divided into six major sections: (1) America's New Map, (2) Russia's Map, (3) China's Map, (4) Maps of the Middle East, (5) Roadmap, and (6) Climate Map. Further, the forty-six chapters can overwhelm readers with details full of insightful narratives, charts, and figures.

Chapter 1, without fanfare, goes right into the shale revolution. The shale revolution is transforming the United States as a major producer of energy in the world energy markets. Hydraulic fracturing technology is used, which is now called "fracking." This process liberates the gas from dense rocks. Chapters 2, 3, and 4 present further refinements and improvement of the process, including horizontal drilling in stages. This discovery and success gave Montana and North Dakota a big boost to their economies. In addition, the technology for processing natural gas into a liquid form, called Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), made it easier to transport cargo ships on high seas.

Chapters 5, 6, and 7 provide insightful discussions on crude oil pipelines, geopolitical cooperation, and battles. Chapters 8, 9, and 10 narratives and insights further strengthen U.S. oil supplies. So, the shale revolution has transformed the world oil market and changed energy security concepts. Oil and Gas have been critical for Russia's economy. In chapters 11-15, energy security concerns between

Germany and Russia became evident; there was political maneuvering on the part of Russia, especially over the Nord Stream pipeline. The author elegantly narrates the successful intervention of the United States to push back on the construction of a new pipeline under the Baltic Sea. Sanctions and geopolitics, especially EU and NATO, cooperated with this effort.

Chapters 16 through 25 spend enormous discussions on China and its growing economic and political clouts in world affairs. Additionally, the nation has expanded its military power, especially in the Asian Pacific region. The control of the South China Sea and projecting worldwide influence through Belt and Road initiatives are part of China's geopolitical strategy. Chapters 26 to 35 focus on the Middle East.

Chapters 36 through 40 cover various topics from COVID 19 to other topics like technology breakthroughs, robotics, space exploration, Uber, and electric vehicles. Chapters 41 to 45 discuss energy transitions in the context of green energy and net zero emissions.

In summary, Daniel Yergin's account of the clash of nations in energy and climate is a breathtaking narrative of the histories of nations interwoven with geopolitical ambitions, intersecting energy access, control, and dominance. Key landmarks highlighted by the book are: (1) Liquefied natural gas (LNG), a result of a pioneering process developed after World War II, allowed cargo ships to carry it safely and then "re-gasified" at the destinations; (2) the discovery of Shale Oil; and (3) Sykes-Picot Agreement in 1916 and the discovery of oil in the middle east, which changed Middle East geopolitically and in the international trade as well.

Readers, in general, will find the book useful, and many will find it insightful, especially for highlighting major breakthroughs. *THE NEW MAP*, by implication, does point to the new world order, with China having clout both in geopolitics and in global economy. The author skillfully explains how U.S., Russia, and China, all three have access to resources through alliances as well as forging new relations. Overall, Daniel Yergin has done an excellent job of describing the energy and climate crises playing a pivotal role in the clash of nations.

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Jay Nathan, Ph.D., is a tenured full professor of management, Peter J. Tobin College of Business at St. John's University, Queens, New York City. Previously he was a tenured professor at the Kania School of Management at the University of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Dr. Nathan is a Fulbright Scholar to Thailand, Poland, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Hungary, and Romania. Recently, he completed six years (2017-2022) as director on the national board of Fulbright Association. He is a past-president of the Global Awareness Society International. He is enthusiastic about business education and development, especially in the poor and developing countries around the world—and he sees the world as one large campus.