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Energy : Energy Policy, Economics and Management

Ahmed, Nafeez Mosaddeq

Failing States, Collapsing Systems

BioPhysical Triggers of Political Violence

- Presents a concise, systematic analysis of the key factors behind the acceleration of civil unrest across the world, and its major strategic and societal implications
- Provides an interdisciplinary integrated analysis of data across oil and energy production, food production, economic growth, austerity and debt, to determine how their interaction is undermining states a part of a wider global process of system failure
- Demonstrates for the first time the clear inaccuracies of media coverage of these issues due to predominance of fossil fuel-connected interests
- Sets out the key trends that are destabilising existing fossil fuel infrastructure and which could pave ground for a fund

This work executes a unique transdisciplinary methodology building on the author's previous book, *A User's Guide to the Crisis of Civilization: And How to Save it* (Pluto, 2010), which was the first peer-reviewed study to establish a social science framework for the integrated analysis of crises across climate, energy, food, economic, terror and the police state. Since the 2008 financial crash, the world has witnessed an unprecedented outbreak of social unrest in every major continent. Beginning with the birth of the Occupy movement and the Arab Spring, the eruption of civil disorder continues to wreak havoc unpredictably from Greece to Ukraine, from China to Thailand, from Brazil to Turkey, and beyond. Yet while policymakers and media observers have raced to keep up with events, they have largely missed the biophysical triggers of this new age of unrest – the end of the age of cheap fossil fuels, and its multiplying consequences for the Earth's climate, industrial food production, and economic growth. This book for the first time develops an empirically-ground theoretical model of the complex interaction between biophysical processes and geopolitical crises, demonstrated through the analysis of a wide range of detailed case studies of historic, concurrent and probable state failures in the Middle East, Northwest Africa, South and Southeast Asia, Europe and North America.

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