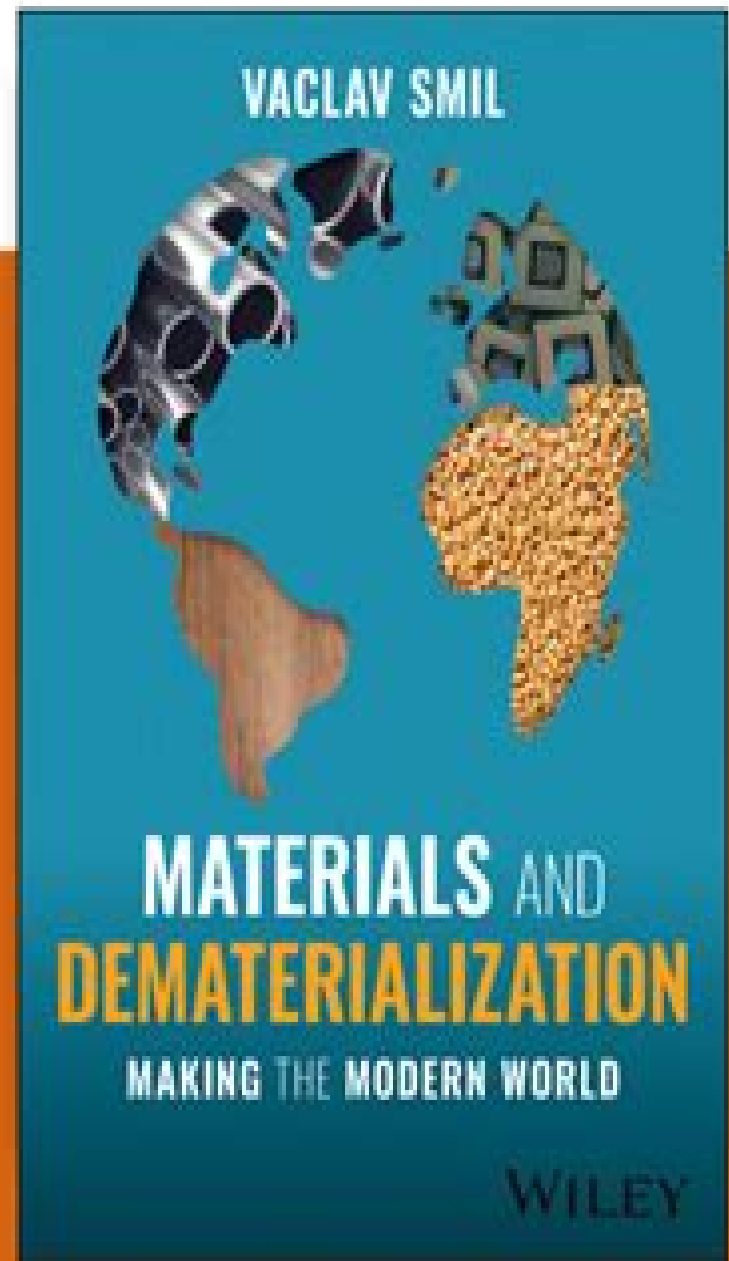


Materials and Dematerialization: Making the Modern World

World-renowned scientist Vaclav Smil examines a critical topic in the research and policy domain of sustainable resource use



Making The Modern World Materials And Dematerialization

Parag Khanna



Making The Modern World Materials And Dematerialization:

Making the Modern World Vaclav Smil, 2013-12-16 How much further should the affluent world push its material consumption Does relative dematerialization lead to absolute decline in demand for materials These and many other questions are discussed and answered in Making the Modern World Materials and Dematerialization Over the course of time the modern world has become dependent on unprecedented flows of materials Now even the most efficient production processes and the highest practical rates of recycling may not be enough to result in dematerialization rates that would be high enough to negate the rising demand for materials generated by continuing population growth and rising standards of living This book explores the costs of this dependence and the potential for substantial dematerialization of modern economies Making the Modern World Materials and Dematerialization considers the principal materials used throughout history from wood and stone through to metals alloys plastics and silicon describing their extraction and production as well as their dominant applications The evolving productivities of material extraction processing synthesis finishing and distribution and the energy costs and environmental impact of rising material consumption are examined in detail The book concludes with an outlook for the future discussing the prospects for dematerialization and potential constraints on materials This interdisciplinary text provides useful perspectives for readers with backgrounds including resource economics environmental studies energy analysis mineral geology industrial organization manufacturing and material science

SUMMARY Edition Shortcut (author), 1901 Materials and Dematerialization Vaclav Smil, 2023-05-18 Der weltbekannte Wissenschaftler Vaclav Smil analysiert das kritische Thema der nachhaltigen Ressourcennutzung das f r Forschung und Politik von gro em Interesse ist Im Laufe der Zeit ist die moderne Welt von Materialstr men in ungeahntem Ausma abh ngig geworden Selbst die effizientesten Produktionsverfahren und ein gr tm glicher Recyclinganteil reichen m glicherweise nicht aus um die Dematerialisierung so weit voranzutreiben dass sie die zunehmende Nachfrage nach Materialien ausgleichen k nnte die aus dem anhaltenden Bev lkerungswachstum und steigenden Lebensstandards entsteht In Materials and Dematerialization werden die wichtigsten Materialien der Geschichte betrachtet von Holz und Stein ber Metalle und Legierungen bis zu Kunststoffen und Silizium mit einer Beschreibung ihrer Gewinnung bzw Herstellung und der wichtigsten Anwendungen In einer detaillierten Analyse werden die steigende Produktivit t bei der Gewinnung und Verarbeitung Synthese Veredelung und Verteilung von Materialien sowie die Energiekosten und die Umweltauswirkungen des zunehmenden Materialverbrauchs untersucht Gleichzeitig wird die Beziehung zwischen sozio konomischer Entwicklung und Ressourcennutzung insbesondere in Bezug auf die wichtigsten Technologien und Innovationen betrachtet Das Buch endet mit einem Ausblick auf die Zukunft Er rtert werden dabei die M glichkeiten der Dematerialisierung eine m gliche Beschr nkung von Materialien und eine aktualisierte Einsch tzung des Materialbedarfs sowie die Prognosen f r die n chsten Jahrzehnte Nach dem gro en Erfolg seiner Ver ffentlichung von 2013 hat Vaclav Smil sein wegweisendes Werk nun gr ndlich

berarbeitet In der neuen Ausgabe werden die Fortschritte der letzten zehn Jahren herausgestellt und auch die Statistiken und Literaturhinweise wurden auf den Stand von 2022 gebracht Zudem enth lt die aktualisierte Ausgabe neue Inhalte die sich ausdr cklich damit befassen welche Materialien f r die globale Energiewende und die Lebensmittelsicherheit einer weiterhin wachsenden Weltbev lkerung erforderlich sind

SUMMARY - Making The Modern World: Materials And Dematerialization By Vaclav Smil Shortcut Edition, Our summary is short simple and pragmatic It allows you to have the essential ideas of a big book in less than 30 minutes As you read this summary you will learn that the increased consumption of materials is the major feature of the modern world You will also learn that the invention of the steam engine revolutionized mankind a long term dematerialization without radical changes in lifestyle is very unlikely humanity s material progress is experiencing two successive ages energy is the most important of all materials our civilization is at a crossroads in terms of our consumption of materials the current level of material consumption is very recent if we place it in the long historical period The consumption of materials is at the heart of economic production without which it could not exist Materials of all kinds be they mineral vegetable etc condition our daily life modern life that of industrialized countries whose societies are consumer societies Their production use and destruction once they have become waste are the subject of this book which examines the costs of our society s dependence on materials as well as the possible paths to a progressive dematerialization which the threatened integrity of the biosphere makes indispensable Buy now the summary of this book for the modest price of a cup of coffee

The Good-Enough Life Avram Alpert, 2023-09-19 How an acceptance of our limitations can lead to a more fulfilling life and a more harmonious society We live in a world oriented toward greatness one in which we feel compelled to be among the wealthiest most powerful and most famous This book explains why no one truly benefits from this competitive social order and reveals how another way of life is possible a good enough life for all Avram Alpert shows how our obsession with greatness results in stress and anxiety damage to our relationships widespread political and economic inequality and destruction of the natural world He describes how to move beyond greatness to create a society in which everyone flourishes By competing less with each other each of us can find renewed meaning and purpose have our material and emotional needs met and begin to lead more leisurely lives Alpert makes no false utopian promises however Life can never be more than good enough because there will always be accidents and tragedies beyond our control which is why we must stop dividing the world into winners and losers and ensure that there is a fair share of decency and sufficiency to go around Visionary and provocative *The Good Enough Life* demonstrates how we can work together to cultivate a good enough life for all instead of tearing ourselves apart in a race to the top of the social pyramid

Energy and Civilization Vaclav Smil, 2018-11-13 A comprehensive account of how energy has shaped society throughout history from pre agricultural foraging societies through today s fossil fuel driven civilization I wait for new Smil books the way some people wait for the next Star Wars movie In his latest book *Energy and Civilization A History* he goes deep and broad to explain how innovations

in humans ability to turn energy into heat light and motion have been a driving force behind our cultural and economic progress over the past 10 000 years Bill Gates Gates Notes Best Books of the Year Energy is the only universal currency it is necessary for getting anything done The conversion of energy on Earth ranges from terra forming forces of plate tectonics to cumulative erosive effects of raindrops Life on Earth depends on the photosynthetic conversion of solar energy into plant biomass Humans have come to rely on many more energy flows ranging from fossil fuels to photovoltaic generation of electricity for their civilized existence In this monumental history Vaclav Smil provides a comprehensive account of how energy has shaped society from pre agricultural foraging societies through today s fossil fuel driven civilization Humans are the only species that can systematically harness energies outside their bodies using the power of their intellect and an enormous variety of artifacts from the simplest tools to internal combustion engines and nuclear reactors The epochal transition to fossil fuels affected everything agriculture industry transportation weapons communication economics urbanization quality of life politics and the environment Smil describes humanity s energy eras in panoramic and interdisciplinary fashion offering readers a magisterial overview This book is an extensively updated and expanded version of Smil s Energy in World History 1994 Smil has incorporated an enormous amount of new material reflecting the dramatic developments in energy studies over the last two decades and his own research over that time **Power Metal** Vince

Beiser,2024-11-19 The powerful ways the metals we need to fuel technology and energy are spawning environmental havoc political upheaval and rising violence and how we can do better An Australian millionaire s plan to mine the ocean floor Nigerian garbage pickers risking their lives to salvage e waste A Bill Gates backed entrepreneur harnessing AI to find metals in the Arctic These people and millions more are part of the intensifying competition to find and extract the minerals essential for two crucial technologies the internet and renewable energy In Power Metal Vince Beiser explores the Achilles heel of green power and digital technology that manufacturing computers cell phones electric cars and other technologies demand skyrocketing amounts of lithium copper cobalt and other materials Around the world businesses and governments are scrambling for new places and new ways to get those metals at enormous cost to people and the planet Beiser crisscrossed the world to talk to the people involved and report on the damage this race is inflicting the ways it could get worse and how we can minimize the damage Power Metal is a compelling glimpse into this disturbing yet potentially promising new world

Sustainable Coastal Design and Planning Elizabeth Mossop,2018-09-27 As different parts of the globe deal with the challenges of coastal settlements in the Anthropocene landscape of increasing uncertainty the methods of design offer new strategies for developing and testing solutions These complex problems require collaboration across disciplines with scientists planners engineers designers and others able to work together in finding new ways of living in coastal and changing landscapes Sustainable Coastal Design and Planning is an outstanding collection of essays by leading practitioners and academics from across the globe on design and planning for coastal resilience in the face of climate change

It thoroughly explores the questions of coastal change at different scales and provides international case studies that illustrate diverse strategies in different geographies and cultures Taken as a whole they canvas a broad palette of approaches and techniques for engaging these complex problems Divided in two parts this book focuses on how to develop solutions through multidisciplinary design thinking and informs all stakeholders on specific methods and practices that will be needed to work effectively in this dynamic space

Unrivaled Michael C. Beckley, 2018-09-15 Beckley demonstrates that no country is poised to upend American primacy not economically not militarily and not technologically The evidence he assembles should be part of any serious debate about where we are headed The New York Times The United States has been the world's dominant power for more than a century Now many analysts believe that other countries are rising and the United States is in decline Is the unipolar moment over Is America finished as a superpower In this book Michael Beckley argues that the United States has unique advantages over other nations that if used wisely will allow it to remain the world's sole superpower throughout this century We are not living in a transitional post Cold War era Instead we are in the midst of what he calls the unipolar era a period as singular and important as any epoch in modern history This era Beckley contends will endure because the US has a much larger economic and military lead over its closest rival China than most people think and the best prospects of any nation to amass wealth and power in the decades ahead Deeply researched and brilliantly argued this book covers hundreds of years of great power politics and develops new methods for measuring power and predicting the rise and fall of nations By documenting long term trends in the global balance of power and explaining their implications for world politics the book provides guidance for policymakers businesspeople and scholars alike

China's Urban Revolution Austin Williams, 2017-10-19 By 2025 China will have built fifteen new supercities each with 25 million inhabitants It will have created 250 Eco cities as well clean green car free people friendly high tech urban centres From the edge of an impending eco catastrophe we are arguably witnessing history's greatest environmental turnaround an urban experiment that may provide valuable lessons for cities worldwide Whether or not we choose to believe the hype there is little doubt that this is an experiment that needs unpicking understanding and learning from Austin Williams The Architectural Review's China correspondent explores the progress and perils of China's vast eco city program describing the complexities which emerge in the race to balance the environment with industrialisation quality with quantity and the liberty of the individual with the authority of the Chinese state Lifting the lid on the economic and social realities of the Chinese blueprint for eco modernisation Williams tells the story of China's rise and reveals the pragmatic political and economic motives that lurk behind the successes and failures of its eco cities Will these new kinds of urban developments be good humane healthy places Can China find a third way in which humanity nature economic growth and sustainability are reconciled And what lessons can we learn for our own vision of the urban future This is a timely and readable account which explores a range of themes environmental political cultural and architectural to show how the eco city program sheds fascinating light on

contemporary Chinese society and provides a lens through which to view the politics of sustainability closer to home

Connectography Parag Khanna, 2016-04-19 From the visionary bestselling author of *The Second World* and *How to Run the World* comes a bracing and authoritative guide to a future shaped less by national borders than by global supply chains a world in which the most connected powers and people will win Connectivity is the most revolutionary force of the twenty first century Mankind is reengineering the planet investing up to ten trillion dollars per year in transportation energy and communications infrastructure linking the world's burgeoning megacities together This has profound consequences for geopolitics economics demographics the environment and social identity Connectivity not geography is our destiny In *Connectography* visionary strategist Parag Khanna travels from Ukraine to Iran Mongolia to North Korea Pakistan to Nigeria and across the Arctic Circle and the South China Sea to explain the rapid and unprecedented changes affecting every part of the planet He shows how militaries are deployed to protect supply chains as much as borders and how nations are less at war over territory than engaged in tugs of war over pipelines railways shipping lanes and Internet cables The new arms race is to connect to the most markets a race China is now winning having launched a wave of infrastructure investments to unite Eurasia around its new Silk Roads The United States can only regain ground by fusing with its neighbors into a super continental North American Union of shared resources and prosperity *Connectography* offers a unique and hopeful vision for the future Khanna argues that new energy discoveries and technologies have eliminated the need for resource wars ambitious transport corridors and power grids are unscrambling Africa's fraught colonial borders even the Arab world is evolving a more peaceful map as it builds resource and trade routes across its war torn landscape At the same time thriving hubs such as Singapore and Dubai are injecting dynamism into young and heavily populated regions cyber communities empower commerce across vast distances and the world's ballooning financial assets are being wisely invested into building an inclusive global society Beneath the chaos of a world that appears to be falling apart is a new foundation of connectivity pulling it together Praise for *Connectography* Incredible With the world rapidly changing and urbanizing Khanna's proposals might be the best way to confront a radically different future *The Washington Post* Clear and coherent a well researched account of how companies are weaving ever more complicated supply chains that pull the world together even as they squeeze out inefficiencies He has succeeded in demonstrating that the forces of globalization are winning *Adrian Woolridge The Wall Street Journal* Bold With an eye for vivid details Khanna has produced an engaging geopolitical travelogue *Foreign Affairs* For those who fear that the world is becoming too inward looking *Connectography* is a refreshing optimistic vision *The Economist* Connectivity has become a basic human right and gives everyone on the planet the opportunity to provide for their family and contribute to our shared future *Connectography* charts the future of this connected world *Marc Andreessen* general partner *Andreessen Horowitz* Khanna's scholarship and foresight are world class A must read for the next president *Chuck Hagel* former U S secretary of defense This title has complex layouts that may take longer to download [Mineral](#)

Resource Economy 2 Floriant Fizaine,Xavier Galiegue,2022-01-26 The challenges associated with the environmental impact of renewable energies are formidable and multiple The exploitation of diffuse forms of energy will require us to reshape our lifestyles and infrastructures Reducing their environmental impact is imperative and requires the mobilization of all available levers of action Beyond the analysis of these challenges this book presents an overview of the levers of action that should allow us to meet them by crossing the fields of the human sciences geosciences and engineering The levers of action examined are both technical through the substitution or use of low technology and economic and social through the development of recycling or decoupling The book also addresses the question of their effectiveness and their overall impact

Developing Earthly Attachments in the Anthropocene Edward H. Huijbens,2021-04-26 This book explores the development and significance of an Earth oriented progressive approach to fostering global wellbeing and inclusive societies in an era of climate change and uncertainty Developing Earthly Attachments in the Anthropocene examines the ways in which the Earth has become a source of political social and cultural theory in times of global climate change The book explains how the Earth contributes to the creation of a regenerative culture drawing examples from the Netherlands and Iceland These examples offer understandings of how legacies of non respectful exploitative practices culminating in the rapid post war growth of global consumption have resulted in impacts on the ecosystem highlighting the challenges of living with planet Earth The book familiarizes readers with the implied agencies of the Earth which become evident in our reliance on the carbon economy a factor of modern day globalized capitalism responsible for global environmental change and emergency It also suggests ways to inspire and develop new ways of spatial sense making for those seeking earthly attachments Offering novel theoretical and practical insights for politically active people this book will appeal to those involved in local and national policy making processes It will also be of interest to academics and students of geography political science and environmental sciences

The Benefits of Imperfection Olivier Hamant,2024-09-30 The cult of performance leads our society to emphasise the values of success and continuous optimisation in all areas Slowness redundancy and randomness are therefore negatively perceived Olivier Hamant in his book reclaims them by his knowledge of biological processes What can we learn from life sciences While some biological mechanisms certainly boast formidable efficiency recent advances instead highlight the fundamental role of errors incoherence or slowness in the robustness of living organisms Should life be considered suboptimal To what extent could suboptimality become a counter model to the credo of performance and control in the Anthropocene In the face of pessimistic observations and environmental alerts the author outlines solutions for a future that is viable and reconciled with nature Key Features Solidly documents with a grounding in scientific facts focusing on solutions Explores a pragmatic way towards robustness moving the debate beyond performance technolatriy or degrowth Responds to eco anxiety by providing an engaging and viable way forward

Understanding a Changing China Howard Davies,Matevž Rašković,2017-08-23 As China becomes the world s largest

economy so it becomes important to understand the key issues shaping the country's business environment and the behaviour of Chinese businesspeople. This is difficult because those issues are contested. Is China growing at 3% or 8%? Is the Chinese consumer going to save the world? Are state-owned enterprises national champions or zombies? Have we reached the end of Cheap China? Can China innovate? Is business still dominated by personal connections? Are markets or the state in control? Does Chinese culture impede or support organizational effectiveness? Are Chinese dragons at your door? Will the finance and property sectors implode? Is the Chinese model sustainable or will it end in tears? On all these issues there is ill-informed noise and an abundance of partisan interpretations. The purpose of this book therefore is to provide an even-handed analysis of the key issues that will shape the threats and opportunities arising from China's development in the next decade. It cannot resolve the competing claims made. However, it does provide the reader with the ideas and the sources of evidence needed to understand and to make well-thought-out judgments as China continues to evolve.

Urbanizing Nature Tim Soens, Dieter Schott, Michael Toyka-Seid, Bert De Munck, 2019-01-14. What do we mean when we say that cities have altered humanity's interaction with nature? The more people are living in cities, the more nature is said to be urbanizing, turned into a resource mobilized over long distances, controlled, transformed, and then striking back with a vengeance as a natural disaster. Confronting insights derived from Environmental History, Science and Technology Studies, or Political Ecology, *Urbanizing Nature* aims to counter teleological perspectives on the birth of modern urban nature as a uniform and linear process, showing how new technological schemes, new actors, and new definitions of nature emerged in cities from the sixteenth to the twentieth century.

Energy in Agroecosystems Casado, Manuel Gonzalez de Molina, 2017-01-12. *Energy in Agroecosystems: A Tool for Assessing Sustainability* is the first book on energy analysis that is up to date and specifically dedicated to agriculture. It is written from an agroecological perspective and goes beyond the conventional analysis of the efficient use of energy. The book provides a methodological guide to assess energy efficiency and sustainability from an energetic point of view. Case studies from both Europe and America, which are representative of today's most used scales of analysis (crop, farm, local, or national) and the different farm management practices (traditional, industrialized, and contemporary organic), apply this methodology. This book will be of primary interest to researchers, practitioners, and students working in the areas of agroecology, sustainable agriculture, environmental science, energy analysis, natural resources management, rural development, and international development.

Handbook of the Anthropocene Nathanaël Wallenhorst, Christoph Wulf, 2023-08-21. This Handbook is a collection of contributions of more than 300 researchers who have worked to grasp the Anthropocene, this new geological epoch characterised by a modification of the conditions of habitability of the Earth for all living things in its biogeophysical and socio-political reality. These researchers also sought to define a historical and prospective anthropology that integrates social, economic, cultural, and political issues, as well as, of course, environmental ones. What are the anthropological changes needed to ensure that our human adventure will be able to continue in the

Anthropocene And what are the educational and political issues involved Anthropocene is fast becoming a widely used term but thus far there been no reference work explaining the thoughts of the greatest experts of the present day on this subject at the intersection of biogeophysical and socio political knowledge A scientific and political concept but which is also the conceptual vehicle for conveying the scientific community s sense of concern this complex term is explained by international experts as they reflect on scientific arguments taking place in earth system science the social sciences and the humanities What these researchers from different disciplines have in common is a healthy concern for the future and how to prepare for it in the Anthropocene and also the identification of possible anthropological changes This Handbook encourages readers to immerse themselves in reflections on the human adventure through descriptions of our differing heritages and the future that is in the process of being written

The Elgar Companion to Innovation and Knowledge Creation Harald Bathelt,Patrick Cohendet,Sebastian Henn,Laurent Simon,2017-11-24 This unique Companion provides a comprehensive overview and critical evaluation of existing conceptualizations and new developments in innovation research It draws on multiple perspectives of innovation knowledge and creativity from economics geography history management political science and sociology The Companion brings together leading scholars to reflect upon innovation as a concept Part I innovation and institutions Part II innovation and creativity Part III innovation networking and communities Part IV innovation in permanent spatial settings Part V innovation in temporary virtual and open settings Part VI innovation entrepreneurship and market making Part VII and the governance and management of innovation Part VIII

The End of Doom Ronald Bailey,2015-07-21 In the past five decades there have been many many forecasts of impending environmental doom They have universally been proven wrong Meanwhile those who have bet on human resourcefulness have almost always been correct In his widely praised book *Ecoscand* Ronald Bailey strongly countered environmentalist alarmism using facts to demonstrate just how wildly overstated many claims of impending ecological doom really were Now twenty years later the Reason Magazine science correspondent is back to assess the future of humanity and the global biosphere Bailey finds contrary to popular belief that many present ecological trends are quite positive Including Falling cancer incidence rates in the United States The likelihood of a declining world population by mid century The abundant return of agricultural land to nature as the world reaches peak farmland A proven link between increases in national wealth and reductions in air and water pollution Global warming is a problem but the cost of clean energy could soon fall below that of fossil fuels In *The End of Doom* Bailey avoids polemics and offers a balanced fact based and ultimately hopeful perspective on our current environmental situation Now isn t that a breath of fresh air

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