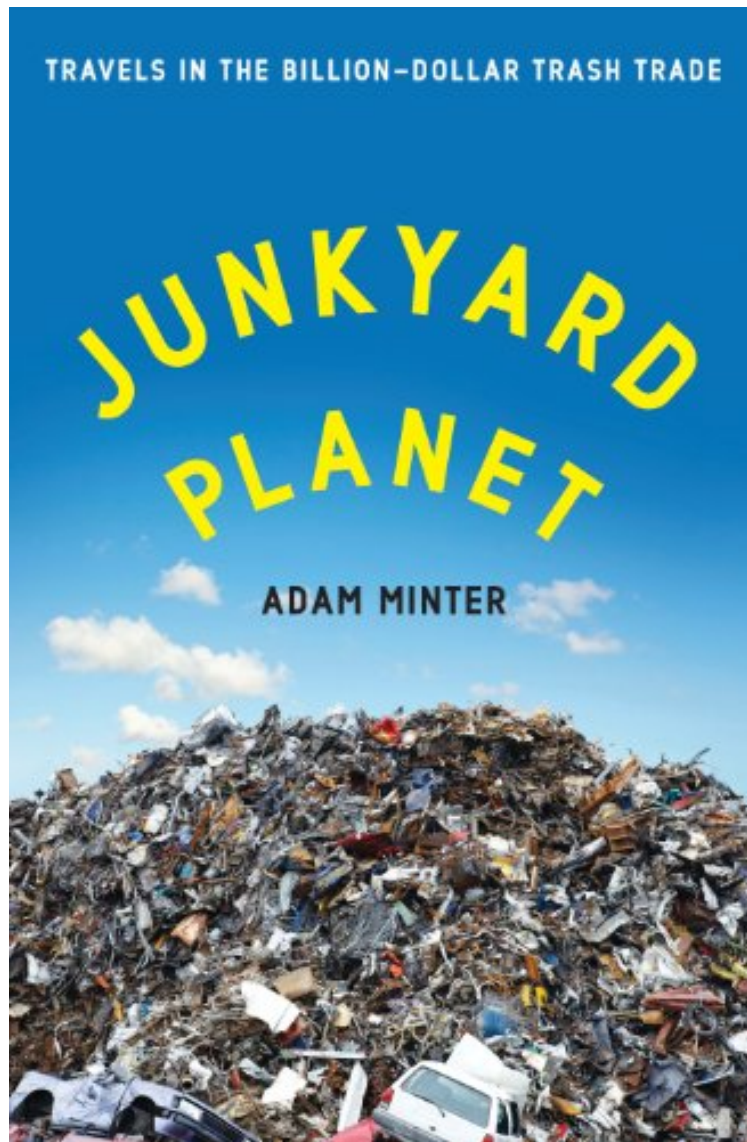


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Junkyard Planet: Travels in the Billion-Dollar Trash Trade

Adam Minter

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Adam Minter : Junkyard Planet: Travels in the Billion-Dollar Trash Trade before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Junkyard Planet: Travels in the Billion-Dollar Trash Trade:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Highly RecommendBy CustomerHad to buy this for a PolSci course and I honestly thought it was going to be a drudge to read through. However, I was amazingly surprised by how great it was. It is a well-written, great researched book. It gets into a lot of interesting "behind-the-scenes" details of how the recycling industry works. It was a great book that really makes one think about how good recycling ACTUALLY is for the environment. It is a great read and if you are one who loves interesting "did you know" facts, I would highly

recommend it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Help Us Clean Up Our Mess By Kenneth Fall Anyone wrestling with the complexities of sustainability and recycling can appreciate Adam Minter's insights gathered from his personal experience in the family scrapyards, his travels across the United States, and his fact-finding trips throughout China. Minter enlightens us about the overall economics that drive the multi-billion dollar scrap industry, which includes those of us trading our soda pop cans, plastic bottles, and contaminated aluminum window frames for cash at the local recycling center, and extends to the larger players who fill the empty shipping containers returning to China with our scrap. We have done well enough that our largesse and convenience have made possible a steady stream of recyclables that are building the fortunes of scrap industry titans worldwide, raising the standard of living of some, and diminishing the health of others. Our affluence begs the question, "What do we do with our scrap and waste?" And, before we point the finger in condemnation of the unecological and unhealthy practices employed by others recycling our waste, can we demonstrate a viable, economical, better way? After all, they wouldn't have this mess unless our consumerism had commissioned it. Kudos to Adam Minter for producing a smooth read to start the discussion. More laws and regulations may only add a complexity driving up costs to the consumer, and the crafty will set aside or ignore. Until the thinking of the consuming public can be elevated, we won't be able to hire the captains of industry to help us clean up our mess. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He switched over to writing about the industry in trade publication and his excellent writing skills are apparent. By Village Elder A book that is both informative and entertaining - well worth the time to read. The author, Minter, is from a multi-generational family business in the salvage industry. He switched over to writing about the industry in trade publication and his excellent writing skills are apparent. I recommend this book to anyone who wishes to know more about what goes on behind the scenes in the international salvage-recycling industry.

How can garbage turn into gold? What does recycling have to do with globalization? Where does all that stuff we throw away go, anyway? When you drop your Diet Coke can or yesterday's newspaper in the recycling bin, where does it go? Probably halfway around the world, to people and places that clean up what you don't want and turn it into something you can't wait to buy. In *Junkyard Planet*, Adam Minter - veteran journalist and son of an American junkyard owner - travels deeply into a vast, often hidden, 500-billion-dollar industry that's transforming our economy and environment. Minter takes us from back-alley Chinese computer recycling operations to recycling factories capable of processing a jumbo jet's worth of trash every day. Along the way, we meet an international cast of characters who have figured out how to squeeze Silicon Valley-scale fortunes from what we all throw away. *Junkyard Planet* reveals how "going green" usually means making money - and why that's often the most sustainable choice, even when the recycling methods aren't pretty. With unmatched access to and insight on the waste industry, and the explanatory gifts and an eye for detail worthy of a John McPhee or William Langewiesche, Minter traces the export of America's garbage and the massive profits that China and other rising nations earn from it. What emerges is an engaging, colorful, and sometimes troubling tale of how the way we consume and discard stuff brings home the ascent of a developing world that recognizes value where Americans don't. *Junkyard Planet* reveals that Americans might need to learn a smarter way to take out the trash.

From Publishers Weekly Growing up as the son of a scrap dealer in Minneapolis, Minter learned firsthand that one man's trash is truly another man's treasure. In his first book, the Shanghai-based journalist charts the globalization of the recycling trade, focusing on the U.S. and China, and featuring a cast that ranges from self-made scrap-metal tycoons to late-night garbage pickers. Notable passages include a trip to Wen'an, one of China's most notoriously polluted plants where employees process hazardous materials while wearing sandals. Minter successfully resists oversimplifying the issue China currently faces - with a growing middle class demanding more raw materials for new construction, the options are living with the pollution caused by recycling or the environmental consequences of mining for raw materials. Minter takes readers through the Shanghai market where parts are harvested from second-hand electronics, but finds that the more complex the technology, the harder it is to reuse the metals. The scrap trade is one of the few business ventures possible in the developing world and this profession for outsiders shows no signs of slowing down. Minter concludes that the solution is in the first word in the phrase, Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. 2 16-page color inserts. (Nov.) From Booklist Out of sight, out of mind. That's the typical sentiment of even the most meticulous recycler who doesn't really think about where those carefully sorted cans, bottles, magazines and newspapers go after they've been picked up curbside. From big screen TVs to the tiniest of Christmas tree lights, there's a world of trash - or, in the parlance, scrap - out there. And lest one think that it all ends up in a landfill for future archaeologists to ponder, Minter is here to tell you that there's big money to be made in what American consumers and industries throw away. As he travels the world from Houston to Guangzhou, surveying the debris and discards that fill scrap yards and warehouses, Minter takes the reader into a world of commodities trading that is every bit as lucrative and cutthroat as anything on Wall Street. The son of a scrap man, Minter brings an insider's knowledge and appreciation for an industry that no one thinks about, everyone contributes to, and a lucky few profit from. --Carol Haggas "Eye-opening . . . [Minter is] an excellent guide to this sprawling and

bewildering trade.rdquo; Wall Street Journalldquo;Superbly researched.rdquo; Financial Timesldquo;Minter's skillful compilation of trade statistics in and of itself would make Junkyard Planet a strong book. But what tips it into greatness is the confident, sympathetic voice in which he narrates his peripatetic odyssey through the world's junkyards.rdquo; Los Angeles of Booksldquo;A satisfying investigation-cum-travelogue.rdquo; Mother Jonesldquo;Fascinating.rdquo; Atlantic Citiesldquo;Lively and entertaining . . . Junkyard Planet is a book for anyone interested in the environment, the economics of recycling, or a thoughtful look at the consumption we take for granted.rdquo; Brooklyn Bugle