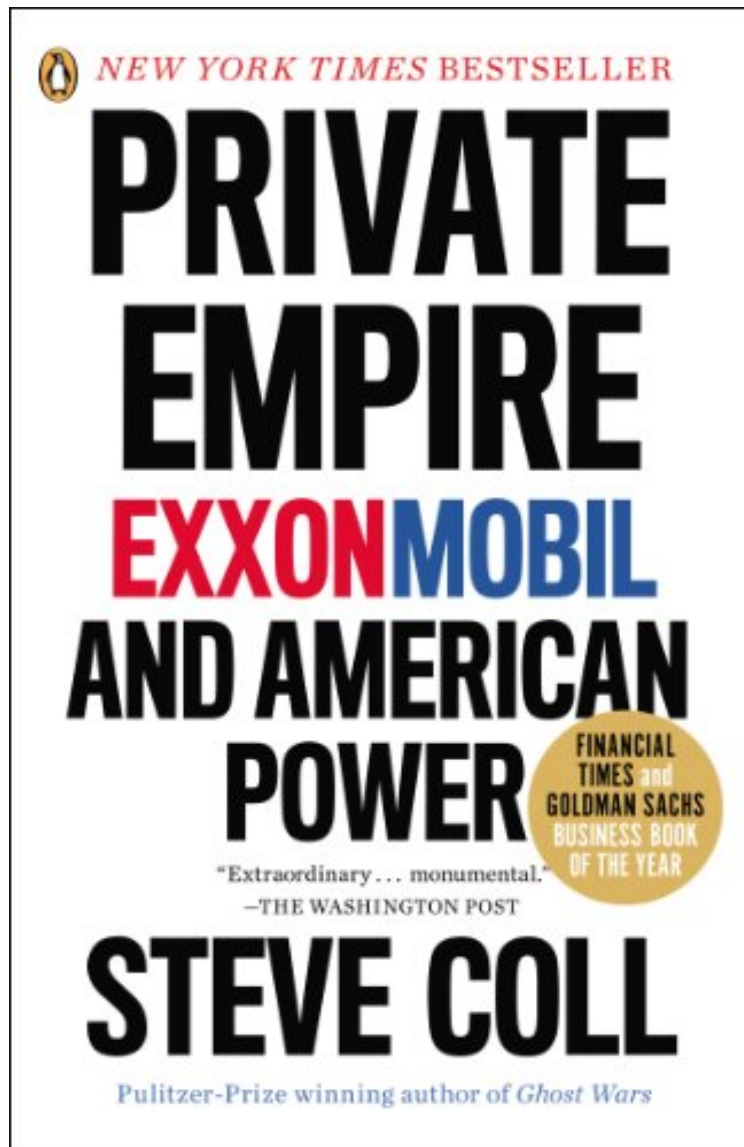


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## Private Empire: ExxonMobil and American Power

Steve Coll

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**Steve Coll : Private Empire: ExxonMobil and American Power** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Private Empire: ExxonMobil and American Power:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... to be a left-wing assault on one of the best run, profitable companies in AmericaBy RickI expected this book to be a left-wing assault on one of the best run, profitable companies in America. Boy was I wrong! I found Coll to have been stuck to his aim to present ExxonMobil as a powerful "Empire" whose influence cannot be ignored in American society and government. I found Coll to be unbiased, fair, and quite knowledgeable on a subject that he--and certainly I--was not here-to-fore was not well-

informed. Despite climate concerns most Americans share, Coll did an excellent job showing how vital the major oil companies like ExxonMobil are to meeting the energy demands of our world, as we collectively endeavor to find cleaner ways to meet the demands. I feel I have a much more balanced picture of the complex and inter-related world of oil and natural gas. Full disclosure: I read the book to understand the company my Chemical Engineer son now works for and speaks so glowingly about. Coll was amazingly accurate in describing the "OIMS" (Operational Integrity Management Systems) culture of post-valdes ExxonMobil. He was spot on, too, in the engineering excellence, cost-conscious, highly regimented and disciplined EOM workplace. "Sanctity of contracts," as he frequently noted, is part of the DNA of the company. A must read for those who want a balanced picture of this American Icon company. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Relevant today By Joyce Pulitzer Prize winner Coll tells the story of ExxonMobil beginning with the 1989 Valdez spill and leading to the Gulf of Mexico spill in 2010. We get up close and personal with CEO Lee Raymond and then Rex Tillerson (now US Secretary of State). The somewhat shadowy connection of US government to oil production was news to me. Coll takes us inside detailed deliberations between the oil corps and the presidents. It is also useful to know more about Tillerson's background. His father was a Boy Scout executive and Tillerson's values are based on scouting and his favorite book, Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged. He was born, raised and educated in Texas, and his present wife was a cowgirl barrel-racer. (Not important, I suppose, but an interesting bit of gossip.) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Balanced History By Matthew Clark I always enjoy reading anything by Steve Coll, and this book was no different. His ability to provide context, backstory, and behind-the-scenes details is on par or surpasses any other writer of current events today. What I especially appreciated about this title was Coll's ability to provide both sides of the story, so that it is not just another attack on "Big Oil", but also gives credit to ExxonMobil in the areas where it surpasses its competitors in the quality of its operations (especially with regards to worker safety), and the reasoning behind some of their faults (such as Lee Raymond's refusal to acknowledge climate change arguments). The book is in no way a puff piece for ExxonMobil, and actually concludes with a rather dire outlook on the future of its operations; but it is a fair and balanced history of one of the most successful--and reviled--companies in the world. Overall a great and informative read.

An "extraordinary" and "monumental" expose of Big Oil from two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Steve Coll (The Washington Post) Includes a profile of current Secretary of State and former chairman and chief executive of ExxonMobil, Rex Tillerson In this, the first hard-hitting examination of ExxonMobil--the largest and most powerful private corporation in the United States--Steve Coll reveals the true extent of its power. Private Empire pulls back the curtain, tracking the corporation's recent history and its central role on the world stage, beginning with the Exxon Valdez accident in 1989 and leading to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. The action spans the globe--featuring kidnapping cases, civil wars, and high-stakes struggles at the Kremlin--and the narrative is driven by larger-than-life characters, including corporate legend Lee "Iron Ass" Raymond, ExxonMobil's chief executive until 2005, and current chairman and chief executive Rex Tillerson, President-elect Donald Trump's nomination for Secretary of State. A penetrating, news-breaking study, Private Empire is a defining portrait of Big Oil in American politics and foreign policy. Steve Coll's new book Directorate S: The C.I.A. and America's Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan, 2001-2016 will be published in February 2018.