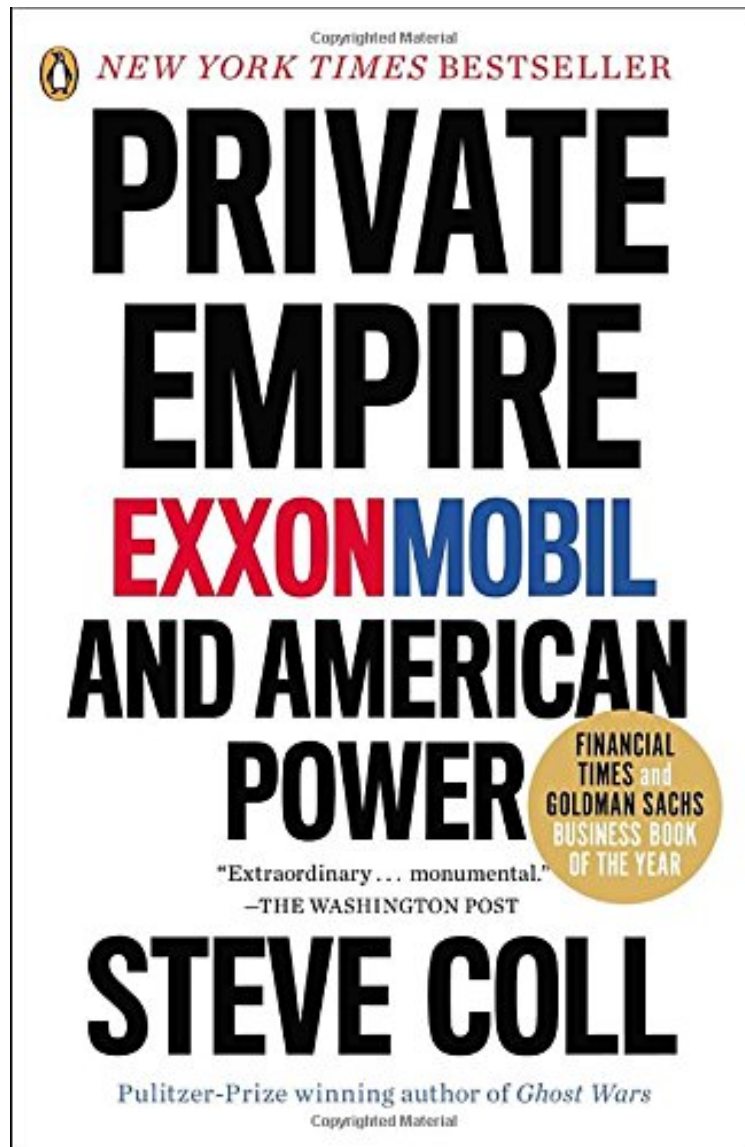


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## Private Empire: ExxonMobil and American Power

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 America By 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 todayBy JoycePulitzer 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 Tillersons background. His father was a Boy Scout executive and Tillersons values are based on scouting and his favorite book, Ayn Rands 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 HistoryBy Matthew ClarkI 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 expos 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 TillersonIn this, the first hard-hitting examination of ExxonMobilthe largest and most powerful private corporation in the United StatesSteve Coll reveals the true extent of its power. Private Empire pulls back the curtain, tracking the corporations 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 Kremlinand the narrative is driven by larger-than-life characters, including corporate legend Lee Iron Ass Raymond, ExxonMobils 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.

From BookforumColl employs language thats plain, clear, and free of accusation. Though some of the details recounted across the sprawling narrative of Private Empire are outrageous, the reporting is deep and fair. Coral Davenport ExxonMobil has met its match in Coll, an elegant writer and dogged reporter extraordinary monumental.THE WASHINGTON POST Fascinating Private Empire is a book meticulously prepared as if for trial, a lawyerly accumulation of information that lets the facts speak for themselves a compelling and elucidatory work.BLOOMBERGPrivate Empire is meticulous, multi-angled and valuable Mr. Colls prose sweeps the earth like an Imax camera.Dwight Garner, THE NEW YORK TIMES"ExxonMobil has cut a ruthless path through the Age of Oil. Yet intense secrecy has kept one of the world's largest companies a mystery, until now. Private Empire: ExxonMobil and American Power is a masterful study of Big Oil's biggest player Coll's in-depth reporting, buttressed by his anecdotal prose, make Private Empire a must-read. Consider Private Empire a sequel of sorts to The Prize, Daniel Yergin's Pulitzer-winning history of the oil industry Coll's portrait of ExxonMobil is both riveting and appalling Yet Private Empire is not so much an indictment as a fascinating look into American business and politics. With each chapter as forceful as a New Yorker article, the book abounds in Dickensian characters.SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE"Coll makes clear in his magisterial account that Exxon is mighty almost beyond imagining, producing more profit than any American company in the history of profit, the ultimate corporation in 'an era of corporate ascendancy.' This history of its last two decades is therefore a revealing history of our time, a chronicle of the intersection between energy and politics."Bill McKibben, NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS"Groundbreaking... Masterful as a corporate portrait, Private Empire gushes with narrative."AMERICAN PROSPECTAbout the AuthorSteve Coll is the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Ghost Wars and the dean of the Graduate School of

Journalism at Columbia University, and from 2007 to 2013 was president of the New America Foundation, a public policy institute in Washington, D.C. He is a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, and previously worked for twenty years at *The Washington Post*, where he received a Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism in 1990. He is the author of seven other books, including *On the Grand Trunk Road*, *The Bin Ladens*, *Private Empire*, and *Directorate S*.