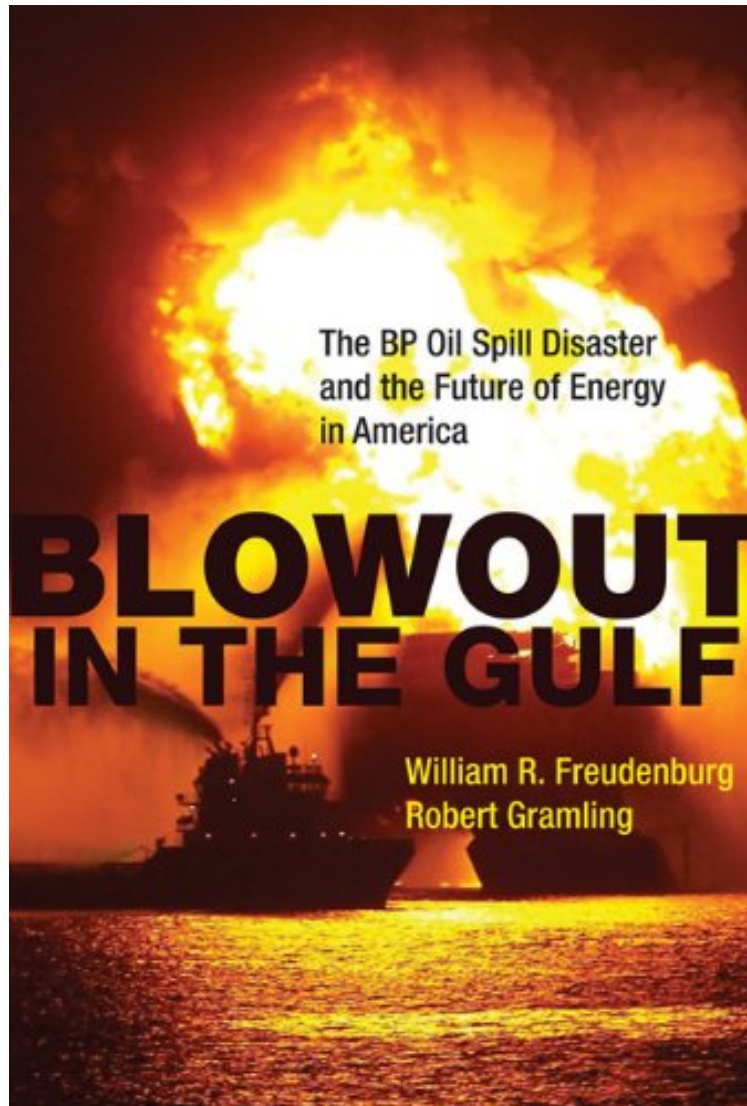


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## **Blowout in the Gulf: The BP Oil Spill Disaster and the Future of Energy in America (MIT Press)**

*William R. Freudenburg, Robert Gramling*  
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**William R. Freudenburg, Robert Gramling : Blowout in the Gulf: The BP Oil Spill Disaster and the Future of Energy in America (MIT Press)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blowout in the Gulf: The BP Oil Spill Disaster and the Future of Energy in America (MIT Press):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. From a fellow author, J.A. (John) TurleyBy J.A. (John) TurleyBlowout in the Gulf is a good read. The academic authors address the impact of BP's blowout and link it to a

number of chapters about the environmental tragedy, social impacts, politics, and energy independence. Their book became a good resource as I wrote my book about the cause of the disaster . . . The Simple Truth: BP's Macondo Blowout<sup>1</sup> of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not bad info but not what I wantedBy IsThe first 2 chapters in this book are about the BP oil spill...the 3rd chapter is also somewhat helpful but most of this book is about the oil industry with the added context of the oil spill which is not what I was wanted. If you want a comprehensive report of exactly what happened in the gulf this is not what you want. You want the final report at [oilspillcommission.gov](http://oilspillcommission.gov). Granted it's fairly long but it includes a lot of good information and is totally free.<sup>4</sup> of 4 people found the following review helpful. Get a printed copyBy Ngo BaoDo not get a Kindle version of this book, at least until figures out how to convert figures and charts. Most of the "figures" in the book are just black boxes.

The story of how a chain of failures, missteps, and bad decisions led to America's biggest environmental disaster.On April 20, 2010, the gigantic drilling rig Deepwater Horizon blew up in the Gulf of Mexico, killing eleven crew members and causing a massive eruption of oil from BP's Macondo well. For months, oil gushed into the Gulf, spreading death and destruction. Americans watched real-time video of the huge column of oil and gas spewing from the obviously failed "blowout preventer." What was missing, though, was the larger story of this disaster. In *Blowout in the Gulf*, energy experts William Freudenburg and Robert Gramling explain both the disaster and the decisions that led up to it. *Blowout in the Gulf* weaves a fascinating narrative of failures, missteps, and bad decisions, explaining why this oil spill was a disaster waiting to happen -- and how making better energy choices will help prevent others like it.

From BooklistA gush of books about the BP oil disaster approaches as the investigation into its causes proceeds apace. Freudenburg and Gramling have a head start: they've been studying and writing about energy issues and offshore oil drilling for three decades. Drawing on their deep knowledge, they set the deadly BP blowout within a technologically precise history of oil in America, from the first primitively constructed well on land to the development of offshore rigs, explaining that the Deepwater Horizon was actually a technical marvel if only its operation hadn't been compromised. Here is a full accounting of BP's many previous accidents and violations the company was the worst in the industry for its safety-sacrificing cost cutting. Freudenburg and Gramling also tell the story of the corporation's first incarnation as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in 1909 and how it became British Petroleum in 1954. Science, commerce, and the politics of oil are all newly illuminated here, accompanied by invaluable explanations of the risks of offshore drilling and a pragmatic look at the energy conundrums we now face. --Donna Seaman For a comprehensive and systematic walk-through of how the BP spill played out before, during, and after the Macondo blowout, this book's a good pick. Exploring the technical side of things without sacrificing readability, the authors explain the disaster in its social, political, and scientific contexts. (Green Life (Sierra Club))For readers interested in knowing more about events leading up to the spill, *Blowout in the Gulf* provides a solid description of what is now known. The authors examine the technology, geology, management decisions, and regulatory actions involved, and they also provide enough background for general readers to digest these specifics. (Times Higher Education)Here is a full accounting of BP's many previous accidents and violations -- the company was the worst in the industry for its safety-sacrificing cost cutting. Freudenburg and Gramling also tell the story of the corporation's first incarnation as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in 1909 and how it became British Petroleum in 1954. Science, commerce, and the politics of oil are all newly illuminated here, accompanied by invaluable explanations of the risks of offshore drilling and a pragmatic look at the energy conundrums we now face. (Booklist)In this intelligent and refreshingly readable -- f inevitably depressing -- expose, Freudenburg and Gramling, professors of environmental studies and sociology respectively, and longtime collaborators and observers of the oil industry, analyze the origins of the Deepwater Horizon explosion and its aftermath....Readers interested in energy crisis, peak oil, environmental and climate change issues will appreciate the straightforward analysis and will hope this important book finds its way into the hands of policy makers. (Publishers Weekly)The authors make solid points about the way the U.S. government has allowed big oil companies to march into public waters, about how the much-admired interstate highway system contributed to a fateful boom in U.S. oil consumption and about the way Americans ravenously consume oil and gas today. (The Washington Post)An excellent book for seminar courses on energy. Highly recommended. (Choice)A smashing book. Freudenburg and Gramling put the spill into the perspective of energy dependence, take us gracefully through technical details blurred by the popular press, grasp the local and national politics (offering some political deterrents of their own along the way), and give the spill what will likely be its most masterful handling. The authors' years of work on oil drilling and the carbon economy get a dramatic payoff in this very timely book. (Charles Perrow, author of *The Next Catastrophe: Reducing Our Vulnerabilities to Natural, Industrial, and Terrorist Disasters*) *Blowout in the Gulf* is a fast-paced, vivid account of the century-long rush to exploit that led to the BP disaster. As finite and remote oil and gas supplies dwindle, the risks, human and environmental, will only increase. As the age of oil approaches an end, the authors point us in other, sustainable, directions. (Bruce Babbitt, Former governor of Arizona and secretary of the Interior, board of directors, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy)An extremely timely and important offering from two

of the world's preeminent environmental scholars. Accessibly written for a wide audience, *Blowout in the Gulf* is both a brilliant analysis and an indictment of the energy-growth machine that gave us one of the signal environmental assaults of our time. (Lee Clarke, author of *Worst Cases: Terror and Catastrophe in the Popular Imagination*)

About the Author  
The late William R. Freudenburg was Dehlsen Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Robert Gramling is Professor of Sociology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The late William R. Freudenburg was Dehlsen Professor of Environmental Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara. Robert Gramling is Professor of Sociology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.