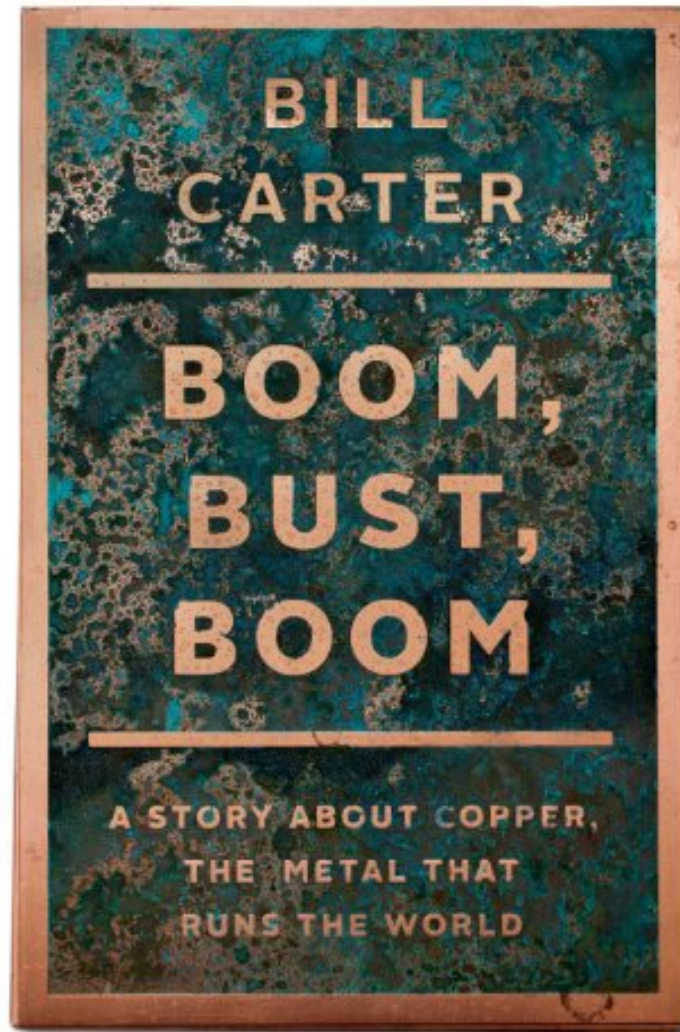


(Free) Boom, Bust, Boom: A Story About Copper, the Metal that Runs the World

Boom, Bust, Boom: A Story About Copper, the Metal that Runs the World

Bill Carter

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Bill Carter : Boom, Bust, Boom: A Story About Copper, the Metal that Runs the World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boom, Bust, Boom: A Story About Copper, the Metal that Runs the World:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Copper - a truly double edged sword to our society.By D. B. KANEBill Carter's "Boom, Bust, Boom" is an excellent book that will wake you up to the importance and dangers of the world's most extraordinary metal - copper. Copper is a cheap conductive metal that is used in modern society's

everything. Beautiful and extremely beneficial to the human race, copper also has a dark side: mining and extracting it from the earth is extremely toxic - sulfuric acid, arsenic, cyanide - just to name a few, that poison the land along with the aquifer underneath. The subtitle says it all - "A Story About Copper, The Metal That Runs The World." Bill's book lays out all of copper's uses and unique properties along with the metal's history throughout civilization. The other side of copper's story though is the basis of this well written book - the extreme environmental dangers of mining and extracting it from the Earth. Bill started this book after he ate from his vegetable garden he had planted in his yard - Bisbee, Arizona - home of a large but now idle copper mine. Investigating why he was poisoned - this book is that answer. The main focus is to ask ourselves a question: where should we and should we not mine copper? The answer became obvious to me - thank you Bill! That brings this story to Bristol Bay, Alaska - home to the world's largest salmon spawning area, which is also key to that wilderness' survival. Underneath the wilderness' streams and rivers that make up Bristol Bay's salmon spawning area lies an estimated \$500 billion deposit of copper and gold. Saving Bristol Bay from toxic copper mining that will ruin that rich fishery forever is a noble cause. I grew up on the Mesabi Iron Range, northeastern Minnesota - home to some of the world's largest open pit taconite mines. I loved growing up on the Range exploring those mines and the rich history of mining iron ore and taconite. This book caused a major paradigm shift with me about mining - I thought all hard-metal mines were the same. Now know they are not. Copper is not anything like taconite... I also thought green energy could save the world. Green energy needs lots of copper to function - therefore if it does save the world from hydrocarbons, it will not save the world from more toxic copper extraction. Which is worse? I highly recommend this book - we need knowledge to debate these issues and come up with real solutions to our civilization's hardest hurdles - what to do about this fast juggernaut called population growth - that is destroying the Earth out of both our need and greed. Thank you for reading my review... dbk1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Personal and Informational By Ex-Patty The author gives a lot of personal information which provides the book with an added dimension of personalization and how copper has affected him, his family and those he met while researching the book. Sometimes the opinions are fun and other times, I just skipped over them because all I wanted out of the book was hard facts. But overall, his story within the information is worthwhile and often sounds like your just listening to a friend's story. Carter imparted a great deal of information that was well researched, but personal enough not to become dull and archaic. I'm really glad I read this book, it was a couple chapters a night and I underlined a lot of information that even I, who spent 4 years in the copper business in Latin America, wasn't aware of. Overall, a very good book. Thank you Bill for all your hard work. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Who knew copper could be so compelling? By U2 Tassoula Bill Carter is one of the few authors who can guarantee a page-turner with each non-fiction topic he tackles. Boom, Bust, Boom is no exception. In this book, he examines both our need for copper on a global scale and the potential damage it can cause to the environment. He uses personal stories and research to narrate his quest for answers, which makes the topic more accessible than one would expect. His prose is honest and conversational; his facts straightforward and informative. I'd recommend this book to anyone wishing to learn more about copper or merely looking for an addictive read.

From "a first-rate writer in the fascinating tradition of Junger and Krakauer" (Jim Harrison, author of *Legends of the Fall*), a sweeping account of civilization's complete dependence on copper and what it all means for people, nature, and the global economy. **A SWEEPING ACCOUNT OF CIVILIZATION'S COMPLETE DEPENDENCE ON COPPER AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR PEOPLE, NATURE, AND OUR GLOBAL ECONOMY** COPPER is a miraculous and contradictory metal, essential to nearly every human enterprise. For most of recorded history, this remarkably pliable and sturdy substance has proven invaluable: not only did the ancient Romans build their empire on mining copper but Christopher Columbus protected his ships from rot by lining their hulls with it. Today, the metal can be found in every house, car, airplane, cell phone, computer, and home appliance the world over, including in all the new, so-called green technologies. Yet the history of copper extraction and our present relationship with the metal are fraught with profound difficulties. Copper mining causes irrevocable damage to the Earth, releasing arsenic, cyanide, sulfuric acid, and other deadly pollutants into the air and water. And the mines themselves have significant effects on the economies and wellbeing of the communities where they are located. With *Red Summer* and *Fools Rush In*, Bill Carter has earned a reputation as an on-the-ground journalist adept at connecting the local elements of a story to its largest consequences. Carter does this again—and brilliantly—in *Boom, Bust, Boom*, exploring in an entertaining and fact-rich narrative the very human dimension of copper extraction and the colossal implications the industry has for every one of us. Starting in his own backyard in the old mining town of Bisbee, Arizona—where he discovers that the dirt in his garden contains double the acceptable level of arsenic—Bill Carter follows the story of copper to the controversial Grasberg copper mine in Indonesia; to the "ring" at the London Metal Exchange, where a select group of traders buy and sell enormous amounts of the metal; and to an Alaskan salmon run threatened by mining. *Boom, Bust, Boom* is a highly readable account—part social history, part mining-town exploration, and part environmental investigation. Page by page, Carter blends the personal and the international in a narrative that helps us understand the paradoxical relationship we have with a substance whose necessity to civilization costs the environment and the people who mine it dearly. The result is a

work of first-rate journalism that fascinates on every level.

From Booklist As the subtitle says, copper really does run the world. No matter whether you're reading this review online, on a mobile device, or in print, you wouldn't be reading it without copper. Nor would you be using a staggering number of modern-day conveniences and essentials—no phones, no lights, no motorcars. It's a good metal, but it has a downside, as Carter learned when he discovered that his small vegetable garden on his property in Bisbee, Arizona, was seriously toxic. Its lead content was 32-percent higher than normal levels, but that was nothing compared to its arsenic, which was 100-percent higher than what's considered acceptable for residential soil. Why was his soil so toxic? Turns out it's because, for almost a century, Bisbee was a copper-mining town (the last mine closed in 1975), and the mining process has some potentially catastrophic side effects. This frequently surprising book—Did you know that the Rio Tinto copper mine in Spain has been operating for nearly 4,000 years?—chronicles Carter's own education in the history of copper mining, in Arizona (home to 11 mines accounting for about 60-percent of the country's copper production) and around the world. You wouldn't think a book about copper would be an exciting read, but it is, because the story of copper mining is also the story of industrial innovation, technological revolution, and social and ecological change on a grand scale. -- David Pitt "Red Summer is about life at the extreme edge of the food chain, and nowhere is the food chain more violent, more awesome or more intense than in Egegik, Alaska." —The New York Times Book Review "Copper is the curse of the southwest. Bill Carter's blazing book takes us to the crime scene where our lust for things murders the earth. Time to kill the cellphone, leave twitter to the twits and listen up." —Charles Bowden, author of Murder City "Bill Carter has extracted something that remains all but unnoticed by most people—copper—and told an incredible story about this amazing metal. Boom, Bust, Boom is the best sort of journalism: beautifully written, rich in detail and impossible to ignore. I particularly loved how Carter wove a personal story into a topic of global scope. I know, as a writer, how hard that is to pull off, and as a reader I am always amazed when someone does. It is a superb book." —Sebastian Junger "Bill Carter's new book is utterly engaging. I want to use the words fabulous and hearty. We often think we know the world but then we read a book that tells us we didn't. Carter is a hard man and he humiliates the copper industry and the grave dangers they carelessly expose us to. A necessary read for thinking Americans." —Jim Harrison About the Author Bill Carter is the author of Red Summer: The Danger, Madness, and Exaltation of Salmon Fishing in a Remote Alaskan Village and Fools Rush In: A True Story of Love, War, and Redemption. He has written for Rolling Stone, Outside, Men's Journal, and other publications.