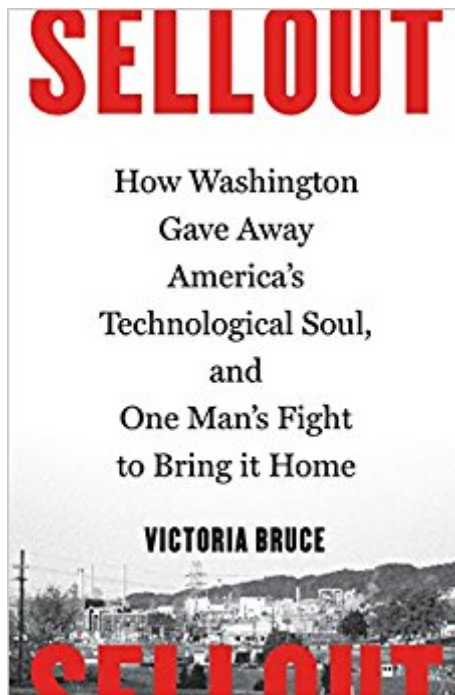




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Sellout: How Washington Gave Away America's Technological Soul, And One Man's Fight To Bring It Home



Synopsis

The story of one citizen's fight to preserve a US stake in the future of clean energy and the elements essential to high tech industries and national defense. American technological prowess used to be unrivaled. But because of globalization, and with the blessing of the U.S. government, once proprietary materials, components and technologies are increasingly commercialized outside the U.S. Nowhere is this more dangerous than in China's monopoly of rare earth elements-materials that are essential for nearly all modern consumer goods, gadgets and weapons systems. Jim Kennedy is a retired securities portfolio manager who bought a bankrupt mining operation. The mine was rich in rare earth elements, but he soon discovered that China owned the entire global supply and manufacturing chain. Worse, no one in the federal government cared. Dismayed by this discovery, Jim made a plan to restore America's rare earth industry. His plan also allowed technology companies to manufacture rare earth dependent technologies in the United States again and develop safe, clean nuclear energy. For years, Jim lobbied Congress, the Pentagon, the White House Office of Science and Technology, and traveled the globe to gain support. Exhausted, down hundreds of thousands of dollars, and with his wife at her wits' end, at the start of 2017, Jim sat on the edge of victory, held his breath and bet it all that his government would finally do the right thing. Like Beth Macy's *Factory Man*, this is the story of one man's efforts to stem the dehumanizing tide of globalization and Washington's reckless inaction. Jim's is a fight we need to join.

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Customer Reviews

"'Sellout' mines an important topic: the national-security risks arising from our loss of industrial expertise and manufacturing capacity." - Wall Street Journal"a compelling narrative. . . . Readers will share Kennedy's considerable frustration with the shortsightedness of profit-driven stakeholders and the hubris of politicians." - Library Journal"Bruce provides a concise, inspiring story of personal transformation and dedication to American technology production. An instructive tale of one man's 'burning mission to bring back manufacturing and innovation to America.'" - Kirkus Reviews"A master of her craft, Bruce (Hostage Nation, 2010) combines intellect and a no-nonsense tone to tell a complicated scientific and global story through the lens of one determined man . . . Bruce's thorough work explains the historical context for Kennedy's mine, the evolution of nuclear energy at the Oak Ridge laboratories, and the globalization process, all balanced with Kennedy's biography. This book will, no doubt, spur policy change." - Booklist"Heart-stopping . . . A gripping disaster story [and] a scathing account of human folly, arrogance, and ambition." - The New York Times Book Review on NO APPARENT DANGER"Harrowing . . . Offers rich insight into the untidy workings of volcanologists and science in general." - Discover on NO APPARENT DANGER"Scientist and journalist Bruce traces the fascinating recent history of Colombian volcanoes and the scientific community's politics, wherein intellectual property generates fame and near-fortune, in an insightful, spellbinding account." - Publishers Weekly on NO APPARENT DANGER

Victoria Bruce holds a master's degree in geology from the University of California, Riverside. She is the recipient of the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for excellence in broadcast journalism for her film, The Kidnapping of Ingrid Betancourt. Her previous books are No Apparent Danger and Hostage Nation. She lives in Annapolis, MD.

I really want to love this book. It is interesting and important topic. But, in my opinion, there are so many stories about the protagonist that don't seem realistic that it is distracting and makes you wonder about the credibility of the other information in the book. For example, anyone who has spent time in the military would likely doubt the truthfulness of the protagonist's time in the Army or his story about testifying in the trial of the attacker of his friends. Many people like to embellish their past to tell a good story but the author should call this out or temper it.

Vicki Bruce has crafted a story worth reading on a subject that matters to us all. Kudos!

In 1993 Molycorp gave a group of Chinese geologists a tour of their rare earths mining site at

Mountain Pass in the Mojave Desert. The tour included showing them how to find rare earths. The Chinese went home and found their own deposits - 1,000X as large. Now China sells rare earths (source for rare earth magnets, lasers, etc.) for next to nothing, while Mountain Pass barely survives. In 2011, a presentation was made to Oak Ridge scientists to try and persuade them to restart its 1965 nuclear program using thorium instead of uranium for fuel, in a molten salt reactor rather than a solid fuel reactor - safer, producing very little plutonium (mitigating the risk of generating nuclear weapons material). The program had been abandoned four years later, with explanation. About that same time, an article in the South China Post (Hong Kong) briefly described China's goal of developing a new generation of nuclear energy systems - a thorium-based molten salt reactor system. Turns out a Chinese delegation, headed by the individual highlighted in the article, had recently visited Oak Ridge. Unfortunately, there was no interest within Oak Ridge's leadership. The world's #1 innovator simply walked away from developing the future of green energy

This is an epic David and Goliath story which will leave you terrified for the future of our country. The amount of technology that the U.S. has given up, sold off and offshored to China has left the U.S. incapable of any high tech manufacturing without China's blessing. What will this mean for our military? Jim Kennedy, the book's protagonist is die-hard and goes after this problem with intense fortitude in the face of the disaster that is Washington D.C. This is not a partisan book. For those who love a good nail bitter and are hoping for a happy ending for America, you can't put this one down.

Victoria Bruce will be a household name in the near future, her novels have spanned the topics of the true racial climate in the US, kidnapping abroad, the cause of our economic train wreck...I learned what "fracking" was doing to our country from this uber-talented author, long before it was on the 6 o'clock news. Bruce speaks for the unspoken, tackles the topics no one else wants to before they become "PC" to face...she shakes all the right trees, and what fell out this time is this skillfully crafted book, "Sellout".

An eye-opening page-turner with pitch-perfect explanations of science, history, and government policy delivers the engaging tale of how a few lovable American patriots might just actually save the world. As a knee-jerk anti-nukes type, I can't believe I'm going around saying "molten salt reactor" and trying to explain rare earth minerals and the thorium connection. Author Vicky Bruce explains all

this stuff and everything else she needs to tell this astonishing story. Looking forward to the movie and hoping for a real-life happy ending.

Victoria Bruce has masterfully used the story of Jim Kennedy to illustrate how America has lagged in cutting edge technology and advanced materials that will propel global business into the rest of the 21st century and beyond. From smart phones and hybrid cars to National Defense and clean energy, our past dominance in manufacturing has been dying a slow and painful death, in part due to the lack of foresight our leaders in Washington have exhibited over these last decades. Sellout chronicles the case of Rare Earth Elements, crucial to almost every "smart" technology, and how we let this supply chain fall into disrepair while spelling out the means and measures needed to reinstitute a domestic Rare Earth Element industry so that the United States can once again be at the forefront of manufacturing technology.

This book, wonderfully written, will shock you. It may be as unbelievable to you as it was to me; to find out that the US government not only didn't worry about Chinese dominance in a vital technological area, it told the Chinese scientists everything they needed to know. The result is frightening. Rare earth metals are needed by all industrial countries. They are in everything. China controls them all, and just by stopping or limiting their export, China can bring a nation to its knees. Bruce is a geologist and investigative journalist who discovered a securities analyst/mine owner, who has spent years to solve this problem. Jim Kennedy, whose horrific childhood would seem to have been impossible to overcome, has a plan: the US, Korea, Japan and Western Europe would form a rare-earth "cooperative". It would mine, develop and manufacture in each of the member countries. Dependence on China would be over.

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