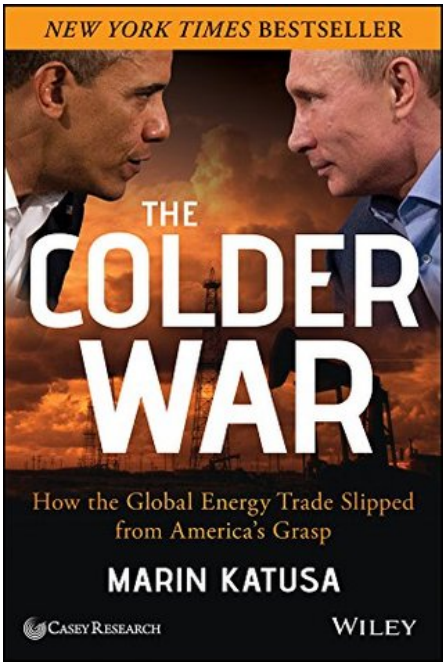

The Colder War: How the Global Energy Trade Slipped from America's Grasp

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How the massive power shift in Russia threatens the political dominance of the United States

There is a new cold war underway, driven by a massive geopolitical power shift to Russia that went almost unnoticed across the globe. In *The Colder War: How the Global Energy Trade Slipped from America's Grasp*, energy expert Marin Katusa takes a look at the ways the western world is losing control of the energy market, and what can be done about it.

Russia is in the midst of a rapid economic and geopolitical renaissance under the rule of Vladimir Putin, a tenacious KGB officer turned modern-day tsar. Understanding his rise to power provides the keys to understanding the shift in the energy trade from Saudi Arabia to Russia. This powerful new position threatens to unravel the political dominance of the United States once and for all.

Discover how political coups, hostile takeovers, and assassinations have brought Russia to the center of the world's energy market Follow Putin's rise to power and how it has led to an upsetting of the global balance of trade Learn how Russia toppled a generation of robber barons and positioned itself as the most powerful force in the energy market Study Putin's long-range plans and their potential impact on the United States and the U.S. dollar

If Putin's plans are successful, not only will Russia be able to starve other countries of power, but the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) will replace the G7 in wealth and clout. *The Colder War* takes a hard look at what is to come in a new global energy market that is certain to cause unprecedented impact on the U.S. dollar and the American way of life.

The Colder War: How the Global Energy Trade Slipped from America's Grasp Details

Date	:	Published October 17th 2014 by Wiley (first published October 21st 2013)
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From Reader Review The Colder War: How the Global Energy Trade Slipped from America's Grasp for online ebook

Nick says

Whether true or not, this book opened my eyes to the global oil economy and how issues in the Middle East have played out around it. Provides a totally new perspective for me on current global issues. Worth a read!

Jordan.A says

Absolutely incredible, in-depth analysis into the global energy trade crisis of the modern war.

Ivaylo Naydenov says

If it were a fiction it would have been a five - very well written, understandable, and you just fly from page to page, consuming the content (at least that's how I read it).

So what did this book do well?
It explained very well the mentality of the Russian ruling class and how it sees energy as its geopolitical weapon of choice. It gave nice background on Russia which is very important because I do believe the reason why East and West often confront is the mutual misunderstanding (apart from pure geopolitical reasons). The book gives fair amount of energy statistics that makes it useful alongside being a nice reading.

But what the book didn't do?
It represented Russo-Chinese relations very flatly and overestimated the role of the BRICS as well as their economic power. Russo-Chinese relations are not straightforward and I think we shouldn't think of them as an alliance but rather as a temporary convergence of interests. And what the author completely misses is the Russian vulnerability in terms of its dependence on high energy prices and security of demand to balance the federal budget. The book also didn't provide the reader with enough information about the technical difficulties and skyrocketing costs of advancing the new pipeline and field development projects. These, combined with high dependence on Western technology and weakening ruble could spell disaster for Russian ambitions. Without this analysis the book is incomplete. Although we've seen a great amount of Russian recovery for the last fifteen years, the Russian bear (both Gazprom and Rosneft) has its weaknesses that are largely omitted in the narrative.

P.S. Everything stated in this review is personal opinion and I'll be glad to discuss it.

Ajay Palekar says

A world wind journey through the rich political, personal, and energy histories of Russia, Putin, and the modern era. Marin connects the dots between modern political events with great clarity and while he ends with a tone of alarmism, his world framework is well-designed and makes for an interesting read.

Owlseyes says

-Putinism in the West?
-why not,taking a jump into my wagon [my Hedge Fund]?

These are possible questions one may raise after listening to and viewing Katusa’s interviews to RT and Bloomberg Radio.

To him, Putin is a “very loyal” person; he means, to those fellows he brought into Moscow, from his Saint Petersburg circle. Katusa questions the loyalty in the inner circles of Obama*. The recent West sanctions on Russia are called “illegal” and may back fire …on the west. The West seems destined to be, in the long run, the hit one.

It’s praise for Putin’s strategy in the economy field**.

The commodities investor refers the good “standard of living” and the education of present-day Russia the West should have taken another attitude towards. Katusa pointed Russia's deals with China….and Iran.

In the Bloomberg interview Katusa revealed he manages a Canadian Hedge Fund; he’s involved in shale oil, copper and uranium; so his money in “on the line”.

Russia seems to be the good partner for the west: due to its resources on gas, uranium and oil. The USA should take heed of the “judgment day for the petrodollar”. Japan is about to return to nuclear power and Russia still holds half of the world production of uranium.

To Katusa: Putin is the “right man in the right place”: a “Slavic warrior”.

Cold (er) for …the West.

PS :"Katusa speaks fluent Serbian and Croatian, and is conversant in Russian".
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*On another interview Katusa said: "Obama has been outplayed in every form by Putin"; and:"Obama last 6 years:a disaster".

**Katusa's portrait of the Russian economy seems rather surreal,sort of "inflated" in my view.Check on The Economist, for several months,negative views; and the latest issue cover:"A wounded economy It is closer to crisis than the West or Vladimir Putin realise".Evaporating reserves,debt repayments,a rouble 23%-fall in 3 months and lower energy prices are some of the problems to be faced.The article in the magazine says:"If Russia’s economy looks likely to collapse, there will be inevitable calls in the West for sanctions to be cut back".

Swamyraj says

A very captivating book indeed. Marin Katusa has done splendid job of balancing politics, economics and humor. Although Putin is the lead character in this book, yet Marin has ensured that his views are impartial and factual. Not lengthy book given the subject matter but it packs enough punch through out the timeline and keeps the readers engaged. A 5-star for me !!!

Naveen Valsan says

Over the past few years, I have followed the odd stories on Rosneft, Gazprom, Ukraine, Georgia etc. This book does a comprehensive job in joining the dots highlighting an undeniable and cogent rationale behind Russian involvement in all what I have read thus far.

I did, however, find the bit on the demise of the petrodollar a little far-fetched. Nevertheless the author and Casey Research have a new follower in me.

Al says

The Colder War is a very important book, especially when considering the background of its author, Maris Katusa, an energy resources investor who has helped bank up to $1 billion for energy capital projects. His experience and expert knowledge in energy is obvious all throughout the book, and he has explained the main energy resources in layman terms too. Far too often, the energy sector is mystified in far-fetched technical terms, brought on by the speculative nature of the market, obstructing in this way the fundamental simplicity of energy politics.

He brings new perspectives into historical crises, such as the Soviet economic crisis brought on by the low oil prices in the 80s, which he analyses as a problem of old petrol infrastructure and insufficient technical innovation. Also, political and current events are analyzed with a lot of boldness, such as the 1999 Moscow bombings, which the author is not afraid to link to Putin.

Don LaFountaine says

This was a very interesting book that felt like it was part a Tom Clancy novel, part history novel, and part briefing report. If given the opportunity, I would have rated it 3 1/2 stars.

The author describes how in rebuilding Russia, Vladimir Putin has focused on controlling energy trade, has started to gain that control and how it will affect the rest of the world, specifically the West, and even more specifically the United States. In describing what how changes have occurred, the reader is given a history review of how countries were created, how oil rights fit into the scheme of things, and how other things played out after Communism fell.

In addition to the history lesson, the author does a very good job at how Putin is slowly and methodically working to take over energy industries. Sometimes it has been done by force, and sometimes it has been done by negotiating with other leaders. The end results has been Russia supplying a large part of oil, natural gas, and nuclear power throughout Asia and Europe. Some of the countries supplied may be allies to the United States, but many do not like the U.S. With that much control, Marin Katusa argues, correctly in my opinion, Putin can have control of decisions that these countries make. If they don't comply with a desired wish, supplies might all of the sudden be shut off.

The author also describes a very scary scenario where the U.S. Dollar is no longer the reserve currency of the world, how this will make things much more expensive and will lead the U.S. into a severe depression. While part of the problem is that we are so deeply in debt, part of it is that we are trying to be the world's policeman. This breeds resentment, and therefore countries are willing to do business with others, such as Vladimir Putin.

I think this is a good book for people that are interested in current events, that like history, and that are poly-sci majors. (It maybe good for even some politicians to read.) I found it educational, and though it reads like a Tom Clancy novel, it is quite relevant.

Kamil Salamah says

A phenomenal book that is a must read. It clearly describes the coming of the new age; the sunset of the petrodollar and the decline of the hegemony of the empire of the age, the United States of America.

Again, it reminds us that energy is at the heart of civilizations' existence and progress in every aspect of our lives. My only criticism is the last chapter. It did not stand up to the expectations of an excellent book. It deserved a better ending.

In spite of this, I think it is "right on": no question history is being made and we are witnessing it at close range. We WILL BE IMPACTED SOON.

READ IT

Anthony O'Brian says

I received this book from a GoodReads Giveaway.

Time and space would not permit to give all of my thoughts on the book and the ones provoked since finishing it. Let me touch the key areas that stand out to me.

First, there is absolutely no doubt that Putin is a man to watch. For that last 11 years I have had an alert sent to my email every time Putin's name was mentioned in a certain news outlet. Instinctively, as well as by reading, I have had a sense that Putin is a major player on the world stage (how could he not be as the head of Russia), but also as a sort of potter attempting to shape our future. I would not be surprised at much that this man would do or accomplish in our lifetime.
That being said, "The Colder War", in its well laid arguments MUST address Putin, but the reader is left with a distinct impression of the author's admiration for the man. As a fellow man, one also MUST admire Putin's meteoric rise to power and his uncanny ability to wield it. As a Russian man, I would be proud to have him

as my leader. As the American that I am, I cannot say I share this warm and fuzzy feeling for the man. As has been so well expressed in the book, Putin has a WORLD PLAN for Russia to be the dominant factor...I have a problem with that.
Thirdly, I do not fault the author's attention toward Putin, as a matter of fact, that was the most fascinating aspect to this book. Russia has always been a fascination to me as a student of history. Marin Katusa draws out details about the man which I was completely unaware of and sheds additional light on those aspects with which I am already familiar.
Fourthly, and more to the point of the book's premise, I agree with 95% of Marin Katusa's premise, assessment, and warning. His energy, financial, and foreign policy arguments are VERY WELL researched and explained and very compelling. He has put his finger on the pulse of our future and found it to be weak and thready under our current economic/political condition.

In Summary, I ABSOLUTELY RECOMMEND that you read this book, if for no other reason, for the shear weight of facts, details, and important topics brought out, discussed, and exposed to the light of day - something you will hear or see on NO major news outlet! If you are like me then it is a slow read as I like to absorb all the details rather than gloss a subject. Whether you agree with some, all, or none of Marin Katusa's writing it will bring an important subject to the forefront of your mind and force you to think about it.

Throughout the book the reader must bear in mind there is something that CANNOT be quantified, predictable, nor crushed; the American spirit. This alone may be the hope against all that is presented in "The Colder War"!

Justin Carley says

this book is just another excuse for the inflation hawks and gold bug philosophy that has been proven wrong year after year. debt is deflationary not inflationary. anyway, the main argument of dollar demise MUST correspond with the relative currency winner. since the book was written, how's is the ruble doing? the yuan is rolling over. the euro is dumping and the dollar is surging. BUT SOMEDAY...

Rob Templeton says

For years I have watched the story unfold of Vladimir Putin thinking him an old school bully, self centered narcissist. turns out he has been busy setting Russia up for the future. I was amazed at the slow rebuild he has quietly been putting them through and the building of a strategic foundation that will take them back to power. A great read with facts, figures and great analysis. We in the west are setting ourselves up for failure with our sensitivities and political correctness. Putin is out getting things done.

Sean Sharp says

Colder War is fine for its stated objective, which is a discussion on the future of energy markets with an emphasis on Russia’s development. Beyond that, though, Katusa leaps into an off-kilter rant on deficit spending and the coming inflation crush from dollar-dumping that will result in the darkest days of US history. If this sounds familiar, it’s because deficit hawks have been espousing this inflationary doomsday tale for decades. It should come as no surprise, then, that if you research Katusa you will find that he is ultra-conservative and has viewed the Obama administration with disdain.

Even more, it’s apparent that Katusa has an axe to grind here (whether it’s with liberals or the US in general is hard to say) as he spends the final pages of the book completely laying into the US economy with an almost fetishistic delight of doomsday speculation (none of which will ever happen). Fortunately, this tirade is saved for the final chapter, so the less hawkish (read: gullible) among us may want to end our reading before “the end”.

Though the rest of the book is well presented (a few facts have been misrepresented), I find myself questioning the underlying motive of this publication. For those with an interest in energy markets or post-Soviet Russia, this should serve fine, though I would strongly encourage the reader to turn elsewhere for a discussion on currency markets or monetary policy (probably not what you’d expect to be signing up for with this anyhow).

P?rti??cious Fr??? says

I gave this book four stars because of a few reasons . We all know that money and economics forms the bedrock of international politics and relations, this account by Martin Katusa explains just that. The main focus of this book are the policies that Vladmir Putin has adopted while readers such as us are diverted by the west to look elsewhere. But, confining the ambit of this book to just that would be sheer injustice.

Martin puts forward the point that the "cold war" between the U.S and the Russia (USSR), has not ended but transformed into a more dormant form of contest for global dominance.While the first part of this book expands the history of Putin, his ascend to the throne, and his policies therein ,the second layer of this book elaborates how the two countries (Russia-US)struggle for international dominance while formulating their respective foreign policies.Countries rich in natural resource, particularly those in the Middle-East, are of immense importance for both US and Russia.

And this is exactly why I gave this book more than the usual 3 stars. Its very easy to break-down historic events and lay them out in colorful chapters, but it requires a bit of hard-work and intellect to pick out different strands of factors that caused them in the first place. Later, to predict the future accordingly is a more tough level.

For those of you who believed that there are "only" two sides of every story, this book offers to teach you that there may be more.

Carrie-Anne O'Driscoll says

This book does an amazing job of informing the layman about Putin's meteoric rise to power and his subsequent takeover of the oil and natural gas industry. I am a stringent observer of international politics and I missed a lot of this information.
The struggles of the EU and Russia to gain control of the Ukraine was something I had neither noticed nor considered. It makes sense when it is put into the perspective of the position on Russia's borders.
I found it fascinating that many of the observations made by Katusa have come to pass in the last few months due to the dramatic drop in oil prices. His research is in depth and spot on.
It is non-fiction so that promises a certain level of "dryness" in presentation. However, Katusa manages to balance the factual boredom with doses of Putin's personal character and ambitions.
I gladly give this book a 5 star rating. If anyone is curious about the relationship between Obama and Putin as well as Putin's power grab, they need not look beyond this book.

I won this book through a Goodreads Giveaway.

Nfreynolds says

Interesting history on Putin, oil, Mid East, and US. Last couple of chapters are his opinion, and his conclusions do not correlate with rest of book. Not a lot of documentation of his sources. How much is opinion and how much is fact?

Nikolas Larum says

I ran into this book while researching the petrodollar undergirding of our financial system. What I found was a treasure: a venture capitalist and energy expert whose telling of the stranger-than-fiction tale of the rise of Vladimir Putin puts Tom Clancy to shame. Great books have great beginnings and I wish I had come up with this one: “I’m going to tell you a story you’ll wish weren’t true.” And he delivers. Katusa is a specialist in his field – he’s made millions at it – but he makes the subject matter accessible to the layman. Making the complex concise and comprehensible is a great talent; which Katusa displays in spades. He doesn’t allow the text to get bogged down in jargon and the statistics are given in great infographics. Though he has skin in the game in the sense that he advises educated speculation in the energy market as a hedge against the impending implosion of the petrodollar, he doesn’t say “invest with me and I’ll make you rich” as other authors on this subject do. Katusa’s sense of humor is salted throughout the text in numerous insightful and funny quips. Here is his observation on the succession of the Saudi throne: “Whenever a throne room is crowded with would-be successors, it’s easy for a brawl to break out, which favors the most ruthless over the best qualified. The chance that Prince Right will emerge the winner is remote.”

Evan says

This is a great read. The history of Putin and energy resources is very informative. He briefly describes the geopolitics of the middle east and possible futures in the energy markets.

As I finish this book, I think of Michael Lewis telling the story of Michael Burry and Zion Capital in the The Big Short. Michael Burry made tons of moneys for investors, but as soon as he made comments & bets about macroeconomic events, his investors started pulling their money from his hedge fund. Michael Burry turned out to be right about the housing crisis. Marin Katusa is making a similar type of prediction as Michael Burry did circa 2005. Just as everyone thought housing could only keep rising in 2005, everyone thinks that the US government can continue to run deficits forever without consequences. I think Katusa is just explaining one of the mechanisms that allow the US to run massive deficits.

However, I doubt that the petrodollar is the only thing that allows the US to run deficits. I don't know enough about other macroeconomic factors. But, logically, it does make sense that there will be less demand for dollars if countries don't need them to buy oil.

Navdeep Pundhir says

This is one of the books which begin with good intentions and enchant you for a while. As the pages unfold, you call the bluff.
The author wanted to make a pathbreaking claim about something which is happening right under our noses but we're ignoring at our own peril. Something like a gray rhino.
A book fails when the author tiries too hard and this is what has happened here.
Good in bits and part, eapecially as it chronicles the person of Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin. Rest, not so good