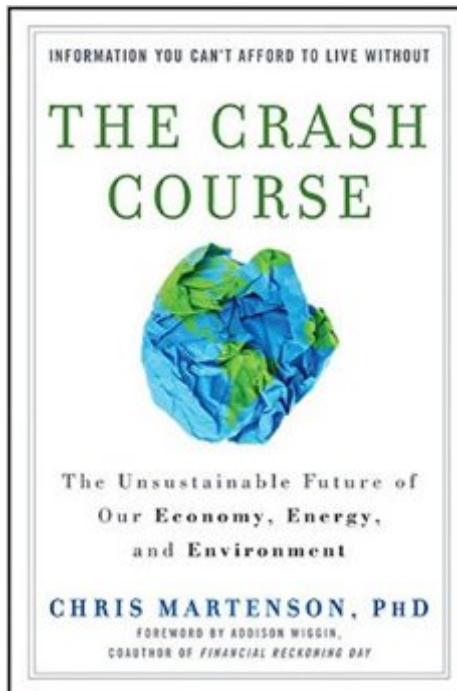


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The Crash Course: The Unsustainable Future Of Our Economy, Energy, And Environment



Synopsis

The next twenty years will be completely unlike the last twenty years. The world is in economic crisis, and there are no easy fixes to our predicament. Unsustainable trends in the economy, energy, and the environment have finally caught up with us and are converging on a very narrow window of time—the "Twenty-Teens." The Crash Course presents our predicament and illuminates the path ahead, so you can face the coming disruptions and thrive—without fearing the future or retreating into denial. In this book you will find solid facts and grounded reasoning presented in a calm, positive, non-partisan manner. Our money system places impossible demands upon a finite world. Exponentially rising levels of debt, based on assumptions of future economic growth to fund repayment, will shudder to a halt and then reverse. Unfortunately, our financial system does not operate in reverse. The consequences of massive deleveraging will be severe. Oil is essential for economic growth. The reality of dwindling oil supplies is now internationally recognized, yet virtually no developed nations have a Plan B. The economic risks to individuals, companies, and countries are varied and enormous. Best-case, living standards will drop steadily worldwide. Worst-case, systemic financial crises will toss the world into jarring chaos. This book is written for those who are motivated to learn about the root causes of our predicaments, protect themselves and their families, mitigate risks as much as possible, and control what effects they can. With challenge comes opportunity, and The Crash Course offers a positive vision for how to reshape our lives to be more balanced, resilient, and sustainable.

From the Author: Warning Signs for the Planet Author Dr. Chris Martenson

Warning signs for our minerals and energy supply:

- Oil discoveries peaked in 1964
- New oil discoveries have been outpaced by oil consumption by nearly 4 to 1 each year
- Known deposits of several critical minerals will be completely exhausted within 20 years, assuming the energy is there to extract them. Others will peak all on their own soon thereafter, and even sooner if Peak Oil limits our ability to obtain them.
- New ore deposits are getting harder to find, more remote, deeper down, more dilute, and/or all of the above.

Warning signs for our food and water supply:

- World population will climb to 9.5 billion by 2050.
- Nearly all high-quality arable land is already under production.
- Food yields are heavily dependent on fertilizers, which are either energy intensive to make or are being depleted and will someday peak.
- Soils are being mined by the practice of removing essential nutrients without replacing them.

Warning signs for our environment:

- 40% decline in oceanic phytoplankton since 1950
- Birds, bees, and bats in serious population decline over the past few years
- Fisheries collapsing all over the globe
- Mercury levels in marine mammals so high that the EPA would treat their carcasses as toxic waste
- Sterilized soils and advancing deserts
- Species extinction rates that rival anything in

geologic records

Book Information

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Wiley; 1 edition (March 29, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 047092764X

ISBN-13: 978-0470927649

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.2 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (137 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #120,230 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Economics > Sustainable Development #119 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Economics > Development & Growth #170 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Economics > Environmental Economics

Customer Reviews

This is a truly exceptional book. The author does an amazing job of explaining our economic problems in a clear, concise, easy to understand, and interesting way. Most importantly, you will learn why, with our debt based monetary system, hyperinflation is inevitable. The author of this book has also made a 3 hour video of The Crash Course that is a condensed version of the book. It, too, is excellent. This DVD is available from ChrisMartenson.com or you can view it for free on the author's website, ChrisMartenson.com. Of course, it's not possible for a 3 hour video to contain nearly as much information as the book. So, if you really want to be fully informed, you should read the book. However, while you are waiting for it to arrive in the mail, you can get a terrific overview by watching the DVD. Basically, The Crash Course (book or DVD), in a very compelling way, makes two fundamental points. First, that our present rate of consumption of oil, when correlated against an increasing world population and increasing demand from the industrialization of third world countries, is simply not sustainable. In fact, it appears that we are currently at the precipice of there not being enough oil to meet the demand. And, when we go over the cliff, our standard of living will be diminished overnight. (Imagine having to spend 50 to 70% of your income on food and gasoline.) The second fundamental point made by the Crash Course is that our debt based monetary system must inevitably end with hyperinflation. The reason is that each year, enough new currency must be created to pay the interest on all of the previously created debt. As a result, there

is an exponential increase in the money supply.

Around 2005/2006 I began thinking something was just not quite right with the economy and energy so I started reading everything I could find on the subjects. In about 2006, I read 'The Long Emergency' by Kunstler. It was an eye opener dealing specifically with peak oil and how it will affect us all. I read quite a few other books and articles too. 'The Road to Olduvai', 'The Coming Economic Collapse', 'Twilight in the Desert', and Matt Savinar's 'The Oil Age Is Over'. All of these publications are excellent in their own right. I also read and listened to a great many other news stories and opinions that were offered on the subjects. However, I came away feeling that each addressed only a portion of the problems that I was witnessing. It was almost as if the economists, energy experts and environmentalists were wearing blinders. They only addressed their particular specialty and never tied anything together. In mid 2008 I found Chris Martenson's online presentation called 'The Crash Course'. He hadn't yet completed the entire work and so I waited anxiously as each subsequent chapter/unit of the presentation was published online. The entire presentation was like a breath of fresh air. He did not try to overwhelm his audience with his grasp of the subject matter by using a plethora of 'million dollar words'. He clearly stated how 'The 3 E's' (Energy, Economy and Environment) were intricately related and how they could not be compartmentalized. The 'Crash Course' book picks up where the presentation ends. This is not a 'doomer' book but instead is positive. It apolitically sets out in a concise manner why we are where we are today. It is clear and easy to understand.

You can save yourself alot of time by going to Chris' website and watching the Crash Course video series, but my hunch is that you will be right back here on buying this book. The reason is that the information in both the video series and the book are critical in developing the skills to navigate the next twenty years. Martenson puts alot of emphasis on the fact that the next twenty years will be completely unlike the last twenty years. That's it. That doesn't seem like such a bold prediction until you dig through the pages and read as Martenson outlines the convergence of the three enormous predicaments that have no viable solution. Those three predicaments are called the three E's; Economy, Energy, and the Environment. I read many books on the topics of Peak Oil, modern economics, and environmental unsustainability (I'm the life of the party, I know) but no other book weaves these three topics together as well as Martenson. A good comparison to this book would be Thomas Homer-Dixons 'The Upside of Down', a truly phenomenal book and a must read but yet Homer-Dixon fails to capture the big picture in quite the same way as Martenson. Probably most

inspiring about this book is that there seems to be a practical everyman solution outlined in The Crash Course that doesn't leave you agonizing in despair. Many other books I have read leave you with a sense of hopelessness or steer you in the direction of getting involved with your local electorate (please shoot me now! that is not a solution, that is a cop-out half-arsed solution). One strike against this book is that there is a lack of examining one chapter long real world examples that I typically like.

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