

THE LEGACY OF NUCLEAR POWER

ANDREW BLOWERS

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Andrew Blowers, OBE, is Emeritus Professor of Social Sciences at the Open University. Over a long career he has been involved in the field of environmental politics and policy making as an academic, politician, government adviser, nuclear company director and prominent environmental activist. As a member of the first Committee on Radioactive Waste Management he was directly responsible for some of the UK's policy on legacy waste.

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The Legacy of Nuclear Power

By **Andrew Blowers**, Professor Emeritus in Social Sciences, Open University

“The book tells a fascinating yet disconcerting backstory of the “participatory turn” in radioactive waste management. Through his in-depth four-country comparison, Blowers provides a compelling analysis of the power play behind the systematic tendency of peripheral communities ending up as the preferred hosts for nuclear waste disposal sites. Armed with his unique first-hand experience as activist, researcher, policy advisor, and policymaker, Blowers invites the reader to the backstage of policymaking on “the waste problem” – the enduring the Achilles’ heel of the global nuclear industry.”

– *Markku Lehtonen, Research Fellow, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, France*

“Andrew Blowers offers an excellent insight into the geography of nuclear activities, describing how global nuclear dangers are connected to local sites where ordinary people live their everyday lives. There is a lot to be learned from this detailed and engaging story of nuclear sites in four separate countries.”

– *Göran Sundqvist, Professor of Science and Technology Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden*

“The Legacy of Nuclear Power makes for a passionate, well argued, and articulate read on many of the social, economic, and political costs to nuclear power. It pushes the boundaries not only for forcing us to critically assess and perhaps rethink contemporary nuclear and energy policy, but also because it brings to the forefront disturbing questions related to social justice, equity, and the environment. Important reading for anybody seriously interested in the nuclear renaissance”

– *Benjamin K. Sovacool, author of ‘The National Politics of Nuclear Power’, Aarhus University, Denmark*

Nuclear energy leaves behind an infinitely dangerous legacy of radioactive wastes in places that are remote and polluted landscapes of risk. Four of these places - Hanford (USA) where the plutonium for the first atomic bombs was made, Sellafield, where the UK's nuclear legacy is concentrated and controversial, La Hague the heart of the French nuclear industry, and Gorleben, the focal point of nuclear resistance in Germany - provide the narratives for this unique account of the legacy of nuclear power.

The Legacy of Nuclear Power takes a historical and geographical perspective going back to the origins of these places and the ever changing relationship between local communities and the nuclear industry. The case studies are based on a variety of academic and policy sources and on conversations with a vast array of people over many years. Each story is mediated through an original theoretical framework focused on the concept of ‘peripheral communities’ developing through changing discourses of nuclear energy. This interdisciplinary book brings together social, political and ethical themes to produce a work that tells not just a story but also provides profound insights into how the nuclear legacy should be managed in the future.

The book is designed to be enjoyed by academics, policy-makers and professionals interested in energy, environmental planning and politics and by a wider group of stakeholders and the public concerned about our nuclear legacy.

For more details, or to request a copy for review, please contact:

Jessica Moran, Marketing Assistant

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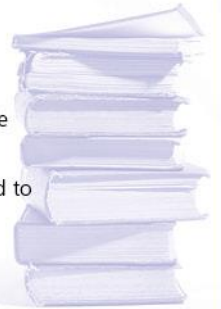
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