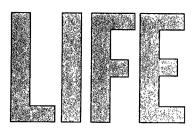
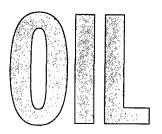
STEVE HALLETT WITH JOHN WRIGHT



WHY WE MUST SHIFT

TO A NEW ENERGY FUTURE





59 John Glenn Drive Amherst, New York 14228–2119

CONTENTS

Prologue. The Invisible Hand	13
Existential Threat, Root Cause, Core Problem	14
Failure to See, Failure to Act	17
Adam Smith Was Wrong	22
What Should We Do? What Should We Save?	25
PART I: A BRIEF HISTORY OF PROGRESS	27
Chapter 1. Seeds of Civilization	29
In the Beginning	29
First Attempts to Harness Energy	33
The Mother of Invention	34
Putting Down Roots	36
The Age of Empires	38
Chapter 2. The Ghosts of Empires Passed	41
The Impossible Moai	41
Where Did All the People Go?	47
The Legacy of Eighteen Rabbit	52
Forests to Precede Civilizations Deserts to Follow	57

8 CONTENTS

The Scourge of God	60
Recurring Themes	68
Chapter 3. The Fossil Fuels Savings Bank	73
Black Gold and the British Century	75
Black Gold and the American Century	81
The Global Economy	85
Chapter 4. Divorced from Nature	89
Can the Leopard Change His Spots?	90
Are Humans Innately Racist and Violent?	94
The Tragedy of the Commons	97
Holding onto Disastrous Values	99
Holding onto Disastrous Ideologies	104
PART II: THE PETROLEUM INTERVAL	111
Chapter 5. The Great Energy Transition	117
American Prophet	117
Predicting Global Peak Oil	121
Why Is Nobody Warning Us?	125
The Red Queen and the Last Drop of Oil	128
The Many Lives of Methane	134
The Problem with Natural Gas: It's a Gas	135
Hubbert's Peak for Natural Gas	139
Descending from Hubbert's Peak	140
All Aboard the Carbon Express!	141
The Gifts That Keep on Giving	146
The Nuclear Option	163

	CONTENTS	9
Energy: For Here or to Go?		170
The Platter of Options		176
Chapter 6. The Ecological Debt		179
The Global Commons		181
There Are Plenty of Fish in the Sea		183
Missing Mountains and Plastic Oceans		186
The Great Corn Lawn		189
Death by Overpopulation		192
Chapter 7. The View from Mauna Loa		197
It's a Small World after All		200
Thresholds and Feedbacks		203
The Long-Range Weather Forecast		206
Impacts on the Landscape		207
The Human Landscape		209
Mitigate, Adapt, or Suffer		212
PART III: THE WEALTH OF NATIONS		215
Chapter 8. Collision Course		219
The Harsh Light of Morning		219
Disruption in Supply		222
Shock and Aftershocks		227
Oil Skirmishes, Oil Wars		231
The Global Economy as an Ecosystem		236
Diminishing Marginal Returns		243

10 CONTENTS

Chapter 9. Around the World in Eighty Depressions	247
The Next Half Century	247
The Oil Producers	248
The First-World Consumers	258
The New Consumers	279
Left Behind	290
Chapter 10. End of Empire	295
A Multipolar World	295
Shortening the Interregnum	299
PART IV: A GENERAL THEORY	303
Chapter 11. Ecology Is the Foundation of Economics	307
Phoenix	309
The Fundamental Need for Growth	311
There Is No Such Thing as a Free Lunch	314
The Jevons Paradox	320
Chapter 12. A New Foundation	323
The Low-Hanging Fruit	324
A Nuclear-Hydrogen Economy?	326
A Renewable Energy Economy?	330
Food That Doesn't Cost the Earth	331
A Land Ethic	341
Breaking the Fertility Trap	343
Lifeboat Ethics	351

	CONTENTS	11
Chapter 13. Reconnecting		353
Is Socialism Dead, and Is Capitalism Doomed?		355
The Triumph of the Commons		360
Community of Nations, Nations of Communities		364
A Call to Arms		367
Acknowledgments		373
Notes		375
Index		407