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A Very Short Introduction

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Nuclear Power A Very Short Introduction:

Nuclear Power Maxwell Irvine, 2011-05-26 With the World desperate to find energy sources that do not emit carbon gasses nuclear power is back on the agenda and in the news following the increasing cost of fossil fuels and concerns about the security of their future supply However the term nuclear power causes anxiety in many people and there is confusion concerning the nature and extent of the associated risks Here Maxwell Irvine presents a concise introduction to the development of nuclear physics leading up to the emergence of the nuclear power industry. He discusses the nature of nuclear energy and deals with various aspects of public concern considering the risks of nuclear safety the cost of its development and waste disposal Dispelling some of the widespread confusion about nuclear energy Irvine considers the relevance of nuclear power the potential of nuclear fusion and encourages informed debate about its potential ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable **Power: A Very Short Introduction** John Maxwell Irvine, 2013 **Nuclear Weapons: A Very Short Introduction** Joseph M. Siracusa, 2015-04-23 Despite not having been used in anger since Hiroshima and Nagasaki the atomic bomb is still the biggest threat that faces us in the 21st century As Bill Clinton's first secretary of defence Les Aspin aptly put it The Cold War is over the Soviet Union is no more But the post Cold War world is decidedly not post nuclear For all the effort to reduce nuclear stockpiles to zero it seems that the bomb is here to stay This Very Short Introduction reveals why The history and politics of the bomb are explained from the technology of nuclear weapons to the revolutionary implications of the H bomb and the politics of nuclear deterrence The issues are set against a backdrop of the changing international landscape from the early days of development through the Cold War In this new edition Joseph M Siracusa includes a new concluding chapter moving away from the emphasis of nuclear weapons in the age of terrorism to the significant lessons to be learnt from the history of the nuclear weapons era Siracusa shows that because 21st century nuclear proliferation has deep roots in the past an understanding of the lessons of this nuclear history is paramount for future global policies to be successful ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable Nuclear Weapons Joseph M. Siracusa, 2020-09-24 Nuclear weapons have not been used in anger since the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 Yet even after the Cold War the Bomb is still the greatest threat facing humankind As President Bill Clinton's first secretary of defence Les Aspin put it The Cold War is over the Soviet Union is no more But the post Cold War world is decidedly not post nuclear For all the efforts to reduce nuclear stockpiles the

Bomb is here to stay This Very Short Introduction looks at the science of nuclear weapons and how they differ from conventional weapons Tracing the story of the nuclear bomb Joseph Siracusa chronicles the race to acquire the H bomb a thermonuclear weapon with revolutionary implications and the history of early arms control nuclear deterrence and non proliferation He also tracks the development of nuclear weapons from the origins of the Cold War in 1945 to the end of Moscow dominated Communism in 1991 and examines the promise and prospect of missile defence including Ronald Reagan s Star Wars and George W Bush s National Missile Defence This third edition includes a new chapter on the development of nuclear weapons and the policies they have generated since the end of the Cold War ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject guickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable Renewable Energy: A Very Short Introduction Nick Jelley, 2020-02-27 Energy is vital for a good standard of living and much of the world's population does not have enough Affordable and adequate sources of power that do not cause climate change or pollution are crucial and renewables provide the answer Wind and solar farms can now provide the cheapest electricity in many parts of the world Moreover they could provide all of the world's energy needs But while market forces are fast helping the transition from fossil fuels to renewables there are opposing pressures such as the USA s proposed withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and the vested interests in fossil fuels This Very Short Introduction describes the main renewable sources of energy solar wind hydropower and biomass as well as the less well developed ones geothermal tidal and wave Nick Jelley explains the challenges of integrating renewables into electricity grids and the need for energy storage and for clean heat and discusses the opportunities in developing countries for renewable energy to empower millions He also considers international efforts and policies to support renewables and tackle climate change and explains recent innovations in wind and solar energy production battery storage and in the emerging power to gas provision for clean heating Throughout he emphasises what renewable energy can deliver and its importance in tackling climate change and in improving health welfare and access to electricity ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable Energy Systems: A Very Short Introduction Nick Jenkins, 2019-11-28 Modern societies require energy systems to provide energy for cooking heating transport and materials processing as well as for electricity generation Energy systems include the primary fuel its conversion and transport to the point of use In many cases this primary fuel is still a fossil fuel a one use resource derived from a finite supply within our planet causing considerable damage to the environment After 300 years of increasing reliance on fossil fuels particularly coal it is becoming ever clearer that the present energy systems need

to change In this Very Short Introduction Nick Jenkins explores our historic investment in the exploitation of fossil energy resources and their current importance and discusses the implications of our increasing rate of energy use He considers the widespread acceptance by scientists and policy makers that our energy systems must reduce emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases and looks forward to the radical changes in fuel technology that will be necessary to continue to provide energy supplies in a sustainable manner and extend access across the developing world Considering the impact of changing to an environmentally benign and low carbon energy system Jenkins also looks at future low carbon energy systems which would use electricity from a variety of renewable energy sources as well as the role of nuclear power in our energy use ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

Nuclear Power Harry Henderson, 2014-05-12 Provides timely and up to date facts context perspectives and tools to make informed decisions about nuclear energy In the 21st century nuclear power has been identified as a viable alternative to traditional energy sources to stem global climate change and condemned as risky to human health and environmentally irresponsible Do the advantages of nuclear energy outweigh the risks especially in light of the meltdown at the Fukushima plant in 2011 This guide provides both a comprehensive overview of this critical and controversial technology presenting reference tools that include important facts and statistics biographical profiles a chronology and a glossary It covers major controversies and proposed solutions in detail and contains contributions by experts and important stakeholders that provide invaluable perspective on the topic Engineering: A Very Short Introduction David Blockley, 2012-03-22 Engineering is part of almost everything we do from the water we drink and the food we eat to the buildings we live in and the roads and railways we travel on This book explores the nature and practice of engineering its history its scope and its relationship with Very Short Introductions for Curious Young Minds: The Shocking Truth about Energy Mike art science and technology Goldsmith, 2025-01-09 This title is one of an exciting series from Oxford giving accessible introductions to the ideas facts and vocabulary behind an absorbing range of subjects Meticulously researched and authoritative but written in simple and engaging way by experts in their fields curious young readers will quickly get to grips with the story basic principles and terminology of each subject The Shocking Truth about Energy explains the different types of energy including atomic energy and how we use it whether in a fridge or an internal combustion engine It introduces the scientists behind our knowledge along with the language and terminology used with the Speak like a Scientist features Comic strips and illustrations a timeline glossary and index all make this handy sized book the perfect way to discover and think about energy and its future Author Mike Goldsmith is a Doctor of Astrophysics works as a scientist and was shortlisted for Royal Society Prize for Science Writing Consultant Aimee Ambrose is Professor of Energy Policy at Sheffield Hallam University Radioactivity: A

Very Short Introduction Claudio Tuniz, 2012-07-26 Radioactivity the breakdown of unstable atomic nuclei releasing radiation is a fundamental process in nature and used to provide important applications in science medicine and energy production But it remains misunderstood and feared In this Very Short Introduction Claudio Tuniz explains the nature and mechanisms of **Nuclear Physics: A Very Short Introduction** Frank Close, 2015-07-23 Nuclear physics began long before the identification of fundamental particles with J J Thomson's discovery of the electron at the end of the 19th century which implied the existence of a positive charge in the atom to make it neutral In this Very Short Introduction Frank Close gives an account of how this area of physics has progressed including the recognition of how heavy nuclei are built up in the cores of stars and in supernovae the identification of quarks and gluons and the development of quantum chromodynamics QCD Exploring key concepts such as the stability of different configurations of protons and neutrons in nuclei Frank Close shows how nuclear physics brings the physics of the stars to Earth and provides us with important applications particularly in medicine ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly International Security: A Very Short Introduction Christopher S. Browning, 2013-10-24 Since the end of the readable Cold war the international security agenda has become increasingly important This Very Short Introduction considers traditional topics such as war and peace military strategy and nuclear weapons alongside other issues such as climate change international migration poverty and international terrorism Environmental Economics: A Very Short Introduction Stephen Smith, 2011-09-22 Environmental economics can be controversial but it is also central to some key policy issues facing governments and society today including industrial pollution global warming and waste recycling Stephen Smith looks at how economic activity affects the environment in which we live and how environmental policies can most effectively be used Revisiting Nuclear Power Anne C. Cunningham, 2017-07-15 In an era defined by anxiety over global warming and the search for alternative fuel sources nuclear power is rarely part of the conversation It promises limitless power and a drastic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions worldwide Yet it is by no means perfectly safe or clean as Three Mile Island Chernobyl and Fukushima remind us Even so thirty countries are operating 444 reactors accounting for almost 11 percent of the world's electricity production. The debate over nuclear energy is a fierce and emotional one and arguments agendas assumptions and factual information must be scrutinized meticulously and carefully This volume allows readers to do just that as they begin to form their own opinions on the viability of nuclear power War and Technology: A Very Short <u>Introduction</u> Alex Roland, 2016-09-01 The war instinct is part of human nature but the means to fight war depend on technology Alex Roland traces the co evolution of technology and warfare from the Stone Age to the age of cyberwar describing the inventions that changed the direction of warfare throughout history from fortified walls the chariot battleships

and the gunpowder revolution to bombers rockets improvised explosive devices IEDs and nuclear weapons In the twenty first century new technologies continue to push warfare in unexpected directions while warfare stimulates stunning new technological advances Yet even now the newest and best technology cannot guarantee victory Brimming with dramatic narratives of battles and deep insights into military psychology this book shows that although military technologies keep changing at great speed the principles and patterns behind them abide Minerals: A Very Short Introduction David Vaughan, 2014-10-23 Minerals existed long before any forms of life playing a key role in the origin and evolution of life an interaction with biological systems that we are only now beginning to understand Exploring the traditional strand of mineralogy which emphasises the important mineral families the well established analytical methods optical microscopy and X ray diffraction and the dramatic developments made in techniques over recent decades David Vaughan also introduces the modern strand of mineralogy which explores the role minerals play in the plate tectonic cycle and how they interact with the living world Demonstrating how minerals can be critical for human health and illness by providing essential nutrients and releasing poisons Vaughan explores the multitude of ways in which minerals have aided our understanding of the world ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

Tides: A Very Short Introduction David George Bowers, Emyr Martyn Roberts, 2019-11-28 The tide is the greatest synchronised movement of matter on our planet Every drop of seawater takes part in tidal motion driven by the gravitational pull of the moon and sun At the coast we see the tide as a twice daily rise and fall of sea level that moves the edge of the sea up and down a beach or cliff face In some places the tide is small but at others it can rise in a few hours by the height of a three storey building it then has to be treated with great respect by those who live and work by the sea In this Very Short Introduction David George Bowers and Emyr Martyn Roberts explore what we know about the tides Blending clear explanations of well known tidal phenomena with recent insights in the deep ocean and coastal seas Bowers and Roberts use examples from around the world to tell the story of the tide considering its nature and causes its observation and prediction and unusual tides and their relevance They explore why tides have attracted the attention of some of the world's greatest scientists from the initial challenge of explaining why there are two tides a day when the moon and sun pass overhead just once a problem that was solved by Isaac Newton In the 19th century scientists unravelled the rhythms of the tide good tidal predictions in the form of tide tables were then possible The predictions were made on beautiful tide predicting machines constructed of brass and mahogany some of which can still be seen in maritime museums In the 20th century the importance of tides as mixers of sea water became evident As Bowers and Roberts explore tidal mixing of the ocean is essential for maintaining its deep circulation a key part of the climate control system of our planet In inshore waters tidal mixing

enhances biological productivity influences sea temperature and turbidity and creates dramatic features such as maelstroms and tidal bores In the 21st century space probes are examining the effects of tidal processes on the moons of Jupiter and Saturn and the possibility of tidally heated liquid oceans with their own ecosystems Looking to the cutting edge of tidal research Bowers and Roberts also consider how we can study the role of the tide in the geological and biological evolution of our own planet with innovative computer models ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject guickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable The 1950s James S. Olson, Mariah Gumpert, 2018-10-01 This volume serves as an invaluable guide to key political social and cultural concepts of the 1950s This volume covers the entire decade of the 1950s from the uneasy peace following World War II to the beginnings of cultural discontent that would explode in the 1960s It highlights key historical social and cultural elements of the period including the Cold War and perceived communist threat the birth of the middle class and establishment of consumer culture the emergence of the civil rights movement and the normalization of youth rebellion and rock and roll An introduction presents the historical themes of the period and an alphabetical encyclopedic entries relating to period specific themes comprises the core reference material in the book The book also contains a range of primary documents with introductions and a sample Documents Based Essay Question Other features are a list of Top Tips for answering Documents Based Essay Questions a thematically tagged chronology and a list of specific learning objectives readers can use to gauge their working knowledge and understanding of the period Short Introduction for Curious Young Minds: The Causes and Impact of Climate Change Clive Gifford, 2023-09-14 This title is part of the important new series from Oxford which provides accessible introductions to the ideas facts and vocabulary behind an absorbing range of subjects Meticulously researched and authoritative but written in simple language by experts in their fields curious youngreaders will quickly get to grips with the basic principles and terminology of each subject The Causes and Impacts of Climate Change explains in a clear and interesting way what climate is and why it s changing what greenhouse gases are and how they are changing the climate and how we can slow down this process The engaging design highlights the Heroes of the subject from early beginnings to modern day and picks out and explains tricky terminology in Speak like a Scientist features Comic strips illustrations amazing photographs and a timeline as well as a glossary and index all make this handy sized book the perfect way to learn If you love this title why not collect them all The Causes and Impacts of Climate Change is part of a collectible set which will explore a diverse range of subjects **Topology** Richard Earl, 2020-01-11 How is a subway map different from other maps What makes a knot knotted What makes the M bius strip one sided These are questions of topology the mathematical study of properties preserved by twisting or stretching objects In the 20th century topology became as broad and fundamental as algebra and geometry with important implications

for science especially physics In this Very Short Introduction Richard Earl gives a sense of the more visual elements of topology looking at surfaces as well as covering the formal definition of continuity Considering some of the eye opening examples that led mathematicians to recognize a need for studying topology he pays homage to the historical people problems and surprises that have propelled the growth of this field ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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