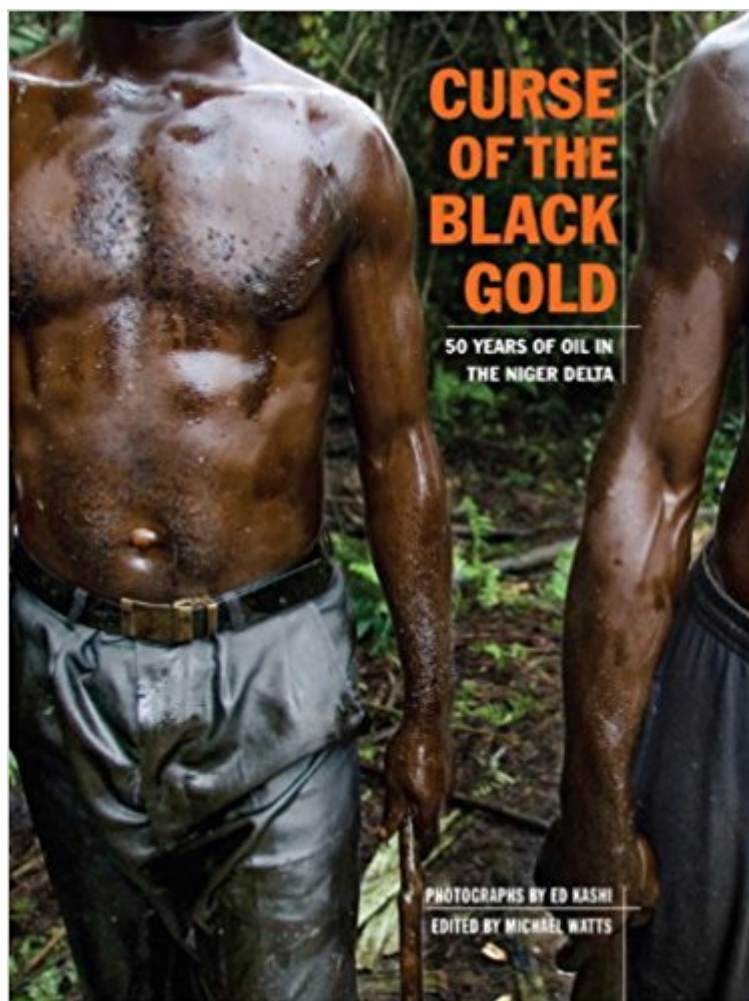


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Curse Of The Black Gold: 50 Years Of Oil In The Niger Delta



Synopsis

Curse of the BlackGold: 50 Years of Oil in the Niger Delta takes a graphic look at the profound cost of oil exploitation in West Africa. Featuring images by world-renowned photojournalist Ed Kashi and text by prominent Nigerian journalists, human rights activists, and University of California at Berkeley professor Michael Watts, this book traces the 50-year history of Nigeria's oil interests and the resulting environmental degradation and community conflicts that have plagued the region. Now one of the major suppliers of U.S. oil, Nigeria is the sixth largest producer of oil in the world. Set against a backdrop of what has been called the scramble for African oil, *Curse of the Black Gold* is the first book to document the consequences of a half-century of oil exploration and production in one of the world's foremost centers of biodiversity. This book exposes the reality of oil's impact and the absence of sustainable development in its wake, providing a compelling pictorial history of one of the world's great deltaic areas. Accompanied by powerful writing by some of the most prominent public intellectuals and critics in contemporary Nigeria, Kashi's photographs capture local leaders, armed militants, oil workers, and nameless villagers, all of whose fates are inextricably linked. His exclusive coverage bears witness to the ongoing struggles of local communities, illustrating the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty. The publication of *Curse of the Black Gold* occurs at a moment of worldwide concern over dependency on petroleum, dubbed by New York Times journalist Thomas Friedman as "the resource curse." Much has been written about the drama of the search for oil—Daniel Yergin's *The Prize* and Ryszard Kapuscinski's *Shah of Shahs* are two of the most widely lauded—but there has been no serious examination of the relations between oil, environment, and community in a particular oil-producing region. *Curse of the Black Gold* is a landmark work of historic significance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ed Kashi was born in New York City and received a degree in photojournalism from Syracuse University. Kashi's first major documentary project, a study of the Protestant community in Northern Ireland, garnered him an NEA grant. His book *When The Borders Bleed: The Struggle of the Kurds* (Pantheon, 1994) was the result of his cover story for National Geographic. Kashi has received numerous awards, including those from the World Press and Pictures of the Year competitions. The author of *Aging in America: The Years Ahead* (powerHouse Books, 2003), Kashi has also published his work in National Geographic, The New York Times Magazine, Time, Fortune, Geo, Smithsonian, Newsweek, Natural History, U.S. News & World Report, The Atlantic Monthly, Audubon, Granta, Aperture, and American Photo, among others. Kashi lives in New Jersey. Michael Watts is Chancellor's Professor and Director of African Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. His writing on the Niger Delta has been widely published, and he received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2001 to conduct research on oil in Nigeria.

Book was in good shape and very interesting.

This book is both informational and filled with amazing photos. Very interesting: it goes beyond surface details, and makes a great coffee table book. If you have humanitarian leanings or care about ecological disasters you will be deeply moved by this book.

Building on my love for Michael Watts, this book is simply phenomenal. Watts and Kashi have gathered some of the best photographs I've seen of the Niger Delta crisis, and assembled them with compelling accounts of the crisis by activists and academics. No doubt, this book will not only encourage you to explore the issue in greater detail but the previous works of both Watts and Kashi as well. Please buy this book! It is an important read, it's extremely moving, and it's a steal at the price.

This is a well laid out book with excellent photos and interesting story test. i recommend this book.

Satisfied.

I just returned from working in Port Harcourt for several months. This is a very graphic book from people who were able to penetrate the heart of the Niger Delta with pictures that very few people would otherwise be able to see.

Full of stunning pictures, with concise but powerful text, this book is both breath taking and heart breaking.

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