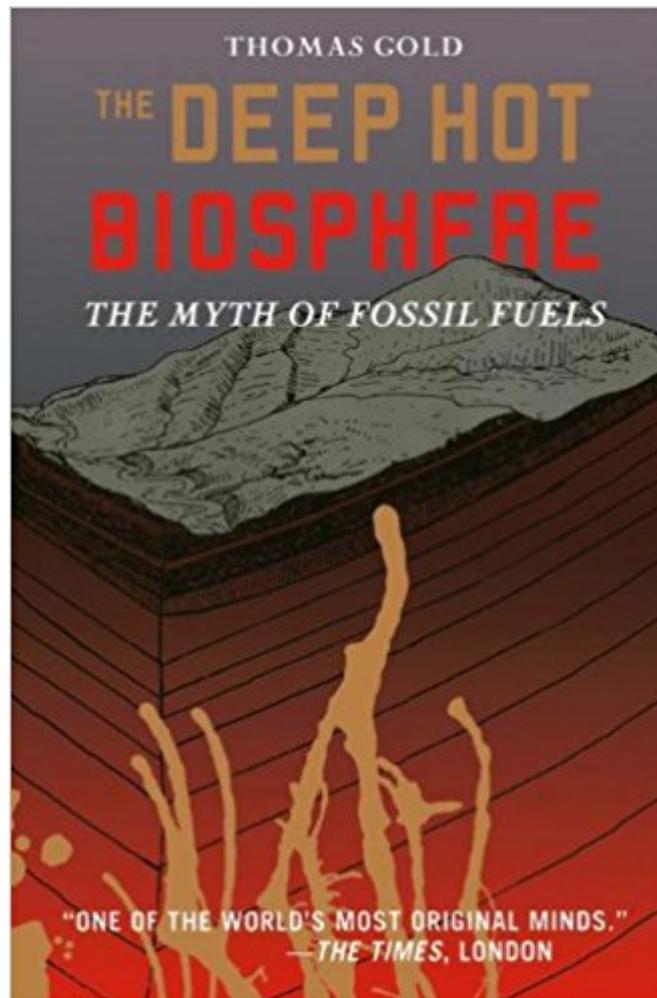




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# The Deep Hot Biosphere: The Myth Of Fossil Fuels



## Synopsis

This book sets forth a set of truly controversial and astonishing theories: First, it proposes that below the surface of the earth is a biosphere of greater mass and volume than the biosphere the total sum of living things on our planet's continents and in its oceans. Second, it proposes that the inhabitants of this subterranean biosphere are not plants or animals as we know them, but heat-loving bacteria that survive on a diet consisting solely of hydrocarbons that is, natural gas and petroleum. And third and perhaps most heretically, the book advances the stunning idea that most hydrocarbons on Earth are not the byproduct of biological debris ("fossil fuels"), but were a common constituent of the materials from which the earth itself was formed some 4.5 billion years ago. The implications are astounding. The theory proposes answers to often-asked questions: Is the deep hot biosphere where life originated, and do Mars and other seemingly barren planets contain deep biospheres? Even more provocatively, is it possible that there is an enormous store of hydrocarbons upwelling from deep within the earth that can provide us with abundant supplies of gas and petroleum? However far-fetched these ideas seem, they are supported by a growing body of evidence, and by the indisputable stature and seriousness Gold brings to any scientific debate. In this book we see a brilliant and boldly original thinker, increasingly a rarity in modern science, as he develops potentially revolutionary ideas about how our world works.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From the reviews: "always original, always important, usually controversial, and usually right"-

FROM THE FOREWORD BY FREEMAN DYSON "an extraordinary theory from one of the world's most original minds."- NIGEL HAWKES, THE TIMES, LONDON "The leading supporter of the abiotic theory in the U.S. is Prof. Thomas Gold of Cornell. His 1999 book, *The Deep Hot Biosphere* (Springer-Verlag) is a thorough discussion of the issues. It is based in part on research financed by the U.S. Geological Survey. Among prominent scientists whose work supports the abiotic theory are Jean Whelan of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Mahlon Kennicutt of Texas A&M University, and J.F. Kenny of the Gas Resources Corporation."

<http://www.humaneventsonline.com/article.php?id=4092> "There is much to be said about this important book. Gold exhibits the irreversible and universal genius that we recognize in Aristotle and Leonardo da Vinci. The versatility and range of knowledge exhibited is remarkable. The *Deep Hot Biosphere* is a highly interesting and important book; it should be required reading for every geology student." (David Deming, *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, Vol. 17 (2), 2003)

"Thomas Gold is a physicist who is not afraid of controversy. His big new theory is that oil and natural gas are produced by geology and chemistry of the hot deep layers below the Earth's surface. The book is the best kind of science writing: contentious and passionate, with all the evidence there for you to weigh up." (New Scientist, August, 2001)

Thomas Gold is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and an Emeritus Professor of Physics at Cornell University. Regarded as one of the most creative and wide-ranging scientists of his generation, he has taught at Cambridge University and Harvard, and for 20 years was the Director of the Cornell Center for Radiophysics and Space Research.

"Fossil Fuel" is a term originated over a century ago. So much has changed since then, namely the progression of science and technology related to the field. This is a wonderful myth-busting read that includes conclusions from scientific method based experiments and educated hypotheses that have yet to be tested.

Very interesting book from a distinguished researcher that presents an alternate view of where oil comes from.

This is a marvelously readable and accessible book positing the theory that microbial life lives deep in the earth's crust, feeding off methane that percolates up from the earth's interior. The idea is well supported with evidence that supports his view. His theory appears to meet the Occam's Razor

requirement for the simplest explanation to be true. If correct, the theory provides an abiogenic explanation for fossil fuels, veins of metals and possibly for a deep, hot origin of life. This book supports the theory that life can originate far more widely than generally believed using the surface conditions model (sunlight and water) and thus may be present on other bodies of the solar system, including the moon and Mars. To me this is a great potential test of the theory and is particularly relevant for Mars now that methane has been detected in the atmosphere. The current debate is whether this is abiogenic or biogenic (created by methanogens), but Gold's hypothesis would suggest that the methane's origin is almost irrelevant, life may be below the surface feeding on the methane. If Gold is correct, we might expect to see macro presence of oil and coal seams, exposed on crater walls and valley cliffs. Analyzing this material, if found, for metabolic and structural products would indicate the presence of life. In other words, the "search for water" approach adopted by Nasa, while appropriate for surface based life, might be missing the real picture by searching in the wrong place. This book is a real eye opener for those of us who were educated to believe that the evidence for carbon fuels favored a surface biogenic source. Highly recommended.

With real science, Gold puts paid to "Fossil" Fuels and Peak Oil. Like the Shadow, Tyson knows!

A must read. This should be required reading in universities.

This book provides a good starting place for the exploration of the myths about the original formation of the materials commonly called "Fossil Fuels", that is petroleum and black coal. The change of assumptions discussed here alters many things, including the understanding of the geo-politics of oil and energy. Gold is a smart cookie and after you read the book you will see that an open minded astronomer would be a logical candidate to understand and develop this theory. New only to many western minds. The Russians have worked on this for a long time and their knowledge was the seed germ for Gold's work here. Worth the time to read. dxr

The Deep Hot Biosphere was a very interesting book in the fact that I have long believed that oil doesn't come from the remains of dinosaurs and swamps. Gold hit on many excellent points. The real scientific data that Gold provides can get a bit dry, but he makes a great case on the deception we have all been under about the so called oil shortage. I recommend The Deep Hot Biosphere for anyone who wants to know what is really happening and I would also recommend people read The Black Gold Stranglehold - The Myth of Scarcity and Politics of Oil - by Jerome R Corsi, Ph.D. and

Craig R. Smith, CEO, Swiss America

You can learn a lot from certain atheists. I'm not being facetious. Jesse Ventura is a good example because the men behind the curtains are not invisible to him. Thomas Gold is another good example of the fact that while an atheist may be tragically blind in one category of life, it does not necessarily mean unbelief is blind in every category. I came of age in the 1970's, and I remember when it was widely reported that the global supply of crude oil would be exhausted in just a matter of decades. Gold points out that this dire prediction failed to materialize because the mainstream scientific assumptions that undergirded that idea are flawed. Gold refutes the common belief that petroleum is of biogenic origin, but is instead derived from the initial materials that formed the earth. In other words, there's a domain of life down deep that produces oil and gas - it did not come from the remains of expired surface life that sank down under. Of course, if this theory of Gold (and the Russian researchers he mentioned in the book) is correct, the practical ramifications transcend the borders of science. If the deep, hot biosphere becomes an accepted reality, industrial searches for earth resources will gratefully adapt, and indeed, at least some momentum in that awakening commercial mode has already begun. Along with Hermann Bondi in another book, Gold put forth the steady-state theory of the universe which sees Big Bangs as cyclical events that have always existed and always will. Of course, the need for a Creator is neatly dismissed by the steady-state theory. Gold also understands that the process of photosynthesis is too complex a process to have evolved by random mutation and natural selection among the complex life forms known on the surface of our planet. He clearly views the thesis of this book as being the best solution to that issue. The needed long ages of developmental evolution could have brewed underfoot long before there was a foot above. In a discussion of autocatalytic molecules inhabiting the subsurface of the earth, Gold attempts to rescue random chance from the inescapable dungeon of statistical improbability. Well, that arrow missed. His chapter nine is about the origin of life. I know, I know, an atheist on the origin of life, but just wait. Some people evidently believe that panspermia means that sentient aliens intentionally seeded our planet with life from their spaceships or from some other unknown mode of interplanetary travel. I did not expect Gold to support such a dubious notion, and I was not disappointed. The panspermia Gold postulates is interplanetary microbial infection at random and by meteorites. And it was the deep, hot biosphere that was infected and evolved, not surface life. For Gold, the simpler life forms of the deep could much better evolve and develop without direction and design. Only later could surface life develop - long after the simpler forms had gotten the evolutionary ball rolling. These are not just wild ideas on Gold's part. He presents good

logic and evidence to support all that he says short of his underlying left-turn assumption that there is no Creator. The next time I hear the term fossil fuels, I'll know better than to swallow that meme thanks to Gold. He is, I believe, right about the origin of oil and gas in one breath, despite the atheism of his next breath. This book is not about his unbelief, and since it is not, but is instead a well written book explaining a "deep" alternative of the origin of oil and various gases, I gave it 5 stars.

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