

RICHARD PACHTER

CREATIVITY ETC.

PAGES

[Portfolio](#)

SEARCH

Search this Site

Go

CONTACT RICHARD PACHTER

[Click here to email me.](#)

FOLLOW ME ON [twitter](#)

[See my LinkedIn profile here.](#)

MY OTHER ONLINE HANGOUTS

[Biz Books Club](#)

[WordsOnWords.com](#)

[The Friggin' Gourmet](#)

[Joke Books: Words on Pictures](#)

AND

[South Florida Real Estate](#)

[Montage \(music\)](#)

BUY ME A REFRESHING BEVERAGE

Donate



Showing posts sorted by relevance for query **oil addiction**. Sort by date [Show all posts](#)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2008

Edwin Black Q&A



An edited version of this interview appears in the October 13th edition of The Miami Herald along with a review of the new book, The Plan.

Though based in Washington, DC, South Florida seems to be Edwin Black's second home. The peripatetic author's current and previous books were launched here, he frequently speaks at local events and visits to recharge a bit between writing and the promoting.

I first met Black after reviewing IBM and the Holocaust and have followed his successive work with great interest. During a recent visit in late August, we had a quick chat over lunch, then a flurry of phone calls and e-mails that resulted in this colloquy.

Why did you write this book? Specifically, why did you select this topic and the form it took; literally, a plan?

The Plan was an outgrowth of my commitment to tackle America's addiction to oil in the age of petro-terrorism and petro-politics. I've spent my life chronicling a terrible past in hopes of preserving a precious future. My oil addiction books – this is my second – documents a precious past juxtaposed



SUBSCRIBE TO

 Posts

 All Comments

INDEX

- ▼ 2018 (2)
 - ▼ June (1)
 - Comics, Seriously
 - ▶ January (1)
- ▶ 2016 (3)
- ▶ 2014 (1)
- ▶ 2012 (5)
- ▶ 2011 (9)
- ▶ 2010 (31)
- ▶ 2009 (92)
- ▶ 2008 (197)

FEEDJIT LIVE TRAFFIC FEED

against a terrible future. Our addiction to oil is a clear and present danger. But *The Plan* is not about energy independence which is, at best, a distant goal. *The Plan* outlines how to recognize and survive an energy Pearl Harbor imposing an oil interruption on America—this can come at any moment. This crisis will require a plan to survive. Amazingly, no government official, local or federal, has even discussed such a plan – but our allies have.

How long did it take to research and writing the Plan?

Most of my books require one to two years of intense writing and research, much of it in dusty archives located in numerous countries. *The Plan* was different. Centering on the confluence of historic precedent, existing energy policy and the threats against the Strait of Hormuz, I was able to write this book in about six months with the help of only half dozen research assistants. My established paper-intensive, on-site documentation techniques were converted to electronic and computerized methods. Therefore, I was able to footnote every paragraph and organize the documentation as usual, but using Internet databases and reducing everything to a series of Adobe PDFs, rather than yards of archival documents.

In your earlier books, you encountered resistance from some of the companies that were profiled, specifically IBM and GM. Who wouldn't speak to you this time, and did they seek to prevent others from cooperating with you?

This time it was certain groups within the Department of Energy, and certain industrial association such as the American Trucking Association and oil industry group. But *The Plan* yielded a tremendous turnaround in one company, General Motors. In my previous investigations, General Motors would not answer any questions or even communicate. They tried to stonewall and rebut their involvement with the Hitler regime and the subversion of America's trolley system. After three years of the most negative publicity based on my writings and facing bankruptcy, GM underwent a complete turnaround. The response time of their media department was this time measured in minutes – indeed moments. This time, they were honest, admitted all their past misdeeds, but were also quick to explain their fresh new commitment to the electrification of their fleet beginning 2010. If GM can be believed, it will be a major part of the solution to getting off oil.

Has your book reached either of the presidential candidates? If so, any feedback?

In my opinion, nothing can reach any of the presidential candidates. No matter how good a plan is, they will be oblivious to it. Between McCain offering a \$300,000,000 bonus for a battery invented decades ago and Obama offering to position one million plug-in hybrids seven years from today, when there will probably be 300 million gas guzzlers on the road, increasing at the rate of 1.5 million per month, it became clear to me that while someone needs to provide them with a copy of *The Plan*, I think they are too busy making empty promises and using alt energy buzzwords to absorb any new ideas. Between the old guard

AdChoices

Janis Joplin

Jazz Artists

Add to Technorati Favorites

and the new guard, in the event of an oil interruption, America will discover that its leadership has been uniformly negligent. There will be a Katrina-style catastrophe in every city from South Beach to Seattle. No one will care until it is too late.

Beyond promoting this book, what's the next step for you in trying to secure the implementation of *The Plan*?

I'm just one man working with no help with no one's permission rallying a diverse national movement of alt energy advocates who are only now awakening to the reality that beyond the warm and fuzzy goal of energy independence, there is no plan for an energy interruption, which could occur at any moment. My website www.planforoilcrisis.com will bring people together to develop such plans. Not only am I speaking to public groups around the country in book and author events, I am meeting with key industry leaders, employers and organizations explaining exactly how they can help get a plan for their company, association and community. In fact, my very first meeting the day before I officially launched the book in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, was a closed-door briefing with two key magnates in the transportation sector who are determined to move aggressively to adopt a plan and to help get our country off oil. But I have found too many are reacting too slowly to the necessity to learn about the coming hurricane in the Gulf...not the Gulf of Mexico but the Persian Gulf, which holds the key to 40 percent of all seaborne oil, 18 percent of the global supply and 15 to 20 percent of America's oil lifeline. It can all be shut down by Iran or Al Qaeda at a slender choke point just two miles wide in each direction called the Strait of Hormuz.

What role does Nova University play in your book promotion?

Nova Southeastern University has been the launch pad for each of my books during the past several years. To me, Nova represents the most enlightened university management I have encountered, willing to commit its resources, its campus and its support to new ideas and the pursuit of new revelations. I have found Nova particularly interested in helping the country get off of oil by promoting the discussion and jumping at every chance to adopt new technology as soon as it's available. Unlike most universities which seek the aggrandizement of their own institution to the exclusion of others, I have found Nova exercises profound caring and sharing with the community.

Next book, tying all the American corporate Holocaust collaborators? Then what?

My next book is *Nazi Nexus*, already announced and should appear by the end of the year. *Nazi Nexus* will connect the dots like never before demonstrating the indispensable and pivotal involvement of America's major corporate entities in the Holocaust—it's inspiration, it's planning, its execution and its cover-up. These include, at the top of the list, IBM followed by General Motors, Ford, the Carnegie Institution and the Rockefeller Foundation. Assembled in one volume, the indictment should be devastating.

And after *Nazi Nexus*?

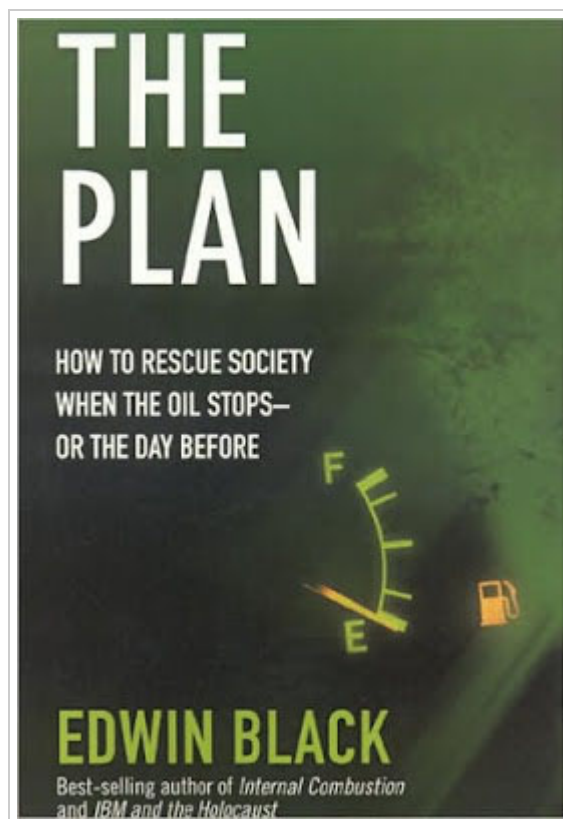
Another megabook just as frightening for our future as anything I've written about our past. It's called codenamed Project R, and I can't wait. But like all my projects, it will be a secret until it releases.

POSTED BY RAP AT [3:00 AM](#) 0 COMMENTS [SHARE THIS](#)

LABELS: EDWIN BLACK, INTERVIEW, REVIEWS, THE MIAMI HERALD

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2008

The Plan



Here's the actual review. (I like to give The Herald an exclusive for at least a day.)

Conquering our oil addiction

Edwin Black's book is enlightening without being at all depressing. No hyperbole or hysterics, but some suspension of disbelief is required.

BY RICHARD PACTER

published 10/13/08 in *The Miami Herald*

The Plan: How to Rescue Society the Day the Oil Stops — or the Day Before. Edwin Black. Dialog Press. 192 pages.

I was expecting a dark tale of gloom and doom, a post-apocalyptic tableau of a

born-again, prehistoric oil-free society. After all, Edwin Black is the author of the chillingly revelatory *IBM and the Holocaust*, a disheartening exposé of America's disgusting attraction to the racist pseudo-science of eugenics, *War Against The Weak*, and other sobering and impeccably researched investigative works.

Surely Black's new book about ending our country's self-destructive addiction to fossil fuels would be brilliant, but dark and deeply depressing.

Wrong!

Black states the problem clearly and without hyperbole or hysterics. He then presents a sane and remarkably rational step-by-step scheme for quitting our fossil fuel dependency. Along the way, he cites published, noncontroversial works plus his own primary research, which keeps the proceedings well out of the realm of science fiction, except perhaps for one element (I'll get to that in a bit).

IT'S NO ACCIDENT

The fact that this unending and expanding thirst for oil is the world's economic and political choke point is no accident, as Black recalls from his previous book, *Internal Combustion*. Throughout history, fuel has been controlled by political and commercial interests that were, as now, two sides of the same coin. And despite the fact that oil pollutes, affects all other prices and forces us to play nice with interests that are antithetical to our own, a huge socioeconomic infrastructure supports and promotes its perpetuation. But rather than pound the obvious, Black calmly sets the table, then moves on to his recommendations for extricating ourselves from the nightmare.

RATIONAL IDEAS

The required actions are all rational and involve the use of existing technologies -- electricity, bio-fuels, hydrogen fuel cells and more. Black lays it out week by week, with each successive step building upon previous ones to move away from the petroleum morass.

The auto industry will have to be a large part of the solution. One would consider this a no-brainer with the economy in the dumper right now. Manufacturing and selling gas-free vehicles could revive the industry.

But according to Black, automakers that have already developed the technology are reluctant to fully roll out new vehicles to compete with their large stock of unsold gas guzzlers. But the good news is that they would be forced to do so as their business spirals downward.

The challenge is to get past the incumbent infrastructure. Between lobbyists, politicians and the public, the addiction to oil is entrenched. That's where The

Plan requires some suspension of disbelief. With their profits on the line, we can expect a fierce and concerted campaign of fear, uncertainty, doubt and obfuscation to dissuade the migration from oil. The government, which should be part of the solution, is still a large part of the problem. The EPA, for example, makes conversion of internal combustion engines to alternative fuels more difficult, according to Black. And its determined indifference toward mileage standards has encouraged inefficiency, too.

So is Edwin Black's Plan the road map to our future? Maybe, but at worst, it's an excellent point of departure from our current suicidal path. Highly recommended.

POSTED BY RAP AT 6:00 AM 0 COMMENTS 

LABELS: EDWIN BLACK, REVIEWS, THE MIAMI HERALD, THE PLAN

[Home](#)

Subscribe to: Posts (Atom)

TECHNORATI

ADD TO TECHNORATI FAVORITES

LABELS

- 'N SYNC (1)
- "ANYTHING YOU WANT" (2)
 - "DIGNITY" (1)
 - "WE GOT LOVE" (1)
- "DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL" (1)
 - \$20 PER GALLON (1)
 - 100 BULLETS (1)
 - 27 CLUB (1)
 - 38 SPECIAL (1)
- A COMPLAINT IS A GIFT (1)
 - A FEW GOOD MEN (1)
- A SEASON IN HELL WITH THE ROLLING STONES (1)
 - A WHOLE NEW MIND (1)
 - A+M RECORDS (1)
 - AARON BARTELS (1)
 - AARON SORKIN (1)
 - ADULT SWIM (1)