

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xiii
INTRODUCTION	1
1. THE END OF CHEAP ENERGY	17
Recent Confirmations of an Imminent Oil Peak	23
The Petroleum Plateau and Beyond	34
Surveying the Plateau	37
The Natural Gas Quandary	45
A Perilous Prosperity	51
2. LAST ONE STANDING: THE WAY OF WAR AND COMPETITION ..	55
Can the Free Market Prevent Resource Wars?	58
The Case of Iraq	62
Just When We Needed Brilliant Leadership	67
Types of Resource Wars	78
The Path of Least Resistance	81
3. POWERDOWN: THE PATH OF SELF-LIMITATION, COOPERATION, AND SHARING	87
Requirements for Powerdown	93
The Paradox of Scale	102
Useful Precedents	104
Assessing the Prospects	108

4. WAITING FOR THE MAGIC ELIXIR: FALSE HOPES, WISHFUL	
THINKING, AND DENIAL	117
Unconventional Hydrocarbon Sources	119
High on Hydrogen	124
Why Even the Perfect Energy Source Will Not Sustain	
Growth Indefinitely	129
5. BUILDING LIFEBOATS: THE PATH OF COMMUNITY	
SOLIDARITY AND PRESERVATION	139
How Civilizations Collapse	141
Who Will survive?	150
Saving What Is Best	153
6. OUR CHOICE	163
The Choice of the Elites	167
The Choice of the Movement	172
The Choice of Us Folks	179
Looking Ahead	184
NOTES	187
INDEX	197
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	209