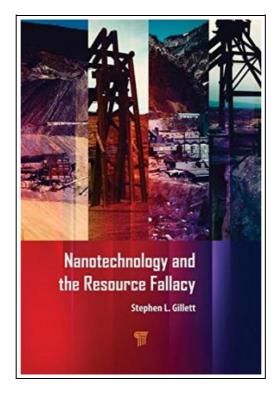
# Nanotechnology and the Resource Fallacy (Hardback)



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### NANOTECHNOLOGY AND THE RESOURCE FALLACY (HARDBACK)



Pan Stanford Publishing Pte Ltd, Singapore, 2018. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand New Book. Dwindling global supplies of conventional energy and materials resources are widely thought to severely constrain, or even render impossible, a first-world lifestyle for the bulk of Earth's inhabitants. This bleak prospect, however, is wrong. Current energy resources are used grotesquely inefficiently as heat (fuels, after all, are burned), so that well over half of the energy is simply dissipated into the environment. In turn, conventional materials resources, particularly of metals, are geologically anomalous deposits that also are typically processed by the prodigious application of raw heat. Simultaneously, rising levels of pollution worldwide are a challenge to remediate as they require the extraction of pollutants at low concentration. Nanotechnology, the structuring of matter at near-molecular scales, offers the prospect of solving all these problems at a stroke. Non-thermal use of energy, in broad emulation of what organisms do already, will not only lead to more efficient use but make practical diffuse sources such as sunlight. Pollution control and resource extraction become two aspects of the same fundamental problem, the low-energy extraction of particular substances from an arbitrary background of other substances, and this also is in emulation of what biosystems carry out already. This book sketches out approaches both for the efficient, non-thermal use of energy and the molecular extraction of solutes, primarily from aqueous solution, for purification, pollution control, and resource extraction. Some long-term implications for resource demand are also noted. In particular, defect-free fabrication at the molecular level is ultimately likely to make structural metals obsolete.



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