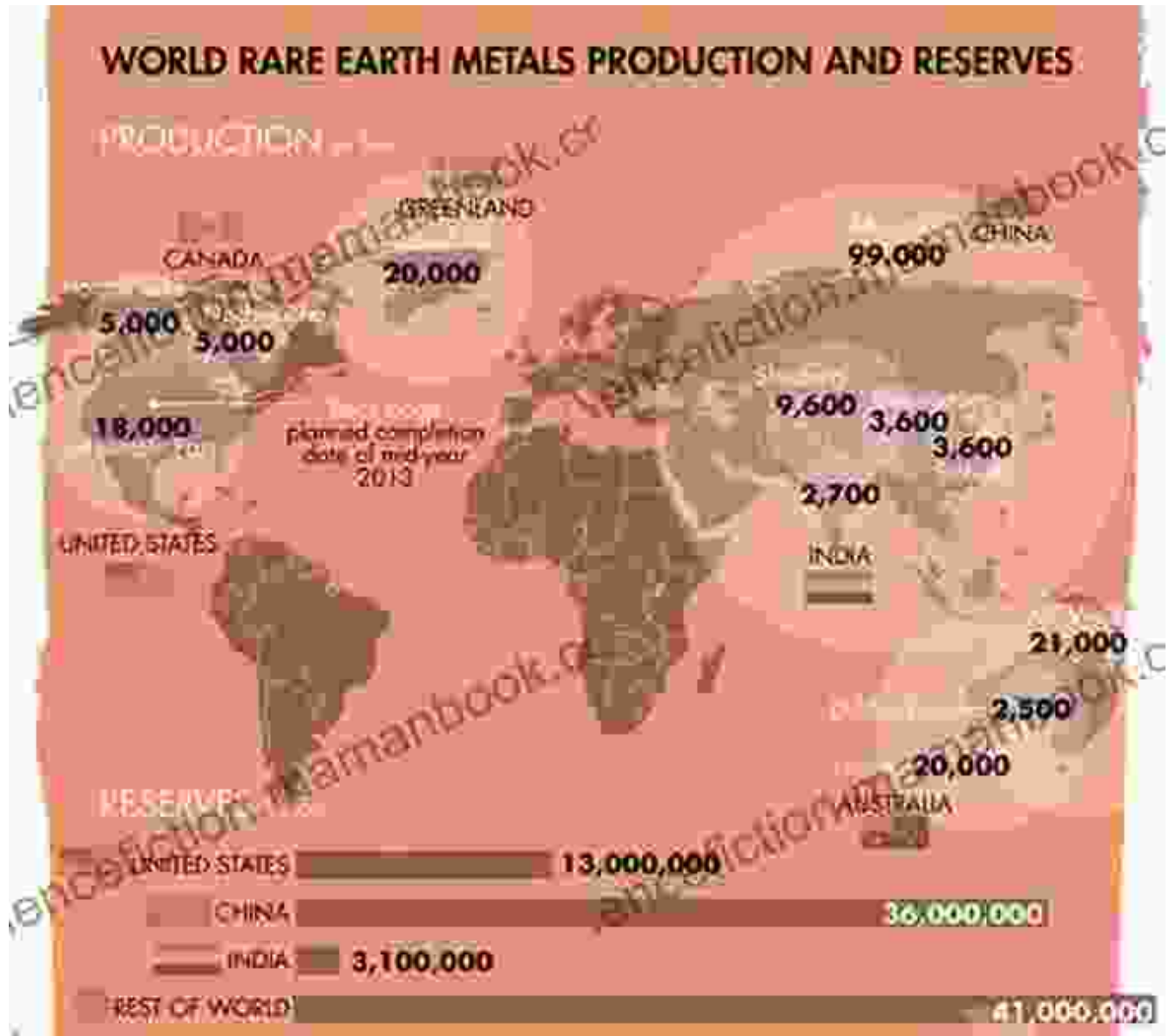


# The Rare Metals War: A Global Scramble for Essential Elements



The world is facing a growing crisis as it runs out of the rare metals that are essential for modern technology. These metals, which include elements like lithium, cobalt, and tantalum, are used in everything from electric vehicles to smartphones to solar panels.



## The Rare Metals War: the dark side of clean energy and digital technologies by Guillaume Pitron

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Print length : 262 pages



The demand for rare metals is soaring as the world transitions to a clean energy future. Electric vehicles, for example, require large amounts of lithium, while solar panels and wind turbines need cobalt and neodymium.

The supply of these metals, however, is limited. Rare metals are found in only a few deposits around the world, and many of these deposits are located in politically unstable countries.

As the demand for rare metals continues to grow, so too does the competition for these resources. This competition has led to a global "rare metals war," as countries scramble to secure access to these essential elements.

### **The Major Players in the Rare Metals War**

The major players in the rare metals war include China, the United States, and the European Union. China is the world's largest producer of rare

metals, and it has been using this dominance to secure access to new deposits around the world.

The United States is the world's largest consumer of rare metals, and it is increasingly concerned about its dependence on China for these resources. The European Union is also a major consumer of rare metals, and it is working to reduce its dependence on both China and Russia.

### **The Impact of the Rare Metals War**

The rare metals war is having a significant impact on the global economy. The rising prices of rare metals are making it more expensive to produce clean energy technologies, and this is slowing down the transition to a sustainable future.

The rare metals war is also having a political impact. The competition for these resources is leading to increased tensions between countries, and it is making it more difficult to address global challenges like climate change.

### **What Can Be Done to Address the Rare Metals War?**

There are a number of things that can be done to address the rare metals war. These include:

- Increasing the supply of rare metals by investing in new mining and refining projects.
- Developing new technologies that use less rare metals.
- Recycling rare metals from old products.
- Reducing the demand for rare metals by investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Addressing the rare metals war is a complex challenge, but it is essential for the global economy and the future of the planet. By working together, countries can secure access to these essential resources and mitigate the risks associated with the rare metals war.



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