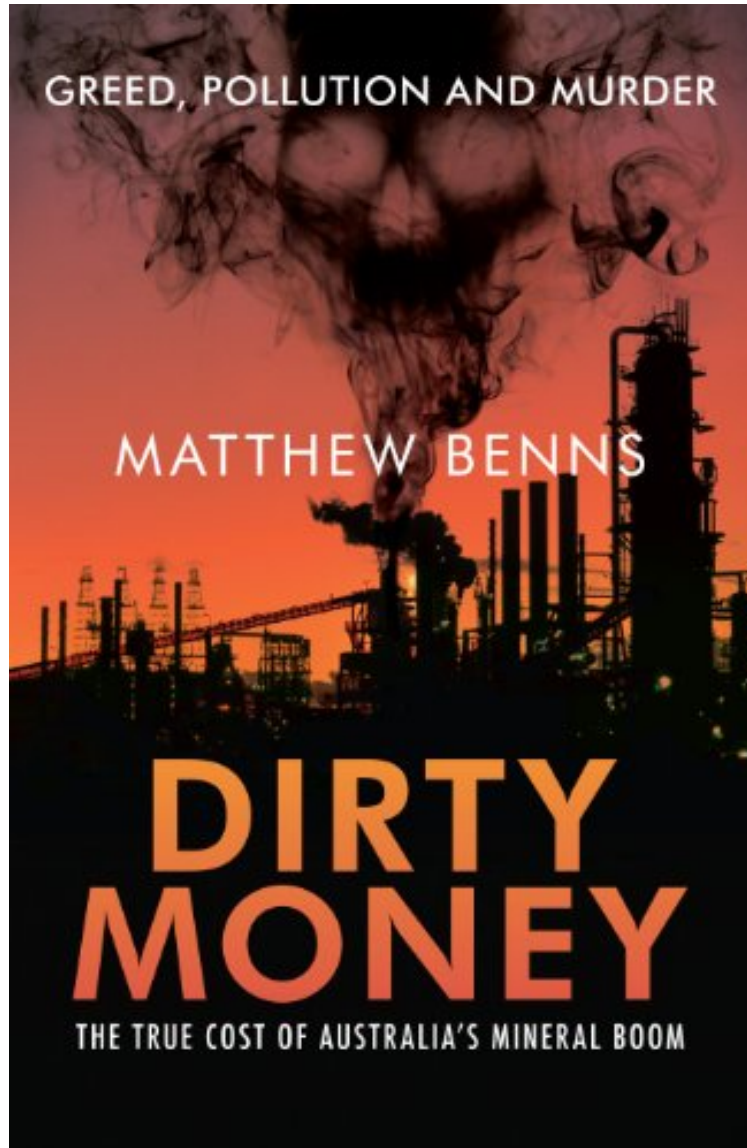


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Dirty Money

Matthew Bennis

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Matthew Bennis : Dirty Money before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dirty Money:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Litany of Australian Mining Sins from 1960 to 2012 By Malcolm Cameron
Dirty Money: The True Cost of Australia's Mineral Boom Greed, Pollution and Murder by Matthew Bennis
"Dirty Money" is a litany of Australian mining sins from 1960 to 2012. From Lithgow to The Congo, local revolution to bribery and a train derailment, it is more than "Australia's Mineral Boom" as it covers Australian companies operating in 17 countries and includes foreign companies within Australia. Despite the "Greed, Pollution

and Murder" headline, the book does not stretch to include murder, but a rough count gives 28 alleged sins over 46 events including dumping, pollution, finance, illegal phosphate import, inadequate compensation, hostile takeover, lobbying methods, political donations, and wheat for oil in Iraq. Other than the Eureka Stockade in 1854 and the Kalgoorlie race riots of 1934, there was an alleged dumping of drums of PCB's from Lithgow in 1960, and a train derailment spilling sodium cyanide at Condoblin NSW in 1992. The "murders" presumably refer to the local revolutions entangling Anvil Mining at Kilwa in The Congo in 2004 re military use of company trucks and the OK Tedi mine at Boganville New Guinea from 1980. However, the Trafigura event in Lagos, Nigeria is actually a foreign company in a foreign country. For that matter, Anvil Mining is headquartered in Montreal Canada and listed on both the Toronto Stock Exchange and the ASX. The 2010 court case was in Montreal as a Canadian company. And the "Exploitation licenses" issued in Mongolia since 2006 are presumably Exploration licenses. By recording these events, "Dirty Money" raises the issues of "limits to growth", development v's environment, operating standards and laws - local or Australian - in overseas operations, and responsibility including that of minority joint partners. As the majority of events are post-2000 these are current issues. New Hunter Valley coal mines, increased LNG exports through The Great Barrier Reef from Gladstone and fracking methods for coal seam gas are examples. Surprisingly, the Santos 18% minority interest in the Sidoarjo mud flow in East Java, Indonesia since May 2006 does not get a mention. Clearly mining and industry standards are a vital concern to be highlighted to all Australians but hopefully we have come some distance from Mark Twain's quote: "A mine is a hole in the ground with a liar on top". Malcolm Cameron 5 April 2012 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Greed and Rape By Peter R. Mueller It is a fantastic summary of endless greed and the disregard of nature and human beings. It is also a frightening account of the rape of our natural environment. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well researched, well written By Tracam Dirty Money is a superbly told story of greed and corruption in the mining industry in Australia. The first chapter "Death in the Congo" is chilling and difficult to believe. "Murder for Money" would've been an equally appropriate title. Benns' research is meticulous, and it had to be, because many of his claims, had they not been true, would've given rise to defamation actions.

The true story of Australia's vast mineral wealth and the men and companies digging in the dirt to get it. Mining is a dirty business. At home mining is impacting on the lives of every Australian. In Esperance in Western Australia a doctor called for the lead levels in children to be checked after 4000 birds died in a few months. Lead from WA mines was suspected. In Kalgoorlie Newmont mining admitted dumping 7000 tonnes of poisonous mercury over the city in just 12 months. It causes chronic brain and kidney damage. In Tasmania 30km of the Arthur River has been killed by the run-off from the Mt Bischoff tin mine. In Queensland illegal mining pollution is damaging the Barrier Reef while in Darwin a uranium mine sits in the middle of Kakadu National Park - both World Heritage sites. These are issues that affect Australians today. Pollution from mining is entering water courses and the drinking supply of every one of us. The toxic effects are deadly. Overseas, Australians like to boast of their green credentials but it is our mining companies who are representing a very different side of Australia to the world. Australian Mining companies oppose legislation that would apply the same standards to their work offshore as they have at home. In Australia Rio Tinto promises: "Employees will be protected to the best of the company's ability against harassment in the workplace." In Indonesia it is being investigated by the National Human Rights Commission over sexual abuse of underage children at its Kelian mine. BHP's own Guide to Business Conduct promises: "It is BHP's policy to achieve a high standard of environmental care." But that did not stop the massive environmental disaster at its now notorious Ok Tedi mine in Papua New Guinea. This is not a dry business book. This is a story of a greed that has defined a nation. It will take us from the earliest mining scams and scandals to the pollution of the present day. It is a story of how communities in Australia and across the world have risen up to fight for their land. And it will tell how rich men in boardrooms in major Australian cities thousands of kilometres away have forged dirty deals to sweep them aside. It will tell us just who those men are and what drives them. Newspaper and television reports merely scratch the surface. The true story of Australia's mining industry is told dramatically and in full. It is a book every Australian needs to read because it the story of our national wealth and how those who have access to it are abusing the privilege.

About the Author Matthew Benns is a senior journalist with The Sun-Herald and has written exclusive stories on the mining industry. He is also the author of a number of books including The Men Who Killed Qantas.