

# [PDF] The Bridge At The Edge Of The World: Capitalism, The Environment, And Crossing From Crisis To Sustainability

James Gustave Speth - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

Title: The Bridge at the Edge of the

Author: James Gustave Speth

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## Description:

**From** Acclaimed environmentalist Speth asserts that our capitalist economy, with its emphasis on continuous robust growth, is at loggerheads with the environment. He minces no words as he writes that to destroy life as we know it, all we have to do is “keep doing exactly what we are doing today.” Observations from nineteenth-century naturalists, such as Audubon writing about the passenger pigeon, reveal humanity’s failure to understand the repercussions of environmental destruction, a lack of foresight now exacerbated by the whirlwind demands of modern consumerism. Quotes from

economists, political philosophers, and technology experts offer erudite analyses of a realization set out in Bill McKibben's *Deep Economy* (2007) and now gaining momentum: society's slavish devotion to economic growth does not allow for critical environmental protections. We need look no further than the controversial Kyoto Protocol, Speth reminds us, as evidence. If Americans do not rein in spending, only one result is assured. If we do not learn to consume less, we will consume the biosphere itself in our binge. --Colleen Mondor

**Review** "Speth is a maestro—conducting a mighty chorus of voices from a dozen disciplines all of which are calling for transformative change before it is too late. The result is the most compelling plea we have for changing our lives and our politics. And it is a compelling case indeed."—Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

(Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.)

"Honest, insightful, and courageous. Dean Speth draws on his formidable experience and wisdom to ask why we are failing to preserve a habitable Earth. His conclusions are cogent, revolutionary, and essential."—David W. Orr, Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics, Oberlin College. Author of *Design on the Edge and Earth in Mind*

(David W. Orr)

"When a figure as eminent and mainstream as Gus Speth issues a warning this strong and profound, the world should take real notice. This is an eloquent, accurate, and no-holds-barred brief for change large enough to matter."—Bill McKibben, author, *Deep Economy* and *The Bill McKibben Reader*

(Bill McKibben)

"An extremely important book both for what it says and for who is saying it. The steady transformation of a solid, pragmatic, progressive negotiator into a 'radical and unrealistic' oracle concerned with the fundamental nature of modern economies is an important event."—Richard Norgaard, University of California, Berkeley

(Richard Norgaard)

"One can scarcely choose a more important or timely subject than this one. Speth writes about it with passion and conviction, and a touch of humor."—J. R. McNeill, Georgetown University

(J. R. McNeill)

"A powerful and ambitious attempt to characterize the changed strategies environmental organizations need to adopt to become more effective. This book challenges many things that would seem to have political immunity of a sort—among others, corporate capitalism, the environmental movement itself, and the forces of economic globalization."—Donald Kennedy, editor-in-chief, *Science Magazine*

(Donald Kennedy)

"In this magisterial and hopeful book, Speth charts three compelling journeys—his own path from reformer to deep systems analyst, environmentalism's trajectory from inside player to social movement, and the nation's emerging great transition from a way of life rooted in economic scarcity to the discovery of nature's abundance. This is a profound book which deserves our deepest attention."—Juliet Schor, Professor of Sociology, Boston College, and author of *The Overspent American: Why We Want What We Don't Need*

(Juliet Schor)

"Gus Speth leads us to the formidable bridge we must cross -- an epic transformation in how we live, consume and produce -- to halt capitalism's destructive forces and to improve the human condition. A calm and persuasive guide, Speth is infused with the human optimism always needed for great historic shifts."—William Greider, author, *The Soul of Capitalism: Opening Paths to a Moral Economy* (William Greider)

"What a delight to read Gus Speth's' new book, which no one else could write but all will admire, stunned by his remarkable talents. The book opens vast new opportunities for thought and discussion in science and public affairs and will undoubtedly long stand as the classic that it is."—George M. Woodwell, Founder, Director Emeritus, and Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Research Center

(George M. Woodwell)

"Gus Speth's critique of unbridled capitalism is riveting and haunting, and his solutions are poetic and inspiring."—Devra Davis, author of *The Secret History of the War on Cancer* and *When Smoke Ran Like Water*

(Devra Davis)

"In *The Bridge at the Edge of the World*, James Gustave Speth gives us new lenses with which to see what we have done to our environment and, more important, to see what we can do to restore it. He challenges us all to act not for ourselves, but for our children and grandchildren. In particular, he takes on the most powerful guardians of the status quo—our mindsets. The bridge he hopes to construct has its bridgehead firmly based in today, because Speth asks us to think about it and then to use our creativity, imagination, and the power of common purpose to act to restore the environment and create a healthier world."—Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier, Province of British Columbia

(Honourable Gordon Campbell)

"Gus Speth is one of the leaders in trying to steer humanity on a course to sustainability, and this is his most important book to date. Read it, and then take some action."—Paul R. Ehrlich, author with Anne Ehrlich of *The Dominant Animal: Human Evolution and the Environment*

(Paul R. Ehrlich)

"*The Bridge at the Edge of the World* may be the most concise analysis of the current state of the natural world and what might be done about it."—Brooke Williams, *Planet News*

(Brooke Williams *Planet News* 2008-01-29)

"Acclaimed environmentalist Speth asserts that our capitalist economy, with its emphasis on continuous robust growth, is at loggerheads with the environment. He minces no words as he writes that to destroy life as we know it, all we have to do is 'keep doing exactly what we are doing today.'"—*Booklist*

(*Booklist* 2008-03-01)

"What is needed, Speth argues, is a radical change in the economic system that takes into account the environmental costs of doing business and refocuses society on building more sustainable ways of living."—David Funkhouser, *Hartford Courant*

(David Funkhouser *Hartford Courant* 2008-04-17)

"Contemporary capitalism and a habitable planet cannot coexist. . . . This book is an extremely probing and thoughtful diagnosis of the root causes of planetary distress."—Ross Gelbspan, *Washington Post Book World*

(Ross Gelbspan *Washington Post Book World* 2008-04-27)

"With candor, cadence and clarity, Speth presents a compelling case for prompt action, making this book a must-read. . . . Like an evangelist, Speth draws not just on facts, but anecdotes, quotes, even poetry to make his point."—Le-Min Lim, *Chicago Tribune*

(Le-Min Lim *Chicago Tribune* 2008-07-19)

"*The Bridge at the End of the World* was an epiphany for me. . . . I see it as a guide for moving toward cultural, social, and environmental equity that could in turn lead to balanced sustainability in the planet's future."—John D. Peine, *Sustainability: Science, Practice & Policy*

(John D. Peine *Sustainability: Science, Practice & Policy* 2008-08-20)

"With candor, cadence and clarity, Speth presents a compelling case for prompt action, making this book a must-read on the subject."—*Bloomberg News*

(*Bloomberg News* 2008-07-19)

"Are these solutions hopelessly idealistic and impossible to achieve? Speth's passionate argument is convincing—it can be done, but it will require a great deal of effort."—*The Futurist*

(*The Futurist* 2008-07-01)

"His call for a radical departure for the [environmental] movement's current strategy comes from the ultimate environmental insider"—*The Nation*

(*The Nation* 2008-10-06)

"Speth's indictment of the present state of our politics is precise and perceptive. . . . He urges a bold and broad agenda for systemic changes."—*Bioscience*

(*Bioscience* 2008-10-01)

"James Gustav Speth...leads us to a bridge at the edge of the world--an epic transformation of the way we live, produce, and consume. This is a fantastic, highly topical and potentially important book. It should widely be read, and translated into other languages."--Udo E. Simonis, *Environmental Information + Environmental Policy*

(Udo E. Simonis *Environmental Information + Environmental Policy*)

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