



Bataille's Peak: Energy, Religion, and Postsustainability

By Allan Stoekl

University of Minnesota Press, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. As the price of oil climbs toward \$100 a barrel, our impending post-fossil fuel future appears to offer two alternatives: a bleak existence defined by scarcity and sacrifice or one in which humanity places its faith in technological solutions with unforeseen consequences. Are there other ways to imagine life in an era that will be characterized by resource depletion? The French intellectual Georges Bataille saw energy as the basis of all human activity the essence of the human and he envisioned a society that, instead of renouncing profligate spending, would embrace a more radical type of energy expenditure: la depense, or spending without return. In Bataille's Peak, Allan Stoekl demonstrates how a close reading of Bataille in the wake of Giordano Bruno and the Marquis de Sade can help us rethink not only energy and consumption, but also such related topics as the city, the body, eroticism, and religion. Through these cases, Stoekl identifies the differences between waste, which Bataille condemned, and expenditure, which he celebrated. The challenge of living in the twenty-first century, Stoekl argues, will be...



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