





Extraction Exposed

The global economy is growing and with it, our reliance on natural resources. The irregular distribution of these across our planet leads to market crises and conflicts, many of them armed. Fossil fuels still secure our energy supply, but reserves are finite and consuming them is the primary driver of the climate crisis. Moreover, the renewable technologies needed to decelerate this process also rely on raw materials: rare-earth elements are crucial for wind turbines and solar modules, as well as mobile devices and our fragile digital infrastructure. Other resources such as soil and water can regenerate, but only if they are used sustainably. Researchers and engineers are searching for better ways to extract and use our natural resources. Extraction Exposed highlights the economic, technical, social and geopolitical aspects of our global dependence on these precious raw materials.

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Documentary,
04 x 30 min.,
2027, HD;
Arabic, English,
Spanish

05 additional
episodes available

Trailer

064977 006
Land Grabbing
Land is a finite resource that's essential for survival. Viewing it as a commodity can have drastic consequences for its inhabitants, often Indigenous peoples and small farmers. This raises the question: who has the right to use the land: investors seeking quick returns from their capital investment? Or the people whose way of life, heritage and very survival depend on it?

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Seeds – A Life-giving Resource
Seeds are a renewable resource and ensure the human right to food. Yet seeds are increasingly becoming a commodity for speculation. Genetic engineering is also driving profit margins in the market ever higher. Resistant seed varieties with especially high yields are displacing heirloom varieties and promoting global monocultures. What dangers does this pose, and what can be done about it?



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Tracing the Gold
Gold is an extremely rare and much-coveted resource. In many gold-extracting countries, like Ghana in West Africa, human rights activists and environmentalists report appalling working conditions and massive environmental destruction. How can this be changed? Or proven? Gold can be melted down repeatedly, concealing its origin. Does clean gold even exist?

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The Raw Materials Dilemma
Green technologies require rare raw materials. But mining them comes at a price, one usually paid by the environment and local communities. Is 'sustainable mining' even possible – or is it merely a new label for an old problem? Is there a realistic alternative to a society that consumes ever-increasing amounts of raw materials and energy, threatening the foundations of its own existence?