

Extraction *Exposed*



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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,
05 x 30 min.,
 2026, HD;
 Arabic, English,
 Spanish

Trailer



064977 001
Race for the Seabed

Renewable energy requires metals such as nickel, cobalt, copper, raw materials that have so far been extracted on land. But attention is increasingly turning to the deep sea, where research projects are underway. The International Seabed Authority is still grappling with regulations for deep-sea mining, but pressure from businesses, environmental organizations, and governments is mounting.

064977 002
The Race for Africa's Raw Materials

Raw materials such as cobalt, copper, and lithium are key to the energy transition and the digital economy. The Democratic Republic of Congo and Namibia are rich in these natural resources. As a result, the two countries have become hotspots of geopolitical interest. Can the race for critical raw materials also take the interests of local people into account?

064977 003
Salt – The Underappreciated Resource

Salt is a raw material with a history – and a future. Few mineral resources are as ubiquitous – and as underappreciated. Salt is more than just a kitchen staple. Whether we look at its extraction or its role in coastal protection and high-tech laboratories, one thing's clear: Salt is not only a product of Earth's history, but a strategic raw material of growing economic importance.

064977 004
Whom Does Water Belong to?

The competition for every drop of water is only intensified by economic interests, political power, and climate change. Droughts, usage conflicts, and social tensions are no longer exceptions, but represent structural problems. The central question remains though: Whom does water belong to, and how much can be extracted before the balance tips?

064977 005
The Myth of Clean Natural Gas

Historically, natural gas has held the best environmental reputation among fossil fuels: when burned, it produces fewer air pollutants and significantly less CO2 than coal or oil. However, natural gas extraction produces far more harmful methane than previously thought. Why is this? And how can the industry be persuaded to do more to tackle the issue?