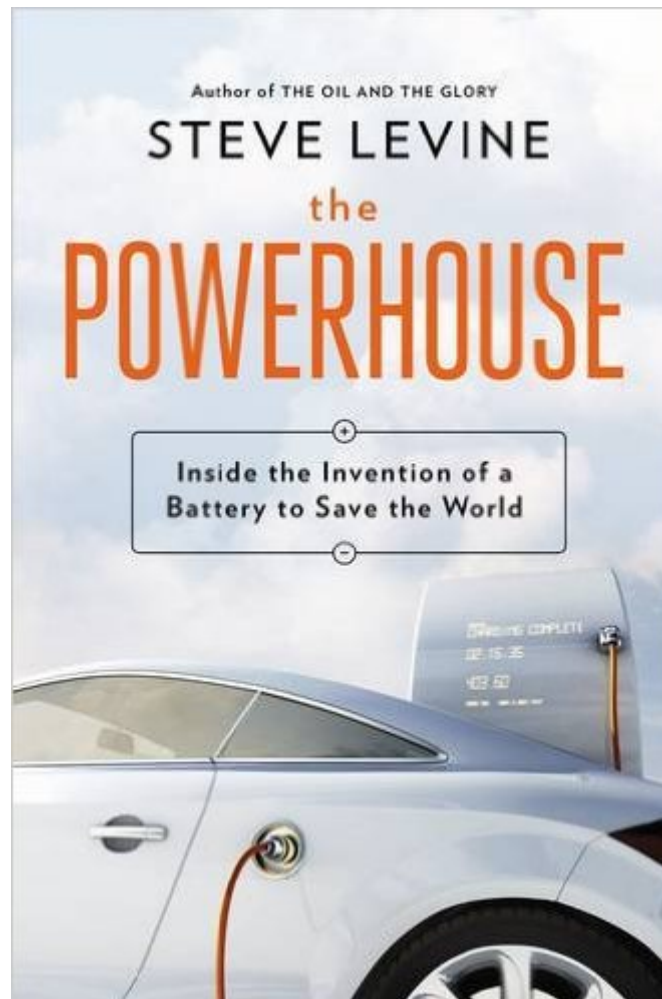


The book was found

# The Powerhouse: Inside The Invention Of A Battery To Save The World



## Synopsis

A Soul of the New Machine for our time, a gripping account of invention, commerce, and duplicity in the age of technology A worldwide race is on to perfect the next engine of economic growth, the advanced lithium-ion battery. It will power the electric car, relieve global warming, and catapult the winner into a new era of economic and political mastery. Can the United States win? Steve LeVine was granted unprecedented access to a secure federal laboratory outside Chicago, where a group of geniuses is trying to solve this next monumental task of physics. But these scientists--almost all foreign born--are not alone. With so much at stake, researchers in Japan, South Korea, and China are in the same pursuit. The drama intensifies when a Silicon Valley start-up licenses the federal laboratory's signature invention with the aim of a blockbuster sale to the world's biggest carmakers. The Powerhouse is a real-time, two-year account of big invention, big commercialization, and big deception. It exposes the layers of aspiration and disappointment, competition and ambition behind this great turning point in the history of technology.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Viking; 1st edition (February 5, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670025844

ISBN-13: 978-0670025848

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (81 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #245,443 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Automotive > Repair & Maintenance > Fuel Systems](#) #39 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Energy Production & Extraction > Electric](#) #103 in [Books > Business & Money > Industries > Energy & Mining > Oil & Energy](#)

## Customer Reviews

Spoiler alert! This book would have been better if it were about half as long. I only made it through about 70% before I gave up. Instead I looked up Mr. LeVine's article on Quartz about the collapse of Envia. That article was a good read, but here he tried to wrap the Envia story up with the details of battery research at Argonne and make it into a fairly long book. It loses focus as it delves into needless detail on the interactions of a couple dozen major and minor players. I started to lose track

of the all the postdocs and bit players who pop in and out of the story. About 20% of the book is just about the process of writing a grant proposal, which is drudgery to do and not much fun to read about. This should be a good story. There is deception and institutional disfunction, politics and backstabbing. However, the author is too coy while building up to the big reveal about Envia. For the part of the book that I read, everything Envia claimed is presented with complete credulity.

Ultimately, the suspense is lost. I think a lot of people who read a book about car batteries will already know the Envia story, and the way it is presented here gives no additional insight into what happened there. As for Argonne - I think we are supposed to be rooting for them, but what comes through between the lines makes the institution seem like its own worst enemy. Mr LeVine's presentation of the material is dry and fact oriented. Maybe that's inevitable, given the subject matter: a large government laboratory. It was about as exciting as reading a book about the inner workings of the post office. Finally, there is the science aspect. I'm a physicist, but I don't know anything about battery science in particular.

The Powerhouse is not foreign correspondent Steve Levine's first book on the politics of energy, but it is his first book on the politics of electric batteries. Levine has published books on Russia and oil exploration. It's a good book, but you feel the author struggle with the science throughout it. To his credit, Levine is able to master most of the scientific terminology needed for it. Steve Levine managed to embed himself with some of the best minds developing electric batteries during the course of writing this book. He managed to give the reader an inside view into the struggles, politics and funding, the coin of front-line science. And he manages to bring it across with all the gushing of a kid with his first chemistry set. Although it does at times read like a "championship season" sports book. The book is broken up into 3 sections: 1) The Stakes, 2) Foreigners in the Labs and 3) Reckoning. Most of the first section is background on the labs and major players in the quest for a battery which will power an electric car. Part two lets the reader in on the current research and researchers. The last section looks at the attempts to get a marketable battery out of all the work done before. It begins with China's minister of science's visit to Argonne National Laboratory. Argonne is where much of the leading battery research is accomplished, so naturally the representative of the country where much of the batteries in the world are used wants to see what the competition is up to. From there we get a detailed history of Argonne labs: how the federal government bought the country estate of a hot dog maker to set up a research lab. Founded after WWII, the lab became a vast research center with small communities growing up around it for the scientists and workers.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Powerhouse: Inside the Invention of a Battery to Save the World  
Powerhouse: The Untold Story of Hollywood's Creative Artists Agency  
The Best Team Money Can Buy: The Los Angeles Dodgers' Wild Struggle to Build a Baseball Powerhouse  
The Warrior Diet: Switch on Your Biological Powerhouse for High Energy, Explosive Strength, and a Leaner, Harder Body  
The Next Africa: An Emerging Continent Becomes a Global Powerhouse  
California POST Exam Secrets Study Guide: POST Exam Review for the California POST Entry-Level Law Enforcement Test Battery (PELLETB) (Mometrix Secrets Study Guides)  
ASTB-E Secrets Study Guide: ASTB-E Test Review for the Aviation Selection Test Battery  
California POST Exam Study Guide: Test Prep for California Police Officer Exam (Post Entry-Level Law Enforcement Test Battery (PELLETB))  
Yankee Artillerymen: Through the Civil War  
With Eli Lilly's Indiana Battery  
Battery Management Systems: Design by Modelling (Philips Research Book Series)  
ASVAB Secrets Study Guide: ASVAB Test Review for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery  
Klutz Battery Science Make Widgets That Work and Gadgets That Go  
Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings: Save Money, Save the Earth  
DIY Projects: Save Time & Money  
Maintaining Your Home With Simple DIY Household Hacks, Home Remedies: Increase Productivity & Save Time with Frugal Living ... And Organizing, Increase Productivity)  
The Power of a Positive No: Save The Deal Save The Relationship and Still Say No  
Marriage: Save Your Marriage- The Secret to Intimacy and Communication Skills (marriage, relationships, save your marriage, divorce, love, communication, intimacy)  
Money: Saving Money: The Top 100 Best Ways To Make Money & Save Money: 2 books in 1: Making Money & Saving Money (Personal Finance, Making Money, Save Money, Wealth Building, Money)  
Too Big to Fail: The Inside Story of How Wall Street and Washington Fought to Save the Financial System---and Themselves  
The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World  
The Riddle of the Compass: The Invention that Changed the World

[Dmca](#)