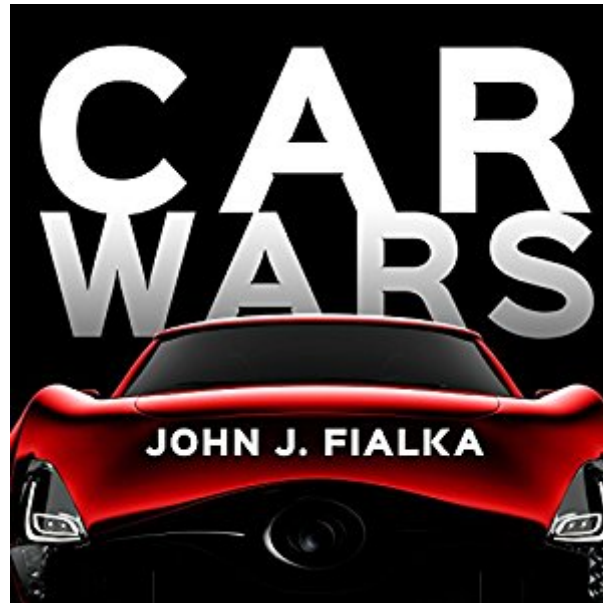


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Car Wars: The Rise, The Fall, And The Resurgence Of The Electric Car



Synopsis

The resurgence of the electric car in modern life is a tale of adventurers, men and women who bucked the complete dominance of the fossil-fueled car to seek something cleaner, simpler and cheaper. Award-winning former Wall Street Journal reporter John Fialka documents the early days of the electric car, from the MIT/Caltech race between prototypes in the summer of 1968 to the 1987 victory of the Sunraycer in the world's first race featuring solar-powered cars. Thirty years later the electric has captured the imagination and pocketbooks of American consumers. Organizations like the US Department of Energy and the state of California, along with companies from the old guard of General Motors and Toyota as well as upstart young players like Tesla Motors and Elon Musk, have embraced the once-extinct technology. The electric car has steadily gained traction in the US and around the world. We are watching the start of a trillion-dollar, worldwide race to see who will dominate one of the biggest commercial upheavals of the 21st century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an interesting book written by an automotive journalist, not an EV guy. He begins the story with a Caltech MIT electric auto race in the early 60's (Electro-vair vs. VW Bus). Then follows the next step with races in Australia won by GM's Sunraycer. At this point all the automakers are starting to give electric cars some thought. The chapters steadily chronicle the false starts of the EV1 ("Impact") and how Toyota took a risk to build the first Prius (gas was cheap when they began design). Some backstory on the Volt and Tesla's are included. He also has some chapters on

hydrogen fuel cells, a technology which has gone nowhere. I think the Leaf must have just made it's first appearance at about the time he was was writing as he doesn't have much to say about it. The electric car story is moving on of course, but this is a fun read about who did what in the beginning.

The book provides some interesting insider history on the development of electric plug-in vehicles. The nature of changing technology requires newer editions and greater details of more recent developments and projections on the future of electric power and renewable energy in transportation and public transit.

I learned a lot from the book and the info moved along well and was good reading.

The future bright electric cars will transport humans forever. Well as long as the sun is the power of life

Car Wars is a great read. The information on the history of electrics, public policy & how industry makes decisions to switch direction is fascinating. The 1968 Caltech and MIT race across the country in "electrics" was a chuckle at times but shows the ingenuity of engineers and back room tinkerers working as a team. This book should help people see why electrics are more efficient and our future w/renewables. The hesitation of men will surely evaporate when they realize an electric can "peel out! " The EV Grin is real! It is time to bury the dirty old gasoline engine. If a Honda Civic can be converted to electric in your garage then certainly these cars will be mainstream and at the Indy 500 soon. Fialka's book should be talked about around the water coolers and be on the NY Times Best Seller list. Highly recommended to car enthusiasts, drag racers, and environmentalists --- where all will meet!

Great book. Interesting history.

An incredible book. The research is astounding. i beleive this is the test of tests for the coming electric revolution based eventually on solar cells. A must read for those who know that this is possible and provocative.

This book is an extremely interesting history of the electric car, especially the early electrics during the era that they competed with the then-new gasoline-burning cars. However, it is a bit rah-rah

toward the subject of modern electrics. Author Fialka simply assumes that electric cars will save drivers money because electricity generally costs a bit less than gasoline, and that electric cars will help slow global warming, since they have no tailpipe emissions. He simply ignores the facts that electric cars are extremely expensive and require periodic battery replacement (getting a new battery pack installed in a Tesla is more expensive than simply buying a new Honda Civic). Regarding environmental advantages, he ignores that fact that the typical electric car is simply running on coal rather than gasoline, which is cleaner. Throw in the extremely limited range of electric cars and you have a vehicle that is simply a plaything of the rich, not a sensible investment for the average driver. When battery capacity is increased 50-fold, batteries drop in price, and the electric grid is powered by renewables, a Tesla might make sense. But none of that is likely to happen soon.

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