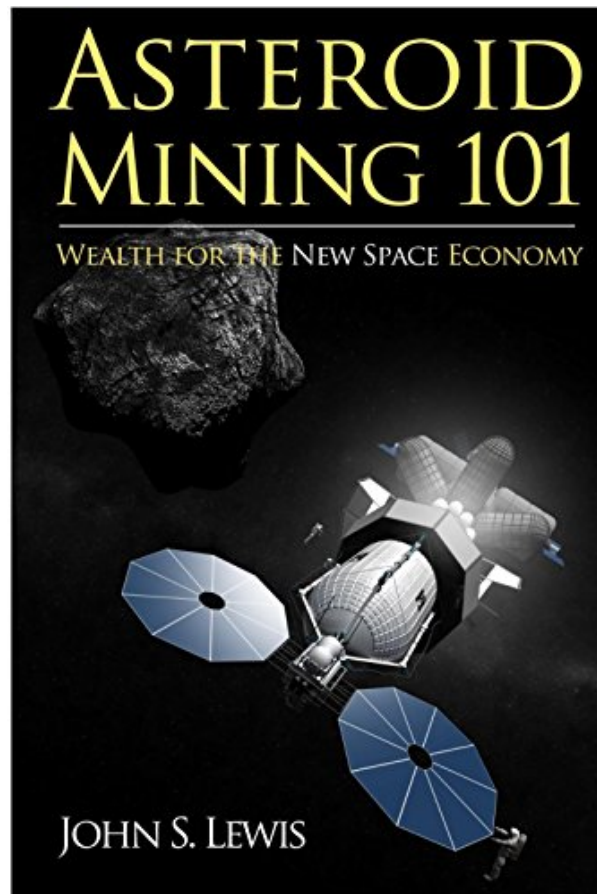


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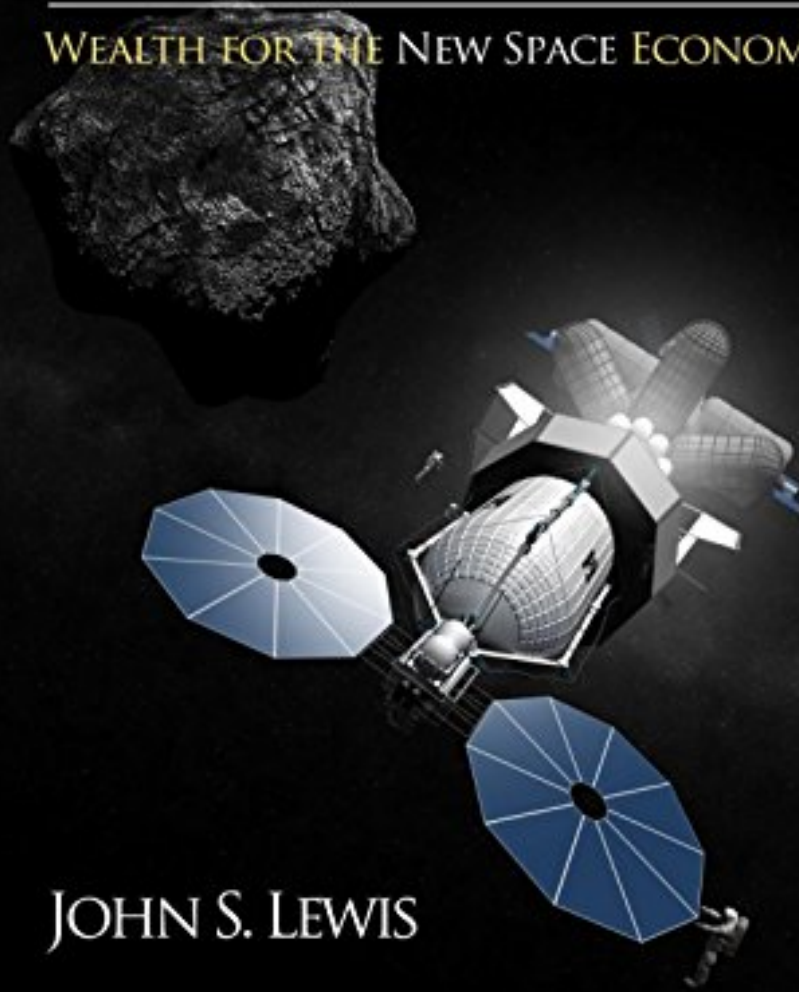


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WEALTH FOR THE NEW SPACE ECONOMY



JOHN S. LEWIS

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The emerging asteroid mining industry has extremely ambitious intentions. It is within the realm of possibility that their work may usher in a change in global economics as profound as the Industrial Revolution. As may be expected, press reports dealing with asteroid mining have been numerous, ranging in scope from short and breezy to broad and serious, and in quality from accurate to impressionistic to simply uninformed. There is good reason to be curious about what may be the biggest game-changer in human economic history. And there is good reason to look closely at the underlying science and engineering that form the foundation of this work.

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13 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

A very important book

By James S Berry

Book review for "Asteroid Mining 101"

Date of this review: 03 FEB 2015

The book itself is high quality and has clear, easy to read text and many color illustrations.

The book is a follow-up of Mr. Lewis's earlier book "Mining the Sky" but the information here is much more complete, updated to what is known in 2014, and is much more technical. It would be extremely useful, for example, for politicians, investors, or business executives needing to quickly understand the basis for the recent interest and practicality of asteroid mining.

I have bachelor's degrees in applied physics and computer science and it took me about a week to read this book, spending a few hours a night on it. I enjoyed it very much and I will probably read it 2 or 3 more times just to be sure that I understand everything because there is a lot in it to take in. To get the most out of this book I recommend you read Mr. Lewis's other book, "Mining the Sky", first, especially if you don't have a background in science. I did not see any factual errors in the book and it is obvious Mr. Lewis knows the material and has done a lot of quality research bringing this information together.

Once I started to understand the ideas presented in "Mining the Sky" and then in this book, I realized that we (the human race) need to go to space as soon as we possibly can. To me, the human race is similar to a crowd of bored, starving people standing on a sidewalk fighting over a few dried up grains of rice (energy and resources on Earth) who don't realize that all they have to do is turn around and cross a moderately busy street to get to an all you can eat 5 star steak house giving away food for free (the asteroids and comets and

other resources in our solar system). Mr. Lewis has given us the tools to pass the biggest IQ test of all time with his books on asteroid mining. In my opinion, Mr. Lewis deserves a Nobel peace prize or at the very least a statue of him made from all of the platinum in the M type asteroid 16 Psyche. Elon Musk said that he started SpaceX and wants to go to Mars because he thinks a future where humans go into space will be much more interesting than one which it doesn't. I agree with him and I would add my own corollary to his statement: humans living in a future where humans don't go into space ultimately have no hope. Probably 90% or more of the problems this world has are political problems, wars, acts of oppression, etc. that are traced back to competition for resources and energy. Mr. Lewis has done a very good job of showing that it doesn't have to be that way because there are enough resources in our solar system to support a population and economy millions of times bigger than what we have now. If we just grow up, start doing a little more long term planning, start believing that we can do this, stop saying it is too hard or too expensive, and put our minds to it so that we can go to space and our future really will be far more interesting.

This book gives me hope.

James S. Berry, KE6WLI  
Eureka, California

Since there is no look inside feature for the book I have included an abbreviated table of contents:

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10 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

good book with some annoying flaws

By Henry Spencer

The good news: this is a very informative book about an interesting topic that's been getting a lot of attention recently. It has lots of useful material, and is potentially a valuable reference on the topic. I'm glad to have it on my shelf.

The bad news comes in several parts, individually minor but rather irritating in combination.

Most obviously, the production quality is amateurish, and it's obvious that nobody proofread the final text -- in particular, there are occasional chunks of repeated text and other sloppiness. The tables are printed in a hideous color-on-black format more suited to projection slides than to book pages. The pages with large color illustrations have a strong tendency to curl.

More fundamentally, the book suffers from a common problem: it can't decide whether it wants to be a

reference or a gentle introduction, and so it doesn't fully succeed at being either. The introductory material is pretty decent, but the reader seeking only an overview of the topic will have to skip lightly over the blizzard of detail on some topics; the book does at least relegate some of the deeper detail to a long appendix. The reference material falls prey to the temptation to talk about things that seem interesting while sometimes skipping fundamentals -- for example, there is discussion of the composition of the metallic portion of many meteorite types, but seldom any mention of HOW MUCH is metallic in each type.

THERE IS NO INDEX. This is inexcusable in a reference, and a serious defect even in an introduction.

Finally, although the book claims to have been published at the end of last year, it was obviously mostly written a couple of years earlier. The Chelyabinsk meteor is discussed but had clearly only just happened, and the Asteroid Retrieval Mission is mentioned only as the original Keck Institute study. Updates on both would have been appropriate, given more recent developments.

For anyone seriously interested in the subject, this book is well worth having. But be prepared to grit your teeth occasionally.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

An Excellent, Easy to Read Primer That Sets The Stage For Asteroid Mining

By Steve

In Asteroid Mining 101: Wealth for the New Space Economy Dr. John Lewis presents a cogent, relatively easy to read guide to what is possible within the next few decades. The primary focus is on the locations, orbits, behavior and composition of asteroids, including recent information in this evolving science. These are fundamental to conceiving techniques and innovating methods to catch, capture, and extract the resources they can provide for the exploration and exploitation of space by the human race.

Although he does not go into depth on the engineering aspects of mining asteroids, beneficiation, etc., he is careful to note that these, too, will require new approaches that will differ significantly from terrestrial mining practices. Similarly, post processing manufacturing methods are sketchy, although an impressive graphic for an "Asteroid Processing Architecture" is provided and is well thought out. Perhaps in a follow on book the details of that architecture will be presented more clearly with proposals for engineering the equipment necessary to carry the process to fruition. It goes without saying that these processes will require either a vessel(s) or facility/ies in orbit or on the moon with the capabilities to perform them.

The driver for asteroid mining, and other planetary or planetoid bodies for that matter, will almost invariably arise from profit motives for private companies rather than government, although I suspect it will evolve as a private-public partnership, particularly given the control governments exercise over launches and air space. Nevertheless, it will be entrepreneurial risk takers who will accelerate the efforts. To that end, Dr. Lewis presents some compelling numbers on the economic value of asteroid mining, especially the contrast between the costs of transporting materials to space from Earth (which right now is approximately \$10K per pound according to NASA figures) and the cost of obtaining them from NEAs in the near term.

Mining asteroids and other bodies will be a complex undertaking, but for the sake of humanity's long term future, the first steps encompassed in the book are a necessary and important step toward that goal. Asteroid Mining 101 is an excellent primer that will stretch your mind and, hopefully, your horizons. Well done.

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