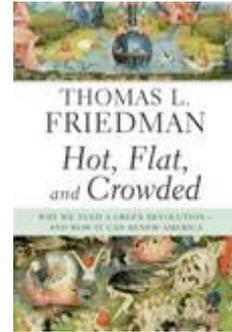


Hot, Flat and Crowded by Thomas Friedman
reviewed by Shelby Bivins, HS Librarian



You may know Thomas Friedman from the many books he has had on the NY Times Bestsellers List.

Up until this point, Friedman has written books about globalization. In *Hot, Flat and Crowded*, Friedman an Op-Ed columnist for the NY Times, makes the case that seizing environmentalism is by far the best way to make the US more secure, wealthier and the leader in GT (Green Technology). Friedman proposes that with immediate and smart innovation; the U.S. can be the leader in GT just as they were the leader during the evolution of IT.

Friedman gets our attention through his broad scope of the political landscape as well as his interviews with workers to executives from all over the world. His extensive travels throughout the Middle East as well as other areas of the world help him trace the price of oil and the pace of freedom as it tends to move in the opposite direction, and look at the changing effects of CO2 and the effects of global warming through the eyes and landscape of hunters, fishermen and farmers.

In part five of the book entitled America, Mr. Friedman discusses ways the U.S. could seize this moment to be the leader in GT through bold leadership, showing everyday Americans how to make personal commitments that can translate into national, and international commitments. According to Friedman, "It is much more important to change your leaders than your light bulbs". Friedman asks the question "Is green the new red, white and blue?"

Although *Hot, Flat and Crowded* is at times exaggerated and hard to follow for someone who has not been following the global economy and political climate, Friedman asks us to stand up and take notice. When it comes to *Hot, Flat and Crowded*, Mr. Friedman's voice needs to be heard loud and far. Then form your own opinion.