

# **“From Congo through Chicago: Understanding the Life-Cycles of Metal Commodities in the Global Economy”**

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## **PRE-READINGS**

--Coltan/cassiterite extraction in the Democratic Republic of Congo; DRC history:

Fessy, Thomas and Mark Doyle. “Tin Can Conflict: From Rebel-Held Congo to Beer Can”. *BBC News*, April 9, 2009.

Cox, Stan. “War, Murder, Rape..All for Your Cell Phone”. *AlterNet*, September 15, 2006.

Journeyman Pictures. “The Real Mobile Phone Wars – DRC” (24min).  
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQIsLqkuATY>)

“DR Congo: Key Facts” (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/guides/456900/456977/html/nn1page1.stm>);  
“Country Profile: Democratic Republic of Congo”  
([http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country\\_profiles/1076399.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1076399.stm)). *BBC News*.

--Bauxite extraction in Jamaica:

Alcoa, Inc. “It All Starts with Dirt” (3min). (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTiRznsxauc>)

Al-Jazeera English. “Environmental Damage from Mining in Jamaica 11 June 08” (3 min).  
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJa2ftQwfNY>)

--Metal recycling in America; scrap export markets; metal theft:

Seabrook, John. “American Scrap”, *The New Yorker*, January 14, 2008.

Farmer, Ann. “In the Metal Recycling Business, It’s Loud, Dirty, and Suddenly Lucrative”, *The New York Times*, June 27, 2008.

Maag, Christopher. “In U.S., Metal Theft Plagues Troubled Neighborhoods”, *The New York Times*, April 8, 2008.

Richtel, Matt and Kate Galbraith. “Back at Junk Value, Recyclables Are Piling Up”, *The New York Times*, December 7, 2008.

Halverson, Nic. “Odelay Yonquero”, *AREA Chicago*, June 7, 2008. (<http://www.areachicago.org/p/issues/city-as-lab/odelay-yonquero/>)

--Production of metal consumer goods; chemistry:

Discovery Channel, "How It's Made" – any of the following (~5min each):

Aluminum Cans (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISvmk15-3MY>),

Coins (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkHFNNOK3Bg>),

Push Tubes (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44CTF0rw9Gw>),

Guitar Strings (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8U-vZLZKgJc>),

Cymbals (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VUBV08AdUc>).

Periodic Videos. "Tantalum"; "Aluminum" (~1min each):

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51xFP1Yn3g0>), (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2cicHXMs1w>).

## **FURTHER SUGGESTED READING**

--Mineral extraction and conflict (DRC-centric):

UN Global Policy Forum. "Minerals in Conflict" (Database of NGO reports and articles, 2000-2008). (<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/natres/mineindex.htm>).

--Recent Congo history:

Mealer, Bryan. All Things Must Fight to Live: Stories of War and Deliverance in Congo. Bloombury: 2008.

Prunier, Gerard. Africa's World War: Congo, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Making of a Continental Catastrophe. Oxford: 2008.

Nugent, Paul. Africa Since Independence. Palgrave: 2004, pp.459-464.

--History of recycling and scavenging in America:

Zimring, Carl. Cash for Your Trash: Scrap Recycling in America. Rutgers: 2005.

Pellow, David Naguib. Garbage Wars: The Struggle for Environmental Justice in Chicago. MIT: 2004.

Strasser, Susan. Waste and Want: A Social History of Trash. Holt: 2000.

--Photography and film:

*Daylight Magazine*. Issue #5, "Global Commodities" 2006. (Available for paid download at <http://www.daylightmagazine.org/store/issue-5-global-commodities>).

Baichwal, Jennifer. *Manufactured Landscapes* (90min). Zeitgeist Films: 2006.

Burtynsky, Edward. *Manufactured Landscapes: The Photographs of Edward Burtynsky*. Yale: 2003.