Contents

1	In the Heat of the Past: Towards a History of the Fossil Economy	1
2	Scarcity, Progress, the Nature of the Human Species? Theories of the Rise of Steam	20
3	The Long Life of the Flow: Industrial Energy Before Coal	37
4	'There Are Mighty Energies in those Masses': Mobilising Power in a Time of Crisis	58
5	Puzzles of the Transition: The Lasting Advantages of Water	77
6	Fleeing the Flowing Commons: The Expansion of Waterpower That Never Happened	96
7	A Ticket to the Town: Advantages of Steam in Space	121
8	A Force to Count On: Advantages of Steam in Time	165
9	'No Government but Fuel': The Derivation of Power from Coal in Bourgeois Ideology	194
0	'Go and Stop the Smoke!': The Moment of Resistance against Steam	223
1	A Long Trail of Smoke: The Fossil Economy Consummated	249

12	The Myth of the Human Enterprise: Towards a Different Theory	255
13	Fossil Capital: The Energy Basis of Bourgeois Property Relations	279
14	China as Chimney of the World: Fossil Capital Today	327
15	A Return to the Flow? Obstacles to the Transition	367
16	Time to Pull the Plugs: On CO ₂ as an Effluent of Power	389
Acknowledgements		395
List of Abbreviations		397
Notes		399
Ind	Index	