

# INSIDE TOTAL

## THE GREENWASHING OF OIL MAJORS

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# FILM DETAILS

A film by Catherine Le Gall & Jean-Robert Viallet

Freely adapted from Alain Denault's book "De quoi Total est-elle la somme ?" published by Rue de l'Echiquier

Editing: Tal Zana

Original soundtrack: Marek Hunhap

A Morgane Production production

In coproduction with ARTE France, la RTBF, Stenola Productions and Shelter Prod

With the support of Région Sud, Procirep Angoa, and Tax shelter of the Federal Government of Belgium

Distribution: ARTE France Développement

Duration: 90' & 52'

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# SYNOPSIS

Diving into the heart of one of the 5 oil supermajors, TOTAL. The company with 1,000 subsidiaries, which has built its empire in 130 countries by producing oil and gas, has become TotalEnergies in this year 2021 with a change of name and logo. But how does an oil company become an energy company? Can TotalEnergies really be a credible player in the energy transition? From the company's French headquarters to the wind farm in New Mexico, people believe in it, convinced that this transformation is real. The company's engineers and CEO Patrick Pouyanné assure us that this is not greenwashing, that our future and that of the planet are now inseparable from the company's development. But from Texas to Uganda, including the Gulf of Mexico, oil and gas are still at the heart of this multinational company's activities, which raises doubts about the effectiveness of the ecological transition announced and carried out with great fanfare.

# NARRATIVE STRUCTURE

This is an unprecedented dive into the heart of one of the five largest private oil companies in the world. In front of the CEO of TotalEnergies, Patrick Pouyanné, or alongside those who think about the company's strategy, director Jean-Robert Viallet captures the historic transformation of an oil "supermajor" into a "responsible multi-energy" producer (oil and biofuels, natural gas and green gas, renewables and electricity). In sequence, in meetings in which the future of the company and that of the planet are imagined, the film points out all the ambiguity of such a transformation.

Given the company's past and its unwavering commitment to oil, the film also gives the floor to a number of scientists, researchers and experts from civil society who have all taken an interest in TotalEnergies' activities: Christophe Bonneuil (science historian), Pascoe Sabido (researcher with the Corporate Europe Observatory), Amanda Levin (analyst for the Natural Resources Defense Council), Robert Howarth (biogeochemist and professor at Cornell University), Alain Deneault (philosopher and author of *De quoi Total est-elle la somme? - Rue de l'échiquier 2017*)... It is their words, coupled with that of an off-camera commentary that anchors the oil company in the history of capitalism in the twentieth century, that points to the ambivalence of the company's ecological strategy.

As a counterpoint to the experts and analysts, the film follows citizens who have decided to fight against the company in the name of human rights and environmental protection. Whether in Uganda, where one of TOTAL Energy's most important projects is to be built, the longest heated pipeline (1450 km) ever built, which will cross the Murchison Falls National Park in Uganda, or in the small town of Arlington, Texas, which is undergoing the installation of more than 32 hydraulic fractions wells to extract shale gas, sometimes only a few meters away from the kindergarten, the eternal battle of David against Goliath is replayed right under our eyes.



# SPEAKERS

**BOBBY TUDOR:** Founder and head of the Houston-based consulting firm Tudor, "Pickering, Holt & Co". He previously spent 20 years at Goldman Sachs and is a specialist in fossil fuel investments.

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**ROBERT HOWARTH:** Biochemist and ecosystems scientist, he teaches at Cornell University in New York and is an internationally recognized methane expert

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**TIM GOULT:** Chief Energy Economist at the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris

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**PASCOE SABIDO:** Researcher and campaigner at the NGO "Corporate Europe Observatory" in Brussels, whose aim is to study the way lobbies influence European legislation and policy

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**AMANDA LEVINE:** Interim Director of Energy Policy Analysis for the Natural Resource Defense Council, one of America's largest environmental NGOs. She is the author of a report that exposes the limitations of using liquefied natural gas (LNG).

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**PATRICK POUYANNÉ :** Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Total

**ALAIN DENEAULT:** Quebec philosopher, program director at the Collège International de philosophie in Paris. He is the author of a reference book on Total, De quoi Total est-elle la somme ? : multinationales et perversion du droit, Paris/Montreal, Rue de l'échiquier/published by Écosociété, 2017

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**IAN PARRY:** Principal Environmental Fiscal Policy Expert at International Monetary Fund, specializing in budget analysis for climate change, environment, and energy issues.

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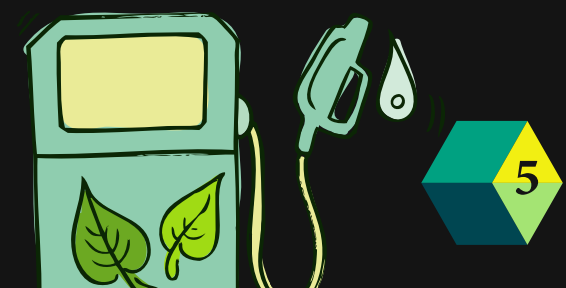
**CHRISTOPHE BONNEUIL:** Science historian and research supervisor at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (French: Centre national de la recherche scientifique, CNRS), Anthropocene expert

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**RANJANA BHANDARI:** Director of the "Liveable Arlington" association, which fights against shale gas extraction in Arlington, Texas.

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**DICKENS KAMUGISHA:** Director of the Ugandan NGO AFIEGO (Africa Institute for Energy Governance), which fights against the destructive consequences of oil extraction



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