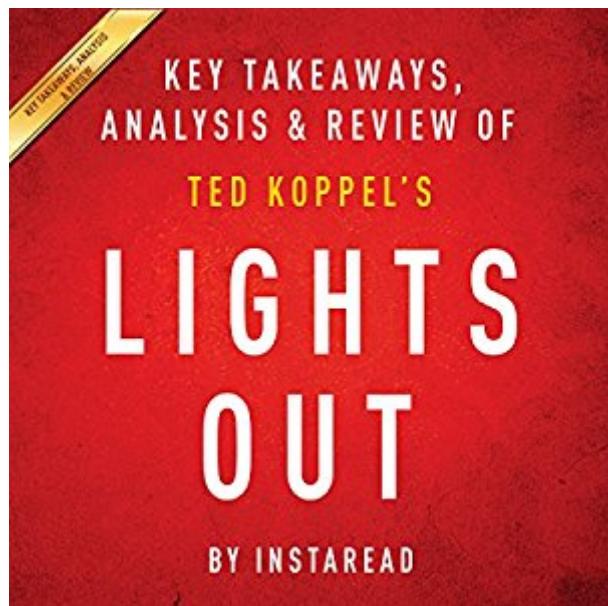


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# **Lights Out: A Cyberattack, A Nation Unprepared, Surviving The Aftermath**

## **By Ted Koppel: Key Takeaways, Analysis & Review**



## Synopsis

Lights Out by Ted Koppel is a journalistic report on the potential consequences of a cyberattack on the United States. Koppel emphasizes the likelihood that a cyberattack against US power grids will cause widespread, long-lasting, catastrophic power outages. Please Note: This is key takeaways and analysis of the book and not the original book!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a guide to the book Lights Out, not the original text. It analysis the main points of the book and distills them such that a reader can get to the main information quickly and decide if the full work is worth the read. The key takeaways covered in this book are:

- 1- The power grid in the US is vulnerable to attack, be it physical, EMP, or a computer hack. Electrical systems are often Internet connected, for monitoring, for efficiency, and for convenience, but stringent security measures were often not implemented due to cost considerations. I will disagree with one point made, and that is that non-connected systems are due to the "sneaker-net" or carrying of data to those machines via thumb drive. It would be easy to scan such drives, or cheap to just pick up new ones at need, and extremely difficult to write a replicating virus that attacks the correct system while working blind.
- 2- Resistancy regulation is complicated due to competing jurisdictions and interests. States can impose regulations, but those vary state to state, as does enforcement. Energy companies are in direct competition with each other and are active in keeping the federal government from mandating a nation-wide resiliency standard.
- 3- Damage can include fires, blackouts over a large area and a long time, and expensive equipment damage. If a system is restored, but the underlying

vulnerability not addressed, the system can be brought down again almost immediately.4- Professionals disagree about the degree of risk involved. Questions on how likely an attack is succeed and how much damage can be done are hotly debated.5- Cyberattacks are a serious risk. We've seen the potential in such attacks as the ones on Sony in late 2014.

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