‘Nuclear Power: A Very Short Introduction’ explains the development of nuclear physics up to the emergence of the nuclear power industry. What part can nuclear power play in meeting global energy demand without destroying the environment? What is the extent of public concern and confusion about the use of nuclear power and its safety? The nature of nuclear power and its risks, looking specifically at safety records and major incidents such as the Chernobyl disaster is discussed. The cost of its development and waste disposal is also considered.