The fracking frenzy in North Dakota has boosted the U.S. fuel supply—but at what cost?

The New Oil Landscape
This pump sits on property belonging to Richard and Brenda Jorgenson’s neighbors, but the well runs under their property. Like many ranchers, the Jorgensons own their land but not the mineral rights, so they had no say in the placement of the well. Three more wells will be drilled within view of their grandchildren’s swings. “It’s scary,” Brenda says.
A natural gas flare illuminates an evening tableau of discarded vehicles and farm tools. The region is changing quickly and drastically, yielding consequences few foresaw. “We’ve set in motion an industrial juggernaut that probably can’t be restrained,” says Clay Jenkinson, a North Dakota historian. Now the juggernaut is influencing national energy policy and efforts to address climate change.