Oil baron of the Southwest: Edward L. Doheny and the development of the petroleum industry in California and Mexico

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Given the magnitude of his achievements, both the notable and the dubious, Edward Doheny remains a surprisingly obscure figure in U.S. history. At the start of this century, he had developed every major oil field in Southern California and built a huge oil empire in Mexico; and he was credited with having discovered more oil than any other living person. He was also the major player in the Teapot Dome scandal, which tainted the administration of President Warren G. Harding. Little has been written about Doheny; at his request, his wife burned almost all of his papers after his death. There is