
**CHATHAM
HOUSE**

The Royal Institute of
International Affairs

Presentation outline

- The shifting energy landscape: the current energy transition from hydrocarbon molecules to electrons
 - The key uncertainty = the speed of the transition
 - Impact on the ‘New Great Game of the Middle East’
 - The old geopolitics of energy
 - The new geopolitics of energy
 - Stage 1 during the transition
 - ~~Stage 2 after the transition~~
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THE CURRENT ENERGY TRANSITION

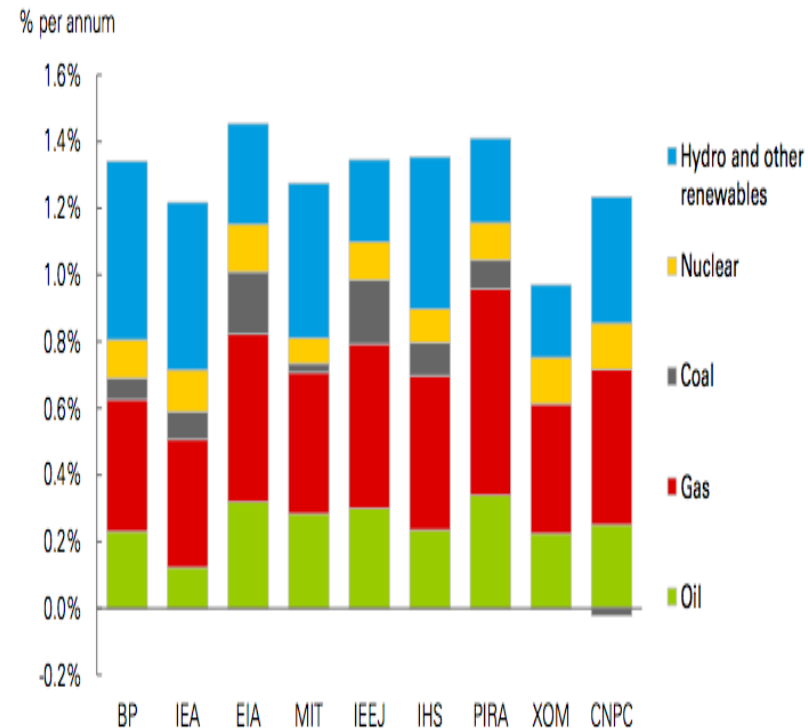
- Many lessons from history give patterns
 - Triggers
 - Reinforcing factors from technical change affecting relative energy prices
- Current transition: hydrocarbons to electrons
 - The triggers are environmental
 - Climate change BUT more recently - urban air quality
 - The reinforcing factors include:-
 - Falling cost of renewables
 - Penetration of electric vehicles
 - Other demand side factors: 'Fourth Industrial Revolution'
 - A geo-political oil price shock affecting consumer government policies?

The Key Uncertainty = Speed of the Transition

Contrasting views

- ‘Energy establishment’
 - Consensus seriously understating the speed
 - Forecasts continually underestimating the rise of renewables
 - Vested interests blinding judgment?
 - Underestimating political groundswell?
- ‘Financial community’
 - Being more realistic – see the ‘divest campaign’

Contributions to growth of energy consumption, 2015-2035

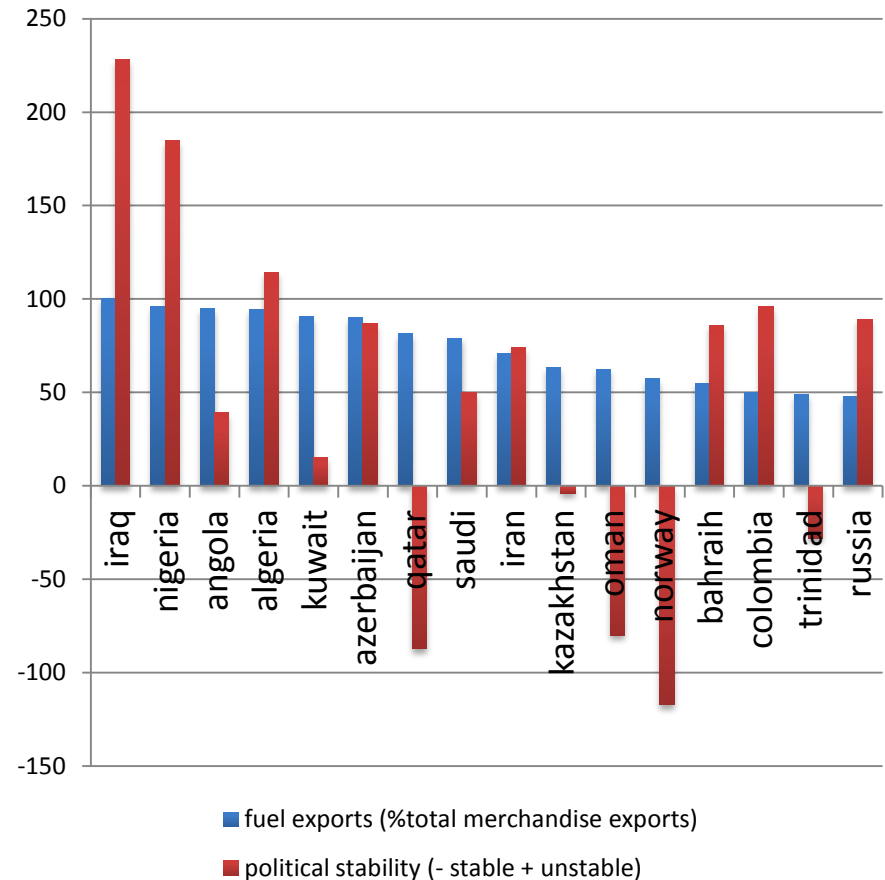


Source: Estimated from BP, World Energy Outlook 2017.
Forecast abbreviation: BP British Petroleum;
IEA International Energy Agency;
EIA Energy Information Administration – United States;
MIT Massachusetts Institute of Technology;
IEEJ Institute of Energy Economics – Japan;
IHS IHS Markit;
PIRA PIRA Energy Group
XOM Exxon Mobil;
CNPC Chinese National Petroleum Corporation

Why does the speed of transition matter?

- Faster the transition = greater disruption as hydrocarbon demand falls and exporters fail to adjust
- The 16 major hydrocarbon dependent countries listed (8 from the MENA region) account for 56% of global oil exports. Only four (minor) exporters are “politically stable”.

Vulnerability and political stability of major hydrocarbon exporters 2017

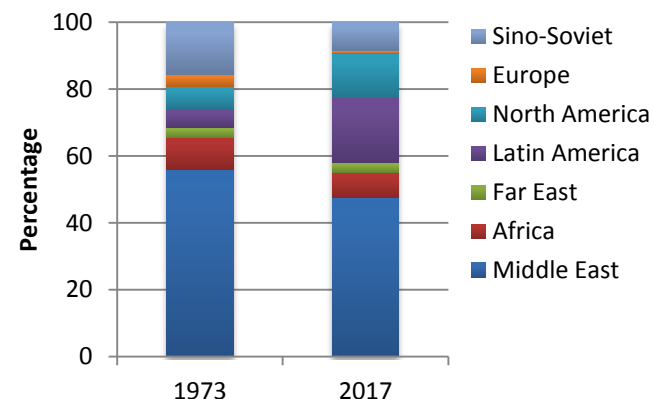


Sources: *Fuel exports*: World Bank, 2018 *Political stability*: Global Economy.Com, 2018

Geopolitical impact: The old geopolitics of energy

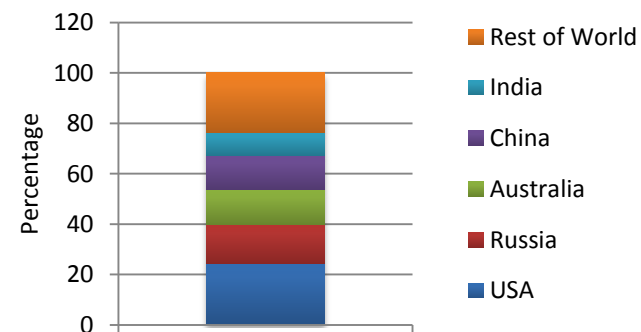
- Arose because of the uneven distribution of hydrocarbon resources
- Result = competition/conflict for access
 - E.G. UK foreign policy circa 1914- 24th January 1968

Proven Oil Reserves 1973 and 2017



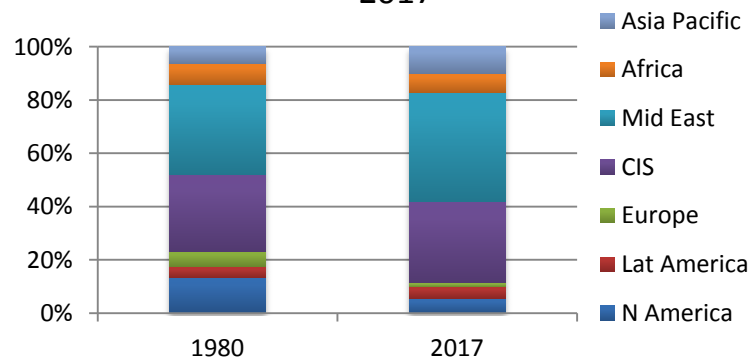
Source : Oil and Gas Journal : BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2018

Global coal reserves 2017



Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2018

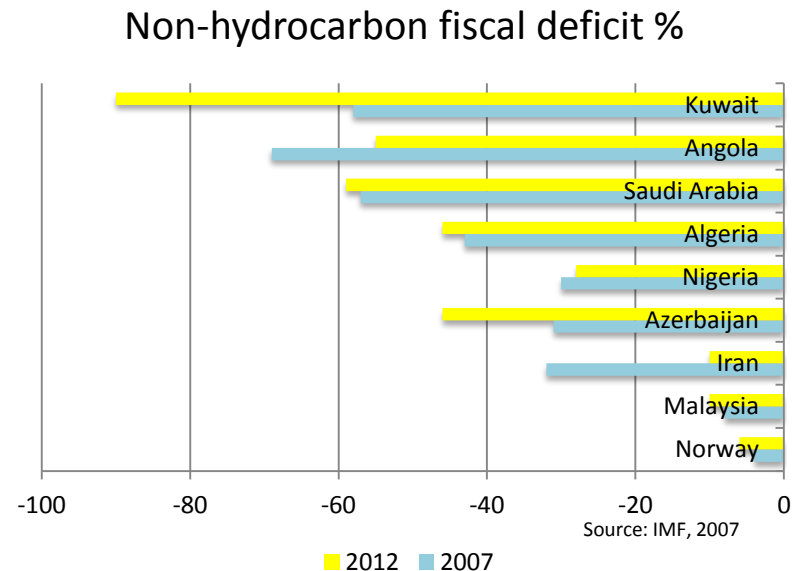
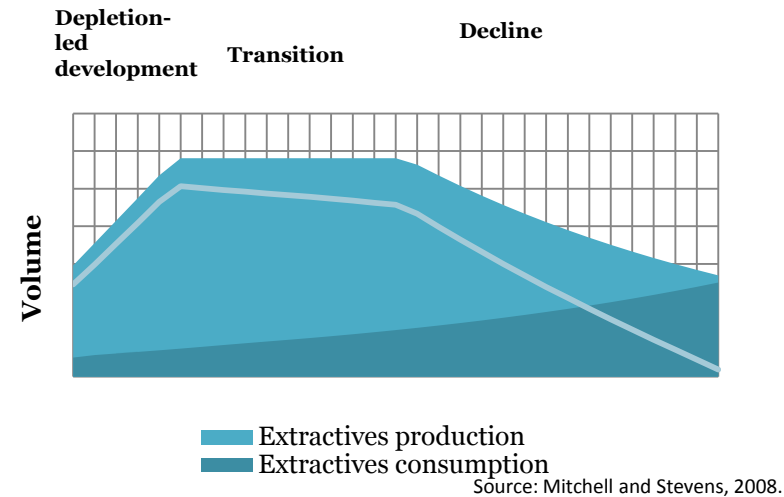
Global proven gas reserves 1980 and 2017



Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2018

New geopolitics: Stage 1 During the transition

- The imperative to diversify the hydrocarbon producing economies
- Generally a failure to diversify the economies away from hydrocarbons
- The faster the transition the greater the disruption = destabilization of the MENA region



New Geopolitics: Stage 2 After the transition

- The new geopolitics of energy
 - Renewables – small scale, decentralized and everywhere
 - Limited geopolitical issues: there may be some issues?
 - Access to key minerals?
 - Conflict over interconnectors?
 - IP disputes and access to technology?
- BUT the old geopolitics of energy surrounding conflict over access will be gone (if you can get through Stage 1!)
- Hardly the ‘Great Game’!

Thank you

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