



a formative piece of the peak oil picture? (or, "The Spice Must Flow")

Posted by [Prof. Goose](#) on May 9, 2005 - 6:21pm

Via [The Huffington Post](#), [Gerald Posner is about to release a book](#) that, if credible, actually adds to our understanding of why the Saudi government has been able to stay in power, why the US hasn't ever thought about attacking them, and another reason why these scenarios created by our (and for that matter, the world's) oil dependency become intractable geopolitical nightmares. It also helps us understand that the Saudis understand the value of their oil, but that's no real surprise.

It's been about deterrence all along. Don't attack us, don't try to invade. You'll regret it. Scary stuff.

I'm still digesting how all of this fits together, and will post more on it tonight after I give my final and get some grading done.

My initial thought is that this news will have a lot to do with [Saudi pricing power of oil sooner or later](#). As time passes, this little piece of the puzzle just gives the Saudis (and anyone else with oil who threatens scorched earth for that matter) choices on who to sell to and for how much if peak oil is an imminent reality...and as the gap between demand and supply grows, the more power they will have.

Here's some quotes from the Huffington Post piece:

"According to a new book exclusively obtained by the Huffington Post, Saudi Arabia has crafted a plan to protect itself from a possible invasion or internal attack. It includes the use of a series of explosives, including radioactive "dirty bombs," that would cripple Saudi Arabian oil production and distribution systems for decades.

Bestselling author Gerald Posner lays out this "doomsday scenario" in his forthcoming "Secrets of the Kingdom: The Inside Story of the Saudi-US Connection" (Random House).

According to the book, which will be released to the public on May 17, based on National Security Agency electronic intercepts, the Saudi Arabian government has in place a nationwide, self-destruction explosive system composed of conventional explosives and dirty bombs strategically placed at the Kingdom's key oil ports, pipelines, pumping stations, storage tanks, offshore platforms, and backup facilities. If activated, the bombs would destroy the infrastructure of the world's largest oil supplier, and leave the country a contaminated nuclear wasteland ensuring that the Kingdom's oil would be unusable to anyone. The NSA file is dubbed internally Petro SE, for petroleum scorched earth."

Well, this sure adds an interesting and colorful piece to the puzzle, eh?

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