



## DrumBeat: August 3, 2006

Posted by [threadbot](#) on August 3, 2006 - 9:32am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Update by Leanan on 08/03/06 at 9:35 AM EDT]

### [King Abdullah's First Year](#)

Lost in the swirl of controversy surrounding this new analysis by some people of world energy dynamics is that few publications have noted that the accompanying scare was originally the result of writings by Matthew Simmons. The latter has been and remains a controversial source. Simmons' analytical credentials, if not also his prognostic ones as well, are considered by many to be dubious given that he has long been an American investment banker based in Houston, Texas.

Even now, relatively few people outside the publications and conferences where Simmons has argued this case would have known the frequency with which his contentions have been soundly rebutted by geologists, petroleum engineers, and oil reservoir technical specialists. These quite differently situated individuals and specialists, almost all of whom have had decades of firsthand experience working with the oil fields in question and whose work has required that they carefully monitor and report on such matters every day, all year round, continue to contest and argue the exact opposite of the "peak" oil theorists.

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### [Saudi Arabia rules out oil weapon](#)

RIYADH (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter, believes oil should not be used as a weapon because it is the economic lifeline of Arab states, its foreign minister said.

Asked whether the oil weapon should be used if the conflict between Israel and Hizbollah escalates, Prince Saud al-Faisal said: "The two issues should not be mixed because oil is among the economic capabilities that countries... need to meet their obligations toward their citizens.

"If we ignore this reality and start asking that the foundations of our life (be used) and enter into reckless adventures, the first to be hurt will be our citizens and no wise government can accept this," he told a news conference.

[Tropical Storm Chris](#) weakened unexpectedly overnight, and is no longer expected to become a hurricane.

### [Q&A with Jeremy Rifkin](#)

Let me put it this way: The power companies and energy companies understand that we're heading toward peak oil. That's No. 1.

### [Biofuels May Not Be Sustainability Panacea](#)

### [Japan's Itochu to build world's largest geothermal plant in Indonesia](#)

### [Energy From the Restless Sea](#)

### [An end to subsidized parking](#)

### [Let's get serious about oil](#)

### [When Mexico runs dry](#)

Mexico's economy and government are living on borrowed time, and the day of reckoning may be coming sooner rather than later.

A third of the country's federal revenues come from the profits from government-run oil fields. A single field known as Cantarell provides most of the oil and the profits. While the exact condition of this field is a closely kept secret, news leaks and the limited published data suggest that Cantarell is quickly passing its pumping prime. Production in May was down 7 percent from just the beginning of the year, according to the Los Angeles Times. The demise of an oil field can be rather sudden. As one former Mexican oil executive told the Times, "Cantarell is going to fall a lot, and quickly."

### [Senate Approves Bill to Expand Oil, Gas Drilling](#); Gulf States Would Get Share of Royalties.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Kirkilas: [Political issues might motivate Russian oil blockage](#)

Bangladesh: [Power office ransacked in Jhalakati for power outage](#)

Angry demonstrators deprived of regular electricity supply ransacked the power office in the town during their three-hour demonstration programme Wednesday, leaving an

engineer and five police injured.

### [Road Projects a Casualty of Oil Crisis](#)

Asphalt prices escalate as oil prices climb, making highway projects more expensive.

U.K.: [Vegetable prices to soar as heatwave blights harvest](#)



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