



DrumBeat: January 15, 2007

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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Michael T. Klare: Is Energo-fascism in Your Future?](#)

Unlike Islamo-fascism, Energo-fascism will, in time, affect nearly every person on the planet. Either we will be compelled to participate in or finance foreign wars to secure vital supplies of energy, such as the current conflict in Iraq; or we will be at the mercy of those who control the energy spigot, like the customers of the Russian energy juggernaut Gazprom in Ukraine, Belarus, and Georgia; or sooner or later we may find ourselves under constant state surveillance, lest we consume more than our allotted share of fuel or engage in illicit energy transactions. This is not simply some future dystopian nightmare, but a potentially all-encompassing reality whose basic features, largely unnoticed, are developing today.

[Book review: Hell and High Water](#)

Joseph Romm's *Hell and High Water* may be the most depressing book on global warming I've ever read.

He writes of a "Planetary Purgatory" [UPDATE - by the 22nd Century], where sea level rises 20 feet, many coastal cities are subject to such frequent hurricanes they are abandoned, and most of the Greenland ice mass melts. What are today considered heat waves become normal summers, with more and more forest and agricultural land lost to fire and drought.

Here's the really bad news: this is not what Romm is trying to avoid, but what he hopes to settle for.

[EU defends leadership in 'world war' on climate change](#)

'A war economy is needed' to reduce global warming emissions, according to the EU's environment chief who said new measures will be tabled 'shortly' to tackle car pollution and expand the carbon trading system.

[Oil, The Elites, And The Commons](#)

The preservation of secured sources of abundant energy has long been a priority of the American elites and their European counterparts. The Euro-Atlantic Community or "Axis" -- the First World -- has pursued similar policies for over 100 years, through either *soft* or *hard* power. The abundance of energy is the indispensable lubricant to run our economic engines. Until the 1970s, energy was cheap and plentiful, but in spite of a few ups and downs in the market, experts were forecasting the end of abundance. We were imperceptibly entering an era of energy scarcity. No sooner had the Soviet Union joined the dustbins of history did the Euro-Atlantic Axis take a strong stance to secure the energy realm of the future. It began with the first Gulf War and the dismemberment of Yugoslavia, and it led to the scenario that befuddles us now.

[The US is not leaving Iraq](#)

I represent the 5% of the world's population that require 25% of the world's oil to survive. I'm one of twenty people at a party, with 4 pies to be shared, and I claim one entire pie for myself.

[From the Left and Right: It's time to get Political](#)

Peak Oil, if you have never heard of it before, is a term meaning the point at which the global flow of oil supply, from the Earth's crust to the market, reaches it's maximum amount, and can thereafter only decrease. Because oil is the most fundamental resource to modern economies, the implications of it's supply beginning to decrease are so profound, that - from food supplies to financial markets - almost no aspect of your life would be untouched.

[Texas report to maul BP management](#)

BP management will be sharply criticised in a report to be published tomorrow by the former US secretary of state James Baker into the fire at its Texas City refinery two years ago which killed 15 workers and injured hundreds more.

[Gazprom Free to Buy Up Russian Gas Producers](#)

Gazprom is finally free to buy any Russian gas producing enterprises after it has succeeded in reversing the state competition watchdog's regulation. There are now no obstacles for Gazprom to set up monopoly not only on exports but also on the whole gas production in Russia. Experts say that oil companies will remain the only alternative gas suppliers in Russia. Many of them, however, are already selling their gas business to Gazprom.

Kurt Cobb: [Deluded](#)

As long as Americans and their leaders believe that there is plenty of oil to be had; that getting access to it is really only a matter of applying military force and market principles; and that national security isn't inextricably bound up with the way we think about and use energy, the country will fall further and further behind in making an energy transition that is being forced upon us by the limits of fossil fuels themselves.

[Wind Power on the Rise in South Korea](#)

South Korean government announces new plan to increase renewable energy use from 2% to 9% by 2030.

[EU Eyes Climate, Energy, Trade in New China Talks](#)

The European Union will urge China to do more to cut greenhouse gas emissions and cooperate on energy security next week when it launches negotiations on a broad new strategic partnership with Beijing.

[China, Australia to set up work panel on clean coal](#)

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Australian Prime Minister John Howard agreed here on Monday to set up a Sino-Australian clean coal work group in order to promote effective utilization of coal resources and tackle the global problem of climate changes.

Raymond J. Learsy: [Saudi Arabia's Oil? Sovereign Responsibility Trumps Sovereign Rights!](#)

The oil under Saudi Arabia's suzerainty is being made available to the world at large virtually without consideration as to need nor equity. Not only that, but Saudi Arabia breached their fiduciary trust and has delivered this vast and important resource into the grip of the larcenous OPEC cartel in order to extort the maximum possible lucre irrespective of the enormous economic distortion it creates, wresting the means to build Palaces and Yachts from the backs of the miserably poor in the Asian subcontinent, Africa, and throughout the world. Riches attained by adding no real value other than the serendipity of finding themselves with 'Sovereign Rights' over one of the world's key economic engines.

[Surging toward the holy oil grail](#)

Washington's successive divide-and-rule tactics - facilitating a possible genocide of Sunnis, contemplating a mass slaughter of Shi'ites, betting on a regional Sunni/Shi'ite war - never for a second lose sight of the riches of Iraqi. For Big Business, an Iraq eaten alive by Balkanization is the ideal environment for the triumph of Anglo-American petrocracy.

[Cairn Energy resolves pipeline differences with Indian oil firm - Dispute had delayed production](#)

[U.S. denies British rumors on Bush climate change](#)

A U.S. official on Sunday denied a British newspaper report that President George W. Bush was preparing to announce a dramatic policy shift on global warming in his State of the Union speech this month.

[Americans have personal bonds with cars](#)

When people talk about their strong feelings for their cars and trucks, they mention dependability, time spent maintaining them and the freedom that comes from cruising on the open road.

[Connecting the Global Warming Dots](#)

If thought of as a painting, the scientific picture of a growing and potentially calamitous human influence on the climate has moved from being abstract a century ago to impressionistic 30 years ago to pointillist today.

[Gore: Japanese business can lead climate campaign](#)

"The Japanese business community, because of the respect with which you are regarded, can have a powerful influence on the shaping of opinions within the U.S. business community," Gore told executives at the Keidanren (Japanese Business Federation).

[Nigerian president calls for international action on climate change](#)

"We have to do something about [Lake Chad] so that about 10 million people will not be out of water," Obasanjo warned.

[Far flung tribes](#)

Partly by accident I have been without a car for well over a year.

In the summer of 2005, about the same time Katrina was shutting down gulf production, I was stagnating in an office designing circuit protection equipment for the utility industry – a job that obviously wasn't preparing me for things to come. As I described earlier, it was a bumpy road for me arriving at a functioning level of Peak Oil

awareness.

[Saudi Aramco: Khursaniyah oil project on track](#)

State oil firm Saudi Aramco said the deadline for its Khursaniyah project to add 500,000 barrels per day of crude had not been pushed back and was originally scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2007. An Aramco spokesman said a June, 2007 deadline was for water-injection facilities and not for the whole project.

[High-powered entrepreneur: Crisis of 2000 led Blue Point Energy founder to design generators that recycle their own heat](#)

During the 2000 California energy crisis, most people just saw high electricity bills.

Guy Archbold saw daylight.

"To me, it was a glimpse of what the future would hold," he said.

[East Asian Leaders To Vow To Promote Biofuels Amid Energy Crisis](#)

[Arctic Sea Ice decline in the 21st Century](#)

Last month a paper I co-authored received considerable media attention. Headlines read "Experts warn North Pole will be 'ice free' by 2040", "The Big Melt: Loss of Sea Ice Snowballs", and "Arctic Clear for Summer Sailing by 2040: Models Predict Rapid Decline of Sea Ice". The story also reached NPR, BBC, CBC, the Discovery channel, and Fox News, among others. Dr. Marika Holland, the first author of the paper, was inundated with media attention. About a dozen journalists contacted me too. I was impressed by the questions they posed -- questions that probably reflect what the public most wants to know. However, after giving lengthy interviews, I would read the resulting article and see my explanations boiled down to a few lines. In this essay, I'd like to explain the science in the paper and give my answers to the most often asked questions.



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