



## Drumbeat: March 14, 2011

Posted by [Leanan](#) on March 14, 2011 - 10:43am

### [Saudi sends troops, Bahrain Shi'ites call it "war"](#)

(Reuters) - Saudi Arabia sent troops into Bahrain on Monday to help put down weeks of protests by the Shi'ite Muslim majority, a move opponents of the Sunni ruling family on the island called a declaration of war.

Analysts saw the troop movement into Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, as a mark of concern in Saudi Arabia that concessions by the country's monarchy could inspire the conservative Sunni kingdom's own Shi'ite minority.

### [Saudi Troops Enter Bahrain to Help Put Down Unrest](#)

CAIRO —Troops from Saudi Arabia and police officers from the United Arab Emirates crossed into Bahrain on Monday under the aegis of the Gulf Cooperation Council to help quell unrest there, a move Bahraini opposition groups denounced in a statement as an “occupation.”

The deployments were confirmed by the state-run Bahrain News Agency and the foreign minister of the Emirates, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahayan.

### [Crude Oil Futures Edge Higher in New York as Saudi Troops Enter Bahrain](#)

Crude oil futures edged higher in New York to end four days of declines on speculation unrest in the Middle East may escalate after Saudi Arabia sent its troops into Bahrain.

Oil erased losses as Saudi Arabia's cabinet said the kingdom has responded to a Bahraini request for “support.” Prices were lower most of the day on speculation Japan's demand may decline after the 8.9-magnitude earthquake devastated the third-largest economy.

“The situation in Bahrain appears to be escalating and people start to wonder that it could become a bigger issue,” said Carl Larry, president of Oil Outlooks & Opinions LLC in Houston.

### [Gadhafi's government controls the skies by day; sundown brings rebels out in oil-rich east](#)

TOBRUK, Libya - Moammar Gadhafi's warplanes, artillery and mortar shells can control huge swaths of territory by day, including oil ports, rebel supply routes and even hostile towns. Rebels say anti-government forces can still return in darkness to take advantage of Gadhafi's own thin supply lines and overstretched ground troops.

### [Oil exports on hold at last rebel-held Libyan port](#)

TOBRUK, Libya—The last major eastern Libyan oil port firmly under rebel control is not expecting another crude tanker for a month, a senior oil official said Monday, raising new questions whether the OPEC member was still exporting crude at all.

Rajab Sahnoun, a top executive with the Arabian Gulf Oil Co., or Agoco, in Tobruk also warned that the Marsa al-Harigah facility's two functioning storage tanks could be full, forcing a shutdown in production if the tanker does not come as expected.

### [How global instability could threaten the country's fuel supplies](#)

WITH oil supplies from Libya disrupted, some Japanese refineries out of action and oil prices back around \$US100 a barrel, how vulnerable are Australian oil supplies to global instability?

### [10 Fascinating Oil Charts](#)

Erste Research Group's excellent report on oil crunches some fascinating data on oil and its current short-term and long-term influence on the global economy. We picked ten charts to highlights some key findings from the report. Click for chart slideshow [here](#).

### [Kurt Cobb - Memo to market: High oil prices are DE-flationary](#)

As the European Central Bank (ECB) prepares to raise interest rates to prevent inflation, the bank cites rising commodity prices, particularly oil prices, as a sign of that inflation. What the bank and other market participants don't seem to understand is that high commodity prices and, in particular, high oil prices are *deflationary*.

The logic is so simple it's hard to understand why smart people with advanced degrees can't see it. Commodities, particularly oil, pull money away from other sectors of the economy. When people are forced to choose between paying for heat and gasoline or paying the mortgage, they pay for heat and gasoline. Cars don't budge without gasoline (unless you can afford an electric one) and most people need their cars to get to work. The heat can be turned off rather quickly by the utility company in comparison to the glacial pace of a mortgage foreclosure that can take many months and sometimes more than a year.

### [Gas prices put brake on spring break for many](#)

University of Iowa sophomore Jimmy Novak didn't let \$3.50-a-gallon gasoline prices keep him from making a spring break pilgrimage to Daytona Beach, Fla., with his fraternity brothers last weekend.

But the prospect of \$50 fill-ups did alter his behavior: "We're squeezing five people in a car to save money on gas, and we made a ton of sandwiches before we left instead of stopping for fast food," says Novak. "We just told ourselves it's going to cost a pretty penny."

### [Japan's gasoline needs may raise U.S. gas prices](#)

Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami could cause gas prices to rise even higher in the U.S. as refineries here try to make up for some of the losses to Japan's refining capacity. At the same time, it is reducing crude oil prices.

### [Japanese ports sustain major damage, some out for months](#)

TOKYO/SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Japanese ports handling as much as 7 percent of the country's industrial output sustained major damage from last week's earthquake, disrupting global supply chains and causing billions of dollars in losses, industry officials said.

### [Tokyo Elec says its four LNG terminals undamaged by quake](#)

(Reuters) - Tokyo Electric Power Co said on Monday its four liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals have been running normally and were undamaged by a strong earthquake on Friday that hit the northeast coast of Japan.

### [Japan's TonenGeneral preparing to restart Kawasaki plant](#)

(Reuters) - Japan's Exxon Mobil group refiner TonenGeneral Sekiyu KK said on Monday it was preparing to restart its 335,000 barrels per day Kawasaki plant, near Tokyo, which was shut after Friday's strong earthquake.

### [Key Japanese oil port resumes some operations - industry sources](#)

(Reuters) - Japan's Chiba oil port, one of the country's biggest, has resumed some operations with at least one terminal remaining shut following last week's devastating earthquake and tsunami, industry sources said on Monday.

"The Chiba port is open," said a Tokyo-based senior official with a shipping company.

"Only the Cosmo Oil terminal remains shut, the other 10 terminals I think are open. We still don't have the full picture."

### [Russia and Qatar 'ready to supply Japan LNG'](#)

Russia and Qatar are both poised to supply liquefied natural gas to Japan as relief following the weekend's earthquake in the region, the two countries said today.

Russia is considering redirecting supplies of LNG from other export destinations operator of Russia's LNG plant on the Pacific coast said today.

### [Russia to increase electricity, LNG supplies to Japan](#)

Russia is increasing energy supplies to Japan to help its disaster-hit neighbor tackle energy shortages.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev called for Russian producers of liquefied natural gas on Monday to review contracts with Japan and increase LNG supplies to the country.

"Our partners should make concessions. This is a very big problem and we should introduce changes to agreements [with Japan]," Medvedev said, speaking at his Gorki residence outside Moscow.

### [The UK's Japanese natgas exposure](#)

As we reported earlier, liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes are being diverted to Japan to help it overcome its fuel shortages.

This, though, is having an impact on European natural gas prices — British national balancing point (NBP) prices in particular.

### [Japanese Earthquake: Positive for Product Tankers, Negative for Crude Tankers](#)

The recent Japanese earthquake and tsunami has caused major damage and closing of most of the Japanese ports. It has also resulted in the closure of approximately one-third of Japan's total refining capacity. Crude currently on route to Japan will now likely be discharged at refineries in Asia (India's Reliance Industries can be a big beneficiary) and the refined products will then be carried on to Japan once ports reopen. This is likely to be a positive for product tankers while negative for crude tankers rates. Before going into reasoning, let's first understand the difference between product tankers and oil tankers.

### [Oil prices and the japanese disaster: the herd got it wrong](#)

Even in the short term, probably within at most a week, Japan's oil demand and therefore its call on world export supply will be up.

### [Bank of Italy moves on UBAE over Libya asset freeze](#)

(Reuters) - The Bank of Italy said on Monday it had placed Banca UBAE in Rome under special administration following the European Council's decision last week to freeze Libyan banking assets.

### [Chevron spending targets big Aussie gas projects](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Chevron Corp is targeting a 1 percent output increase in 2011 as it invests in two huge Australian natural gas projects to reignite growth at the second-largest U.S. oil company.

### [Chevron to Boost Production to 2.79MM Bopd](#)

Chevron said it plans to increase drilling for unconventional gas and oil reserves in the U.S. and elsewhere and that it plans to raise total production 1% this year.

### [Norway extends ban on Arctic shelf oil production until 2013](#)

Norway's government has extended a 30-year moratorium on oil production on its Arctic shelf until 2013 under pressure from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the environmental organization said on Monday.

### [CERAWeek topics span deepwater drilling, the economy, oil prices](#)

More investments are necessary if oil production is to keep up with spiraling demand worldwide, and industry is increasingly relying on partnerships to spread financial risk and share expertise, oil company executives told the IHS-CERA energy conference last week in Houston.

Total SA Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Christophe de Margerie said sufficient short-term oil supply exists worldwide despite civil unrest in the Middle East. But he said more investments are needed if long-term oil and gas production is to meet forecast demand.

### [Shell hopes for more Saudi gas, doubt over profits](#)

KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia (Reuters) - Royal Dutch Shell is optimistic a second phase of exploration in Saudi Arabia's Empty Quarter will yield gas, although it is unclear how economic it will be, it said in an interview.

### [Aramco rents Japanese oil storage-facilities](#)

(MENAFN) Saudi Aramco's vice president of marketing and supply said that the company would rent storage tanks from Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation, reported Arabian Oil and Gas.

### [Energy chairman warns US headed toward 1970s-style crisis](#)

The U.S. could be heading toward an energy crisis of a type unseen since the 1970s, the chairman of the House's Energy panel said.

Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.), the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, warned of elevated prices for gas and other energy sources along the lines of what the U.S. experienced under President Carter.

### [Fuel for thought: Is it time for the U.S. to invest in coal-to-liquids technology?](#)

Escalating gas prices these past few weeks bring to mind one remedy that could leave Middle Eastern oil out of the equation — coal to liquids.

As consumers cringe when fueling up at prices of \$3.50-plus a gallon, there is an alternative in the background that could potentially lower the prices at the pump and fuel jobs in the coalfields region. The answer: Coal-to-liquids technology.

### [A Solar and Wind Revolution From a Land of Oil](#)

BRUSSELS — Higher oil prices are usually good news for clean energy because they make costly technologies like solar and wind less daunting to investors. But for one of the world's most ambitious clean-energy projects, Desertec, the instability in North Africa behind the price increases signals a less certain outlook.

Desertec aims to tap the vast solar and wind resources across the deserts of the Middle East and North Africa and, over coming decades, deliver as much as 15 percent of the electricity needed by the European Union through high-voltage transmission lines to be laid under the Mediterranean Sea.

### [Top Wind Power Companies To Participate In African Utility Week](#)



NAIROBI (BERNAMA-NNN-KBC) -- Three of the five top wind power companies in the world -- Goldwind, Suzlon and Vestas - will be among high-profile participants at the African Utility Week in what is clearly a huge surge in interest by foreign investors in green energy in South Africa and the continent.

### [America: Arab Dictators' Willing Hostage](#)

The US has been tolerating many with the worst record on human rights, while at the same time allowing them to jeopardize the economic stability of the average American, who has to feel the pain at the gas pump, the local store, and the stock market. Such oil-driven economic blackmail has resulted in the America being held hostage to the policies and even the whims of Arab oil dictators.

### [Richard Heinberg: "I think 2011 is going to be an interesting year... in the Chinese sense..."](#)

We're seeing high prices now that are not just a result of extra Chinese demand but are a result of revolutions in Libya and potentially in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. If that continues, we could see oil prices going through the ceiling – we could see \$150 again, even \$200 and of course that would immediately cause the economy to crash and then we'd see how far oil prices would fall in that case. They might not fall as much this time if global oil supplies are really seriously constrained. Remember in 2008, there hadn't been a decline in oil production that caused prices to fall – it was merely a fall in demand. This time we would see a fall in demand but it would be in the context of supply problems, which could be a different situation all together. It could be much worse.

### [America's churches can change the world](#)

Despite the biblical command to give 10% of our income back to God (read "to charity"), for example, the average church member gives 3%. We complain about the record heat as our air conditioners run full blast and continue having as many children as we want – sometimes at the encouragement of our religious leaders – despite the impact on the environment. Our elected officials even give us tax breaks for crowding the planet.

### [When technological complexity comes home](#)

As our technologies have gotten more complex and grown in size, the scale of the problems when failures occur have grown in step. Even when technological complexity works according to plan, the scale of ecological and environmental devastation can be unprecedented, as mountain-top removal in southern Appalachia, the tar sands of Alberta, and the vast dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico remind us daily. It is no coincidence that the destruction of species and ecosystems has reached an epochal level at the same time.

### [Kunstler: Rock Me on the Water](#)

At the moment, the oil markets don't know what to do. Some loose talk says that Japan will not need oil for a while, due to a wrecked economy. I dunno about that, with the reactors melting and twelve million people without electric power there. Let's remember, they are not the only people in the world who buy oil. In fact, everybody but a few savages in some tiny backwaters of the rain forest use oil - and even the savages do indirectly since they trade for things that come up the Amazon (and the rivers of Borneo) in boats with motors. (Not to put too fine a point on it.)

### [You Cooked What? I'll Trade You Granola!](#)

Food swapping is nothing new — ancient Babylonian homemakers probably traded olive oil for beans. In modern times, bartering has mostly been associated with poverty; think of the country doctor paid with eggs. But in certain precincts of Brooklyn, where artisanal food buffs have become as ubiquitous as artisanal beards, the lingering recession has combined with a do-it-yourself fervor to fuel any number of edible swaps.

### [Libya seeks Italy's help with fire at oil facility](#)

Libya's de facto oil minister said Sunday the country's crude production has fallen "drastically" and that he has reached out to Italian oil giant Eni SpA for help in extinguishing a blaze at an eastern oil facility snatched back from rebel fighters.

The call for help by National Oil Co. head Shukri Ghanem demonstrated the country's dependence on foreign oil companies' expertise and the crippling impact of an exodus of that labor force as a result of the fighting in the OPEC member.

### [NOC calls back workers](#)

Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) has called on employees to return to work at oil installations and is hopeful oil production can soon increase, the head of NOC Shokri Ghanem said today.

### [Rebels Lose Ground in Libya](#)

Forces loyal to Col. Moammar Gadhafi pressed their offensive further into eastern Libya on Monday, as warplanes struck weapons depots in the rebel-held city of Ajdabiya and forces moved closer to the rebels' de facto capital city of Benghazi, which has been shaken by a string of mysterious explosions and armed robberies.

### [Libya opposition to meet with Clinton in Paris today](#)

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will continue on to Egypt and Tunisia in her first trip to address the Arab revolutions. But the window for foreign assistance to Libya is



quickly closing.

### [Unrest in Libya hurt Russian economic diversification, analysts say](#)

Efforts of Russia, one of the world's largest crude producers, to increase the share of its non-energy economy has been nipped in the bud by higher oil prices following the unrest in Libya, a significant oil supplier to the international market, analysts say.

### [Bahrain lawmakers ask king to impose martial law](#)

MANAMA, Bahrain — Pro-government lawmakers urged Bahrain's king on Monday to impose martial law to put an end to a month of unrest that has left the Gulf nation sharply divided between minority Sunni Muslims backing the ruling system and Shiites demanding sweeping changes.

### [Gulf markets surge after aid to Bahrain, Oman](#)

Stock markets across the Persian Gulf are up sharply after the oil-rich region agreed to aid Bahrain and Oman and major protests did not materialize in regional powerhouse Saudi Arabia.

### [Oil below \\$99 as Japan disaster stuns economy](#)

SINGAPORE – Oil prices dropped below \$99 a barrel Monday in Asia after a massive earthquake and tsunami devastated northeastern Japan, likely denting demand for crude from the world's third-largest economy.

### [Refinery Margins Poised to Surge After Quake If History Is Guide](#)

The profit from making gasoil in Asia surged to the highest in 2 ½ years and fuel oil's loss narrowed the most in a month after Japan's biggest earthquake knocked out power plants and refineries.

### [Russia, Japan May Join Global Race for U.S. Oil and Gas Assets](#)

Japanese, South Korean and Russian companies will likely jockey for stakes in difficult-to-tap U.S. reservoirs, joining cash-rich Reliance Industries Ltd., China Petrochemical Corp., and Cnooc Ltd., which may expand their acquisitions from last year, according to bankers, lawyers and company executives interviewed during CERAWEEK, a Houston conference sponsored by IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates. Transactions won't be limited to North America.

## [Fixed Income Knows Best?](#)

Time to start thinking about higher oil prices. Whether you believe in peak oil or not, or whether the Saudis are truthful about their supply capacity, fact is the world has been confronted with uproar and social unrest in major oil producing countries and this is likely going to leave a long-lasting mark. David Rolley, vice president and investment strategist at fixed income specialist Loomis Sayles, believes the market will now permanently price in a "risk premium" of US\$15-20 per barrel into the price of crude oil. This will have immediate effect, leading Rolley to make the prediction that consumer spending data in the US are likely to surprise to the downside in the months ahead.

## [Spike in oil prices to usher in next recession?](#)

Saxena says he is inclined to think that crude oil prices could go lower due to easing in Middle East tensions, however, he finds that the reality is far different. Over the longer-term, he sees the price of oil going significantly higher, high enough to bring in the next recession. "Last time when we had the bull market in crude oil in 2008, the price peaked out at USD 147 a bbl and if our work is correct then we think that the price may actually go passed that level in this particular business cycle."

## [Future shocks in store](#)

Through his NBER working paper 16790 titled 'Historic Oil Shocks' (<http://www.nber.org/papers/w16790.pdf>), author Mr James Hamilton has sifted through 150 years of oil supply and price data and how they relate to recessions in the business cycles. The author's basic assertion that oil shocks, or violent spikes in the price of oil, are among the major contributing causes to the slowdown in the business cycle, is backed up by empirical evidence dating back to the 1970s.

The author's major observation is that "insofar as events such as the Suez Crisis and first Persian Gulf War were not caused by US business cycle dynamics, a correlation between these events and subsequent economic downturns should be viewed as causal".

[Royal Dutch Shell: Brunei Shell Announces Important Oil Discovery](#) LONDON - (Dow Jones) - Royal Dutch Shell (RDSA.LN), said Monday that Brunei Shell Petroleum or BSP has announced a significant new oil discovery in the coastal waters of the south-east Asian sultanate.

## [ONGC Said to Lose Bid for Exxon's Stake in Angolan Oil Field](#)

Oil & Natural Gas Corp., India's biggest energy explorer, lost a bid to buy Exxon Mobil Corp.'s 25 percent stake in an Angolan oil field, said two people with knowledge of the matter.

### [Egyptian gas resumption remains in doubt](#)

Notwithstanding yesterday's announcement by Ampal-American Israel Corporation that East Mediterranean Gas Company (EMG) will resume natural gas deliveries to Israel today, sources inform "Globes" that deliveries have not yet resumed. Ampal, which owns 12.5% of EMG, had previously announced three postponements in the resumption of gas deliveries.

### [Canada: The federal election and its parallel universe](#)

But the other universe is virtually invisible despite the fact that it is very real and well known. That parallel road that no one in authority wants to acknowledge is one which is taking us over a cliff. That universe tells us that we are rapidly reaching the planet's limits to growth, that we are well past the start of a global fresh water crisis, that we have already reached peak oil, that climate change will have ever-increasing planet-changing impacts and that rapidly rising food prices will lead to mass starvation in the developing world.

### [Learsy: President Obama Gets It Wrong On the Price of Oil and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve](#)

With inventories bulging and with the Saudis pumping away, the current egregiously high price of oil at some \$100 a barrel for West Texas Intermediate Crude (WTI), costing the nation's economy hundreds of billions, can hardly be attributed to rote supply and demand. Were that the case Mr. Obama's decision to let the SPR be untapped would be defensible.

### [Homefront](#) (video game)

Homefront: set in a near-future, post peak oil world that features a significantly declined United States, and a united Korea that has built a massive alliance in East Asia. The Gate Corporation (a major private military company) also plays a minor role. The game focuses on the collapse of the United States, subsequent occupation by the Greater Korean Republic – a united Korea under the rule of North Korea – and the American Resistance that fights said occupation.

### [How we can save environmentalism—and ourselves](#)

If you are going to frighten people, you better have a very easy-to-understand and clear set of ideas about how to get out of danger. Humans seem to operate at a high level exactly when they are in danger and there is a clear way out -- probably the result of the evolutionary need to do things like escape from lions. But when only fear is used to push your cause, all kinds of unfortunate stresses on the system result, often backfiring *and* leading to the rise of right-wing political moments. It's the remedies that have been in short supply so far.

[Twenty Five Years Later...](#)

On Wednesday I turn 25. That is like 1/3 of my total life expectancy. Since I'm not feeling very inspired today (I'm missing that lost hour) I'm going to talk about where the world might be in 25 years.

### 1) Oil is Still King

Being the adaptable people we are, many Americans have adjusted their lifestyles to the rising costs of oil, and ever increasing fuel standards have forced many people into cramped econocars that deliver upwards of 100 mpg. Most people only refill their vehicles once or twice a month at about \$25 a gallon as swelling car usage in India and China has put a premium price on petrol. Peak oil has come and gone, and nobody really noticed.

[Ethanol revival renews debate on environment, food supply](#)

LOS ANGELES -- Corn-based ethanol is the renewable fuel environmentalists love to hate. But as turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa has sent oil prices soaring, U.S.-made ethanol is making a comeback.

Plants mothballed during the economic downturn are reopening. Domestic ethanol production hit record levels last year, topping 13.2 billion gallons, according to the Renewable Fuels Association in Washington. Oil companies, including Valero Energy Corp., Sunoco Inc. and Marathon Oil Corp., that snapped up facilities when the industry hit a rough patch a few years ago are looking to expand.

[Green Development? Not in My \(Liberal\) Backyard](#)

Park Slope, Brooklyn. Cape Cod, Mass. Berkeley, Calif. Three famously progressive places, right? The yin to the Tea Party yang. But just try putting a bike lane or some wind turbines in their lines of sight. And the karma can get very different.

[Qatar pays \\$2.8 billion for Spanish power stake](#)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates -- An arm of Qatar's sovereign wealth fund agreed Monday to buy more than 6 percent of Spanish power utility Iberdrola SA for just over 2 billion euros, strengthening the gas-rich Gulf nation's financial ties to Europe.

[Give Up Familiar Light Bulb? Not Without Fight, Some Say](#)

WASHINGTON — American protests against the encroachment of government have been spurred by many causes — tea, of course, and guns, frequently. The latest catalyst: light bulbs.

### [Saudi's Soaring Construction Industry Could Negate Costly Water Investments](#)

Saudi Arabia is investing huge sums to diversify its water supply, while at the same time fanning a booming construction industry. Will the latter negate the former?

### [China to help Iran build world's tallest dam](#)

TEHRAN - China signed a \$2 billion contract with Iran to build the world's tallest dam in the Islamic state, the Iranian energy minister was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency on Monday.

"One of the major events in the water sector of the country is to sign the finance contract with China for execution of Bakhtiari dam. This is the world's tallest dam," Majid Namjoo told IRNA.

### [Solar storm threat returning](#)

Researchers expect a major solar event to trigger widespread power cuts that could cause "disruption of the transportation, communication, banking and finance systems, and government services; the breakdown of the distribution of potable water owing to pump failure; and the loss of perishable foods and medications because of lack of refrigeration".

That is even without reckoning with the direct effects of solar flares on communications and navigation satellites.

### ['What are we going to eat?' is not a simple question](#)

Karen Burson, manager of Hamilton Eat Local, agrees that the idea of eating local is a complicated answer to a complicated question. For example, people who have "come from away" are used to eating foods that aren't even grown locally. If plantain is a regular part of your diet, do you just give that up or is it OK to buy imported food that has previously been your sustenance?

Burson says peak oil issues will eventually make imported food so expensive that it will be important for people from newcomer communities to learn to substitute ingredients. She notes her own parents found it a luxury to be able to buy Jamaican ingredients and had to learn to look for alternatives.

### [Hot: Living Through the Next Fifty Years on Earth](#)

To be honest, I was not looking forward to this book. Having tracked climate change

journalistically for nearly 20 years myself, I felt burned out on the subject. It seemed as intractable as “the Middle East peace process” or “campaign finance reform” – issues more battered than helped by politics.

But I came away thinking and feeling differently – not only renewedly interested in what humankind is doing to Earth’s climate, but also actually somewhat more hopeful.

### [In U.S., Concerns About Global Warming Stable at Lower Levels](#)

PRINCETON, NJ -- Americans continue to express less concern about global warming than they have in the past, with 51% saying they worry a great deal or fair amount about the problem -- although attitudes appear to have stabilized compared with last year. That current level of worry compares with 66% just three years ago, and is only one percentage point higher than the low Gallup measured in 1997.

### [Why India Might Save the Planet](#)

Jairam Ramesh is the global rock star of climate change. But is the battle he’s fighting at home good for his country?

### [Pell row with climate scientist heats up](#)

CARDINAL GEORGE PELL has rebuffed the head of the Bureau of Meteorology, who had said Australia's highest-ranking Catholic was "misled" in his views on global warming.

### [More hard winters likely: report](#)

Climate change will likely bring more snowstorms to P.E.I. over the next few decades, says a new report by the insurance industry.

The Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction report says while winters will be milder over the next 40 years, snow levels will probably climb 10 to 20 per cent. The number of intense winter storms is expected to go up by 15 per cent.

### [Arctic for All?](#)

Climate change in the Arctic is a catastrophe waiting to happen. This 20 million square kilometre area of land and sea that stretches around the geographic North Pole is warming twice as fast as the global average. The complexity of the impacts on global climate, rising sea levels and ocean currents are still barely foreseeable. Yet not everyone views an ice-free future with concern: sea lanes are opening up in the Arctic Ocean that could change trading routes in the future. New options are arising for fishing.



Improved navigability facilitates the extraction of resources such as oil, gas and minerals. US geologists estimate that roughly one quarter of global fossil fuel reserves could be located at the North Pole. The strategic importance of the Arctic is therefore increasing for many countries.

### [Will rising seas put cities such as New York and London under water?](#)

If emissions continue to rise and ice sheets enter an unstoppable melting cycle, many of the world's cities will be at risk.



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