



## Drumbeat: March 28, 2011

Posted by [Leanan](#) on March 28, 2011 - 10:10am

### [Bahrain opposition says 250 detained, 44 missing](#)

DUBAI (Reuters) - Bahrain's leading Shi'ite opposition party said on Monday 250 people have been detained and 44 others went missing since a security crackdown crushed weeks of protests.

The figures by Wefaq, the largest Shi'ite Muslim opposition party, has more than doubled since last week, when it counted 95 people missing or arrested.

Earlier this month, Bahrain's Sunni rulers, the al-Khalifa family, imposed martial law and called in troops from fellow Sunni-ruled Gulf neighbors, including top oil exporter Saudi Arabia, to quell weeks of unrest during pro-democracy protest led by mostly Shi'ite demonstrators.

The severity of the crackdown, which banned all public gatherings and spread masked security forces across the city to man checkpoints, stunned Bahrain's majority Shi'ites and angered the region's non-Arab Shi'ite power Iran.

### [Pirates hijack oil tanker off Oman - EU](#)

(Reuters) - Pirates firing rocket propelled grenades and small arms hijacked a Kuwaiti-owned oil tanker bound for Singapore from Sudan on Monday, the European Union's anti-piracy taskforce said.

### [T. Boone Pickens' energy plans has skeptics](#)

NEW HAVEN -- Since the United States has no energy plan, billionaire energy investor T. Boone Pickens has proposed his own.

First, the U.S. should wean itself off foreign oil and switch to domestic resources, beginning with natural gas, Boone said, outlining the basics of the "Pickens Plan" at a talk at the Yale University Law School last week.

Pickens told Yale students they should do their part by making sure their next car is one that runs on domestic resources. Currently, only one such domestic car, the Honda Civic CX, runs solely on natural gas.

## [Total CEO: Gas Production in Yemen Almost Normal](#)

Total continues to produce liquefied natural gas in Yemen at close to normal levels, Chief Executive Christophe de Margerie said Monday.

Like a number of other countries in the region, Yemen is in political crisis with protests against the regime there.

Total's priority in the country is the safety of its workers and its installations, de Margerie told reporters, adding that it will produce there for "as long as we can."

## [Oil shortage fears prompt Libya petrol queues](#)

Fears of an oil shortage in Tripoli are making people's lives a "nightmare", forcing many to spend the night in their cars at petrol stations in a bid to be first in line to fill up their tank.

"I have been waiting in vain for three days to have fuel for my car," said Fuad Arabi, a doctor who works in one of Tripoli's hospitals.

"I live far from my work and if I do not get fuel, I can't get to work."

## [Qatar recognises Libyan rebels after oil deal](#)

Qatar has recognised Libya's rebel council as the legitimate representatives of the Libyan people, a day after the group announced an oil contract with the Gulf state.

The move on Monday makes Qatar only the second country to formally recognise the Libyan rebel council, but has been backed by the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC).

## [Oil on fire](#)

West Asia and North Africa produce more than a third of the world's oil, but the turmoil in the region threatens to unsettle this arrangement. As the US, France and Britain bomb Libya and oil prices touch new heights, one wonders if the world is headed towards another energy crisis.

## [Mexico Feb oil production edges down, exports fall](#)

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexican oil production edged down 1.1 percent from an eight-month high hit in January to reach 2.556 million barrels per day in February, state oil monopoly Pemex said on Friday.

Pemex pumped 2.584 million bpd in January of this year.

Oil exports also fell in February to 1.234 million bpd, 14.4 percent less than a month earlier, Pemex said.

### [Commentary: Restrictions on world oil production](#)

Political upheaval is currently rampant across the Middle East, resulting in a major spike in world oil prices. No one knows how far the impacts will go or how long it will take to reach some kind of stability and what that stability will mean to oil production in the Middle Eastern countries that produce oil. We are thus relegated to best guesses, which span weeks, months, or years before there are clear resolutions. One pre-Middle East chaos country limited by political upheaval is Iraq, which is believed to have the oil reserves to produce at a much higher level, but Iraqi government chaos has severely limited oil production expansion. In another long-standing case, Nigeria has been plagued by internal political strife, which has negatively impacted its oil production.

### [Another Expert Says Haynesville Not Bigger than Shale](#)

There's a new voice in the debate over whether North Texas' Barnett Shale has been eclipsed by the Haynesville Shale as the No. 1 natural gas field in America.

Lippman Consulting, an El Paso-based natural gas consulting firm, is taking issue with a recent U.S. Energy Information Administration website posting that said the Haynesville in northwest Louisiana and Northeast Texas is the new leader in production among U.S. shales. The administration cited data from Bentek Energy, an Evergreen, Colo.-based consulting firm.

### [Marcellus Panel Looks for Common Ground at First Meeting](#)

The public comments at the end of Friday's inaugural meeting of the state Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission showed part of the challenge facing that panel during the next four months.

One county commissioner stood up to laud the number of jobs that gas drilling has brought to his community. He was followed by a northeastern resident who said her property value has plummeted because of the surrounding well pads, and another woman citing concerns about water quality.

### [Steve LeVine: The itsy-bitsy problem that doomed BP's well](#)

In a war zone, you have your vanguard. Then you have your tanks, your main body of troops, and your artillery. If all that fails, and you are being overrun, there is your rear guard. If they fail, and you cannot retreat, all is lost.

For the last 11 months, that has essentially been BP's explanation of what went wrong at the Macondo well in the Gulf of Mexico, where a mighty explosion killed 11 men and spilled five millions of barrels of oil into the water over a three-month period before the company managed to seal it in with concrete. But all along there has been the question - - what about that rear guard, in this case a much-trumpeted piece of technology known as the blowout preventer?

### [Low-level radiation found in three Southern states' air](#)

(Reuters) - Low levels of radioactive iodine believed to be from Japan's disaster-stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant have been detected in the atmosphere in South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida, officials said on Monday.

### [FACTBOX-Japan quake impact on auto, electronics makers](#)

TOKYO (Reuters) - Following is a roundup of the impact of this month's devastating earthquake and tsunami on Japanese manufacturers of cars and electronics.

Plant shutdowns in Japan threaten supplies to manufacturers across the globe of items from semiconductors to car parts.

Japanese companies are not only reeling from damage to factories and suppliers in quake-hit northeastern Japan but are also suffering from fuel shortages in the northeast and power outages in the Tokyo area that are affecting production and distribution.

### [Chugoku Elec says may delay March 2012 reactor launch](#)

(Reuters) - Chugoku Electric Power said it may delay the planned March 2012 start of commercial operations for its third nuclear reactor because engineers are busy dealing with a crisis at a nuclear plant operated by Tokyo Electric Power.

### [The problems with Smart Grids](#)

How is it that so many intelligent, inside-the-beltway environmentalists are buying into an eco-health-safety-finance debacle with the potential to increase energy consumption, endanger the environment, harm public health, diminish privacy, make the national utility grid more insecure, cause job losses, and make energy markets more speculative?

Answer: by not doing their homework.

### [Stuart Staniford: US wind energy installations collapsed in 2010](#)

I'm amazed I hadn't heard about this already - there is obviously some important gap in my set of blog/news subscriptions. I just decided I wanted to know whether the growth in US wind installations had continued in 2010, so I went to the American Wind Energy Association website, and ended up at their Q4 2010 market report. I was horrified to see the graph above, showing that new installations collapsed in 2010 (though with some recovery in Q4).

### [An interview with Naomi Klein, Part Two. "we must address inequality if we're going to deal with climate change".](#)

So obviously the task is one of integration and to show how climate is connected to health, it's to show how a more resilient future needs an education system and to me it needs a powerful public education system. I think that there is something to learn from the coalitions that emerged around the so called anti-globalisation movement and the commonalities that emerged. I don't think any of this is a new idea, but I do think there needs to be a really clear vision for what's going to happen to people who lose their jobs and livelihoods, and this is something I don't think the environmental movement has ever done that well.

### [Stuart Staniford: Attributing the food price spike](#)

Climate blogger Tamino, who is generally a smart guy, has a post I disagree with arguing that the most recent food price spike should be attributed mainly to the failure of the Russian wheat harvest in 2010, rather than to biofuel production.

### [Author Michael Pollan Tells Marin Residents to Rethink Food](#)

The audience at Marin Civic Center perked up when writer Michael Pollan explained that a double bacon cheeseburger from McDonald's actually has its origins in the oil fields of the Middle East.

"I'm going to take you on a journey into the food system past, present and future," he said.

### [A story of choosing to live simply and grow one's own food in rural Japan](#)

As serendipity would have it, I just finished reading "*A Different Kind of Luxury: Japanese Lessons in Simple Living and Inner Abundance*" (2010) by Andy Couturier. Andy lived in Japan for four years, chronicling eleven remarkable individuals who opted out of the rat race to live low cost but culturally rich lives in rural Japan. They chose time over money as a lifestyle which led them to grow their own food, giving them the luxury of contemplating life's greater questions. It is a richly beautiful book that would appeal to anyone who might want to slow down, have time to know who they are and why they are here, work with their hands, grow their own food, and live simply.

## [How to ruin a perfectly good argument about peak oil, climate change, or economic troubles](#)

Anyone can simply act badly, by pouting, sulking, or stomping out of the room when they begin to lose an argument, but here are some additional ideas to vary the strategy:

## [Battling the Mideast's 'curse of oil'](#)

Dubai and the rest of the United Arab Emirates face a surging domestic demand for energy that could overwhelm exports. The government estimates electricity demand alone will triple by 2020.

Other oil producers in the region face a similar dilemma. In nearby Saudi Arabia, domestic oil use is expected to more than double by 2028, to 8.3 million barrels a day from 3.4 million in 2009, according to the kingdom's state-owned oil company, Saudi Aramco. The kingdom produced about 9.8 million barrels a day last year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

## [Saudi Arabia treads cautiously in a time of upheaval](#)

Several smaller protests have been held over the last couple of weeks in Saudi's Eastern Province, where most of Saudi Arabia's Shiites live.

No slogans against King Abdullah were heard at these demonstrations, as the king, in contrast to some other members of the ruling family, is relatively popular. Yet still, some demonstrators express sympathies for their coreligionists in Bahrain. And this has set alarm bells ringing.

Most of the monarchs in the Gulf are afraid that Iran may extend its reach in the region by supporting Shiites in the Arabian peninsula, having already gained influence from the overthrow of the late dictator Saddam Hussein in Iraq and the election there of a Shiite-dominated government.

## [Confident outlook for Saudi Arabia oil](#)

Like the heart of a conditioned athlete, the Saudi Arabian oil machine will go on pumping amid regional strife, one of the biggest US financial groups predicts.

The potential for supply disruptions in the biggest Arab oil state was "the million-dollar question" hanging over international markets, Farouk Soussa, the Middle East chief economist at Citigroup, told a Platts oil forum in Abu Dhabi.

But fears of dwindling Saudi Arabian output were overblown, Mr Soussa said.

### [Saudi- Oil Scene: 'Look East' policy bears fruit](#)

(MENAFN - Arab News) Global 'oil politik' is beginning to influence the direction of Saudi crude flow.

The 'look East' policy of Riyadh - born out of necessity - is beginning to take a concrete and formidable shape.

And the manifestations of this policy are now in open.

### [Libyan Rebel Gains Could Be Fleeting, U.S. Military Says](#)

TRIPOLI, Libya — As rebel forces backed by allied warplanes pushed toward one of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi's most crucial bastions of support, the American military warned on Monday that the insurgents' rapid advances could quickly be reversed without continued coalition air support.

### [Indonesia's Energy Condition Feared To Be More Critical](#)

JAKARTA (Bernama) -- Political turmoil in oil producing countries has a potential to make energy condition in Indonesia getting more critical, Antara news agency reported quoting a prominent Indonesian businessman as saying.

### [Japan copes with 21st-century dark age](#)

TOKYO — The first pitch of Japan's baseball season has been pushed back so people don't waste gasoline driving to games. When the season does start, most night games will be switched to daytime so as not to squander electricity. There will be no extra innings.

Tokyo's iconic electronic billboards have been switched off. Trash is piling up in many northern cities because garbage trucks don't have gasoline. Public buildings go unheated. Factories are closed, in large part because of rolling blackouts and because employees can't drive to work with empty tanks.

### [Doubt over \\$32 bln Chevron, Rosneft plan - sources](#)

(Reuters) - U.S. oil company Chevron and Rosneft, Russia's top oil producer, are looking at whether to go ahead with a \$32 billion Black Sea oil exploration project, sources at the companies said on Monday.

There have been reports Chevron may quit the venture with Rosneft to develop the Val Shatskogo deposit, after a major Arctic offshore pact between Rosneft and British group BP was blocked by an arbitration court last week.

## [While Slowing BP Oil Spill, Administration Slowed Flow Of Information Too, Claims Coast Guard Report](#)

WASHINGTON -- The Obama administration failed to set up an "effective" communications system during last year's BP oil spill and threatened its own credibility by "severely restricting" the release of "timely, accurate information," according to a newly released report commissioned by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Quietly posted on the Coast Guard's website two weeks ago, the report offers the first major assessment of the federal government's communications efforts during the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

## [Gas hikes: U.S. will survive if it invests in alternatives](#)

Although some individuals predicted dire consequences if the oil price increased to this new higher level, the reality is that the sky will not fall, the economy will not collapse and families will not declare bankruptcy — at least not in the near term.

Instead, consumers and businesses will and are rapidly adapting. Cars and trucks are driving fewer miles; businesses are finding ways to increase energy efficiency and the demand for hybrid cars has nearly doubled since November.

## [Resilience vs Sustainability - "There are no Solutions, Only Responses" \(Video\)](#)

The concept of resilience keeps cropping up these days. From Rob Hopkins' take on why resilience beats sustainability every time, and the need to design for withstanding shock, to Thomas Homer-Dixon's insistence that efficiency has made our society brittle and vulnerable, there are plenty of people out there who would argue - as Daniel Lerch does in the video below - that sustainability has been asking the wrong questions all along.

## [Hazardous Radiation Detected Outside Damaged Japanese Reactor](#)

Radiation levels that can prove fatal were detected outside reactor buildings at Japan's Fukushima Dai-Ichi plant for the first time, complicating efforts to contain the worst disaster since Chernobyl in 1986.

Water in an underground trench outside the No. 2 reactor had levels exceeding 1 sievert an hour, a spokesman for plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. told reporters in the capital today. Thirty minutes of exposure to that dose would trigger nausea and four hours might lead to death within two months, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



### [Radiation spreading to seawater, soil in Japan](#)

TOKYO — Workers at Japan's damaged nuclear plant raced to pump out contaminated water suspected of sending radioactivity levels soaring as officials warned Monday that radiation seeping from the complex was spreading to seawater and soil.

Mounting problems, including badly miscalculated radiation figures and no place to store dangerously contaminated water, have stymied emergency workers struggling to cool down the overheating Fukushima Dai-ichi plant and avert a disaster with global implications

### [Japanese Rules for Nuclear Plants Relied on Old Science](#)

TOKYO — In the country that gave the world the word tsunami, the Japanese nuclear establishment largely disregarded the potentially destructive force of the walls of water. The word did not even appear in government guidelines until 2006, decades after plants — including the Fukushima Daiichi facility that firefighters are still struggling to get under control — began dotting the Japanese coastline.

### [Areva: Tepco Asked EDF, Areva, French Nuclear Agency For Support](#)

PARIS -(Dow Jones)- French state-owned nuclear giant Areva SA Monday said it has received a request for support from Japanese operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. which has been battling to avoid radiation leaks at its earthquake- and tsunami-hit Fukushima Daiichi plant for over two weeks.

### [Japan Plans to Spend 1 Trillion Yen on Energy Efficiency, Nikkei Reports](#)

Japan plans to secure about 1 trillion yen (\$12.3 billion) in the April supplementary budget to implement measures to bolster energy efficiency to ease post- quake power shortages, the Nikkei newspaper reported.

### [Germany's greens romp to historic victory](#)

Germany's Green Party are celebrating after ousting Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats in their heartland of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

The stunning election victory in the key state, which the conservative CDU has controlled for nearly 60 years, saw the Greens double their vote.

Nuclear power in the wake of the Fukushima incident in Japan was a major factor for the win.

## [Merkel Party Hints at German Nuclear-Policy Shift After State Vote Defeat](#)

Chancellor Angela Merkel's party said that most of Germany's oldest atomic reactors will probably close following safety checks, signaling a shift in energy policy after the anti-nuclear Greens surged in state elections.

## [Leary: Nuclear Nay-Sayers and the National Interest](#)

The events in Japan as they relate to issues of nuclear energy have been an urgent and important clarion call to all regarding the safety of our nuclear facilities and the role nuclear energy will play in our energy future. It is an issue of vital importance to the nation given its impact on global warming, national security and the economy. It is an issue that needs to be examined openly and not simply left to those who are pre-programmed to present us with the familiar saws railing against nuclear energy with the tailwind of current events at their back.

## [Oil Drops for a Third Day in New York Following Victories By Libyan Rebels](#)

Oil fell for a third day in New York on speculation that territorial gains by Libyan rebels may quicken a resolution to the country's civil war.

Futures declined as much as 0.9 percent after insurgents recaptured the Libyan oil port of Ras Lanuf yesterday while allied warplanes began airstrikes on the capital, Tripoli. In Japan, radiation hampered efforts to cool stricken reactors at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi plant while damage from the March 11 earthquake slowed the supply of materials to manufacturers. Prices have gained 14 percent this quarter, the most since the three months ended June 2009.

## [Gas prices push consumer spending up in February](#)

WASHINGTON — Consumer spending rose in February at the fastest pace in four months, but a big part of the increase went to higher gasoline prices.

## [China's Energy Consumption May Rise 6% This Year, Economic Daily Reports](#)

China energy consumption may rise 6 percent to 3.45 billion tons of coal equivalent this year.

## [Oil, Gas Are Investment Opportunities: Jim Rogers](#)

Investment opportunities may open up in the oil and natural gas industries as doubts grow over the safety of nuclear power in Japan, investor Jim Rogers, well known for his bullish stance on commodities, told a newspaper Monday.

Japan will need large quantities of copper, steel and cement during its reconstruction so these commodities will also be attractive, he added.

### [Thailand May Increase the Price of Diesel as Oil Fund Shrinks, Korn Says](#)

Thai Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij said the nation may need to curb diesel subsidies as funding runs out, a challenge to the government's efforts to quell inflation and build support ahead of elections this year.

"We can continue as long as there is money in the oil fund, and that would last in cash terms until around July," Korn said in an interview with Bloomberg Television in Bangkok today. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said today his policy priority is to help people cope with rising prices.

### [BACKGROUND: The fight for Libya's oil](#)

Berlin - The ongoing battle between Libyan rebels and forces loyal to leader Moamer Gaddafi is also a fight about the country's oil. Currently, rebels control most of the country's oil terminals.

### [Yemen's Saleh Describes Nation as 'Time Bomb' Nearing Civil War](#)

Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh said he would offer no more concessions to his opponents and warned that his nation faces chaos, as a senior military official and former ally of the embattled leader called for him to step down.

"Yemen is a time bomb," Saleh said in an interview with Al Arabiya television, according to a transcript published yesterday by the state-run Saba news agency. "Everyone will side with his tribe, and we will then end up with a destructive civil war."

### [Lieberman: Syria could be next target](#)

Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) raised the possibility Sunday of U.S. military involvement in Syria if President Bashar Al-Assad massacres his people.

"If Assad does what Qadhafi was doing, which is to threaten to go house to house and kill anybody who's not on his side, there's a precedent now that the world community has set in Libya, and it's the right one," Lieberman said on "Fox News Sunday." "We're not going to stand by and allow this Assad to slaughter his people like his father did years ago."

### [Russia Tatneft in \\$100 mln Libya capex loss-source](#)

(Reuters) - Russia's six-biggest crude producer, Tatneft is expected to book a \$100 million losses from capital expenditures in war-ragged Libya, a source in the company told Reuters on Monday.

### [Oil, electricity investment talks bring Turkish prime minister to Iraq as violence kills 8](#)

BAGHDAD — Joined by dozens of businessmen, Turkey's prime minister led trade talks Monday with Iraqi leaders that he said would be a step toward greater stability across the Middle East.

### [The Kill Team](#)

How U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan murdered innocent civilians and mutilated their corpses – and how their officers failed to stop them. Plus: An exclusive look at the war crime photos censored by the Pentagon.

### [India Gets 74 Exploration Bids, But Global Oil Majors Stay Away](#)

NEW DELHI -(Dow Jones)- India received 74 bids for 33 oil and gas exploration blocks in the latest round of auctions Monday, but most global majors continued to shun the country's energy sector as an investment destination.

### [Reliance Industries may not hit gas output target: Regulator](#)

NEW DELHI: Reliance Industries may not touch peak output of 80 million standard cubic metre a day (mmscmd) of gas from its east coast deep water block by April 2012, from about 53 mmscmd now, the country's upstream regulator said on Monday.

SK Srivastava had asked Reliance, India's top-listed firm and owner of the world's biggest refining complex, to drill more wells to raise gas output to 61.88 mmscmd by April 1, and to 80 mmscmd by April 1, 2012.

### [TNK-BP shareholders looking for solution](#)

It seems clear that TNK-BP, a throwback to the primitive capital accumulation of the 1990s, no longer fits into a Russian strategy that requires action now to stop a 'peak oil' scenario from materialising in this decade.

A government oil strategy paper warned last year that, even if oil taxes are reformed, the world's largest oil producer could see output peak in 2018 before it enters a steep decline.

### [Sinopec to Cut Costs, Expand Overseas Operations as Refining Profit Drops](#)

China Petroleum & Chemical Corp., Asia's biggest refiner, will cut costs and accelerate its expansion overseas as government controls prevent the company from passing on higher crude-oil prices to customers.

### [Enbridge's bet on oil sands gives up guaranteed revenues](#)

As production from Canada's oil sands charges ahead, pipeline giant Enbridge Inc. ENB-T is betting it can harness major volume gains on its crude oil mainline by fixing toll rates and abandoning guaranteed revenues. But the bold strategic shift brings uncommon risks to a sector loved by investors for its steady earnings.

### [Destination – Hell. Are we there yet? Drilling and Earthquakes](#)

This is the fourth and final installment of an investigative report uncovering and analyzing a global plan to capture and utilize the ocean's store of methane hydrates.

### [Oil taxation is fair – it's just not enough](#)

Straight from the Alastair Campbell spin-doctor's playbook. What better way to demonstrate just how different this Tory-led Coalition is from Conservative governments of the past than to tweak the nose of Big Oil? It was great political theatre seeing oil company spokespeople laying into a Tory Chancellor for announcing a £2 billion levy on North Sea profits to be recycled to motorists through the Fair Fuel Stabiliser. The industry claimed it hadn't been consulted, but that would have removed the element of surprise.

What the Government didn't expect was that Liberal Democrats such as Malcolm Bruce, the MP for Gordon, would start laying into the Chancellor too, along with respected oil analysts such as Professor Alex Kemp of Aberdeen University. On Budget day plus one, the Scottish media seemed to have turned into cheerleaders for the oil companies as editorials thundered about the threat to investment and Scottish jobs.

### [Fuel crisis 'not being taken seriously'](#)

A looming 1973-style oil crunch is not being taken seriously enough by the Government, a leading motoring commentator says.

Dog and Lemon Guide editor Clive Matthew-Wilson said yesterday that severe oil shortages would not only end New Zealand's petrol addiction but could even trigger a change in Government.

## [Will Range Anxiety Impact Electric Car Sales?](#)

How has performance been for the vehicles that have been sold? I haven't seen any reports on the Volt, but apparently some Leaf owners are complaining that Nissan's claimed 100 mile range for the Leaf isn't holding up in practice.

## [My View: Oil is a finite resource](#)

The figures from the U.S. government Energy Information Agency (EIA) show global peak oil being reached in 2005. Just as the continental U.S. reached peak oil in 1970 and has had declining production since then (from 10 million barrels per day in 1970 to about 3 million barrels per day in 2010), we can expect that the world will begin seeing declining crude oil production.

## [Tainter's law: where is the physics?](#)

In his book, Tainter examines previous studies and lists at least eleven causes (or "concauses") of collapse that have been proposed by historians. Resource depletion, catastrophes, intruders, social conflict, and others. But is there a single cause of collapse? Or are there several? Tainter looks for a single, common root of the problem and finds it in what he calls "the decreasing returns of complexity".

## [The Clean Energy Revolution Won't Be About Clean Energy](#)

The uprisings in the Middle East and the growing austerity-induced unrest among workers in the US and Europe have provided new hope for environmental movement leaders who for years have struggled to mobilize the public to confront the looming catastrophes of growth-capitalism.

## [Homefront's Fall of US: Fact or Fiction?](#)

The idea for *Homefront* was conceived after Votypka watched 1984 movie *Red Dawn* as a teenager. The concept of Soviet troops and tanks swarming into small-town America instantly resonated with him, and he started wondering whether the world's greatest superpower would ever allow its people to be occupied by a military oppressor. *Homefront's* story, developed with *Red Dawn* writer and director John Milius, depicts the US deep in the economic mire as a post-peak oil state - in which oil supplies have peaked and fallen into decline - has led to a near-total collapse of the American way of life.

## [A Green City Rises Up in Sydney](#)

When finished, Sydney's Central Park, a \$2 billion mixed-use site on 6,500 square

meters, or 70,000 square feet, of park land, will have 11 buildings that will be so energy efficient they will be able to export electricity to neighboring areas, according to the developer, Frasers Property Australia. The rooftops will be designed to turn rain into drinking water. When the toilets flush, the sewage will be recycled into usable water.

### [Global Crunch in Supplies of Key Fertilizer Could Threaten Food Supply and Raise Prices](#)

Newswise — WASHINGTON, March 27, 2011 — Global production of phosphorus fertilizer could peak and decline later this century, causing shortages and price spikes that jeopardize world food production, five major scientific societies warned today. The crisis will come at a time when Earth's population may surge past 9 billion.

### [Last Lump of University Coal Burned for Campus Energy](#)

At an event held on March 21, workers at the University's Central Energy Plant shoveled the last lumps of coal used to create energy for Cornell. Since Wednesday, when the last of the coal was combusted, the University's Ithaca campus has been coal-free.

### [Australia: Abbott declares carbon tax 'toxic'](#)

OPPOSITION Leader Tony Abbott has refused to back away from his assertion that some of the claims about climate change are "absolute crap" while contending the NSW election result shows "carbon tax is toxic."

### [Renewables are the way ahead, nobody can deny](#)

CARBON tax and the global warming debate aside, the world is running out of energy resources. If we continue using coal at present levels, we only have 176 years left of the stuff, according to a recent report by HSBC.

But there may only be 49 years left of oil - that's proven resources, not potential - and that's assuming demand doesn't increase.

### [Water issues worry American most, global warming least, says new Gallup poll](#)

Water tops a list of nine environmental issues that Americans worry about, according to this year's Gallup Environment Poll, whose results were released today.

According to the new poll, four environmental issues referring to water rank in the upper tier of environmental concerns, with air pollution a close fifth.

There is a slightly steeper drop-off in concern about several issues not directly related to daily survival, such as the loss of tropical rain forests and urban sprawl.

## [Oceans might be speeding melt of Greenland's glaciers](#)

Dynamic layers of warm Atlantic and cold Arctic Ocean waters around Greenland may be speeding the melt of the country's glaciers, researchers find.

"Over the last 15 years or so, the Greenland Ice Sheet has been putting a lot more ice into the ocean," said Fiammetta Straneo of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, in Massachusetts, who has spent years studying the ice-coated country that is currently responsible for about a quarter of worldwide sea level rise.



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