

# From Saudi Arabia to Venezuela:

## Energy Resources, Market Factors & Conflicts



Dr. Tom O'Donnell  
Friday, 12:00 – 2:48 PM  
Room 125, Mendenhall Laboratory  
Class #: 28147  
Credits: 5

What's oil's role in the Iraq war, the Iran nuclear crisis, in Afghanistan, or in U.S. relations with Venezuela, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Nigeria? We will analyze the new globalized oil system that slowly replaced the old neo-colonial one during the decade after OPEC's nationalizations. We then examine the role of this Global Oil System in U.S. geostrategy. Today, 95% of all transport is based on oil. Security of supply is an existential issue for all states. We examine whether bio-alternatives could displace oil, and study the geo-distribution of oil and its alternatives.

### **We will examine the following questions :**

Has an era of "Resource Wars" dawned? Has world oil production "peaked"? Would this mean "an end of industrial society," massive population reductions" and "world war" between the U.S. and China? Was the Iraq War fought for oil companies? Is a "multi-polar world," dawning, where OPEC and the BRIC states (Brazil, Russia, India and China) will end U.S. supremacy in the dollar-based oil market?

Lastly, we examine U.S. grand strategy since the fall of the USSR – and how the roles of global oil-market protector and Persian-Gulf hegemon contribute to U.S. world hyperpower status.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing or higher, or permission of instructor.

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