

# Oil Diplomacy in the Global Economy: Production, Dependency Patterns, and Power Configurations

**Camelia CANDIDATU\***

*Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania*

*\*Corresponding author, [camelia.candidatu@rei.ase.ro](mailto:camelia.candidatu@rei.ase.ro)*

**Laura BENCHEA**

*Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania*

*[laura.benchea@rei.ase.ro](mailto:laura.benchea@rei.ase.ro)*

**Anca Gabriela ILIE**

*Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania*

*[anca.ilie@rei.ase.ro](mailto:anca.ilie@rei.ase.ro)*

**Dan DUMITRIU**

*Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania*

*[dan.dumitriu@rei.ase.ro](mailto:dan.dumitriu@rei.ase.ro)*

**Abstract.** *The paper explores a subject of significant relevance for the contemporary world: the oil industry as a strategic element of the energy system of modern states. All major human activities - economic, social, military, and infrastructural - depend on the energy sector. Countries endowed with substantial oil resources can capitalize on these assets as instruments for managing economic and political relations. The international community experienced for the first time since the 1970s the harsh consequences of politically imposed restrictions on oil supply to international markets, a pivotal moment that launched the concept of oil diplomacy in international discourses. This study aims to clarify the concept of oil diplomacy and to investigate its influence on the evolution of the international oil market. The analysis of the global distribution of oil reserves was conducted to better understand the dynamic of international economic relations and the dependencies between oil-producing and oil-importing countries. In addition, the paper uses key economic data, such as oil demand, production, and consumption, to reflect market trends in this sector. Today, in the context of increased geopolitical uncertainty, countries face the pressure to find effective strategies to protect energy supplies, while international relations on energy issues are likely to remain fragmented and unstable. Consequently, oil diplomacy should provide and sustain cooperative, peaceful, and useful solutions for the global community.*

**Keywords:** oil diplomacy, oil reserves, oil market, international economic relations, international cooperation.

## Introduction

Oil has gained a central position in the global economic and political sphere, especially after World War I, not only as a main source of energy, but also as a valuable resource that builds international relations (Yergin, 1991). The concentration of oil reserves in specific regions, associated with the uneven distribution of consumption patterns (Oltulular, 2024), have led to a series of economic, geopolitical and strategic dynamics. These specificities have transformed oil from a simple commodity into an instrument of foreign policy, a tool of economic leverage, and a “weapon” of geopolitical influence (Khoma & Nikolaieva, 2025).

DOI: 10.2478/picbe-2026-0168

© 2026 C. Candidatu; L. Benchea; A. G. Ilie; D. Dumitriu, published by De Gruyter.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License.

Since oil crisis which took place in the 1970s, political authorities increasingly took control of production levels, pricing mechanisms, and access to reserves. Organizations such as OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries), along with major state actors such as the United States, China, and Russia, have used oil diplomacy to obtain strategic advantages, handle vulnerabilities, and influence the global energy sector. In addition, “financialization” (increased dominance of financial markets and institutions in the economy) (Fan & Xu, 2011; DeCoste, 2025), the sanctions system, regional conflicts, and energy transition in progress have added multiple layers of complexity to the interplay between production frameworks and global power dynamics (Ahmed, 2025; IEA, 2025). Within this configuration, oil diplomacy can be referred to as the set of strategies and instruments states use to achieve political and diplomatic objectives, to protect energy security, to increase the bargaining power, and gain advantages in trade, policy and military affairs (Diplo, 2021). In this context, the interaction between the endowment with natural resources, production capacities, market control and geopolitical strategies represent fundamental issues to understand the contemporary global economic configuration. Against this backdrop, the purpose of this paper is to clarify the concept of oil diplomacy within the complex international economic and political system, and to investigate its influence on the evolution of the international oil market.

The research question underpinning this paper explores how the distribution of oil reserves and production capacities generate dependency patterns and power configuration within the global economy, thus clarifying the role of oil diplomacy in international relations. The hypothesis presumes that countries that possess large oil reserves and achieve low production costs are more likely to use this resource as a form of geopolitical power, thus increasing their bargaining power and influence within the international economic system, while countries which are dependent on this resource remain limited within this system.

The paper consists of several key sections. In the first section, the literature review delves into defining the concept of oil diplomacy, highlighting the strategic importance of oil industry and its connection to oil diplomacy. Following this, the methodology section outlines the research approach and the method utilized. Subsequently, the third segment presents the results and discusses the findings obtained from the data analysis. Finally, the conclusion summarizes the key findings and insights drawn from the study. The significance of this paper resides in its contribution to the existing literature on oil diplomacy by offering a systematic analysis of its role in the global economic system. The findings of this paper could be of interest to students, researchers, as well as to specialists in international business and economics.

## **Literature review**

The oil industry represents a key component of the energy system, which is one of the most important strategic systems of any country. Alongside oil extraction, endeavours related to natural gas exploitation and electricity production are the base of this system. When inquiring about the importance of oil exploitation, the whole energy system is taken into consideration, as it operates as an integrated and interdependent structure. All human activities (economic, social, military, and infrastructural) depend directly or indirectly on the energy sector. Any breakage that occurs within a single component of a country’s energy system can have a domino effect on the other critical infrastructures, as well as the larger economy. Among these components, the electricity production and distribution system is generally considered the most vulnerable, followed by the natural gas industry. Countries that are endowed with significant oil and natural gas resources often use these commodities as instruments for managing economic and political relations with other states, thus

influencing power structures within the global economic system (Iancu, 2009). For an analytical approach, it is important to define the concept of *power* in relation to international actors (Table 1).

**Table 1. The concept of power - different approaches**

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ➡ | the capacity of an actor on the international stage to impose its will on another actor (Dahl, R.), either positively (through voluntary acceptance), negatively (through coercion or sanctions), or through a combination of both (Bal, A.) |
| ➡ | the ability to control processes and phenomena within the global economy or to impose specific orientations on partners (whether companies or states) in international economic relations (Salamon, M.)                                      |
| ➡ | the ability of a state to derive power from its natural resource endowment (Kebabdjian, G.)                                                                                                                                                  |

Source: Bal, A. (2009), 24-25.

Modern infrastructure and industry, as well as the daily functioning of societies, significantly depend on reliable sources of energy supply, and oil continues to record major demand. The international community experienced, with a severe impact, the consequences of politically imposed restrictions on oil supplies to global markets during the 1970s. These unforeseen events had long-term consequences, such as the general increase in energy prices and intensified economic instability. By the mid-1990s, the oil market condition had eased, leading to a substantial decline in prices, with approximately 50% reduction as compared to previous peak levels (Ilie & Murzakova, 2003).

In the early 1970s, Hartshorn (1973) identified a series of important trends in oil diplomacy. He observed that Japan was among the governments that most frequently used the term “petroleum diplomacy” and anticipated its increasing use in political discourse, international negotiations, and specialized academic studies. According to Hartshorn, the general understanding of “oil diplomacy” referred to the efforts undertaken to secure or defend the interests of a country’s companies engaged in the international oil business. This interpretation implies the existence of “parent governments” supporting national oil companies operating in global markets, particularly in the case of the world’s greatest powers.

**Oil diplomacy** refers to the use of oil as a tool to achieve economic, political, or diplomatic objectives of one country in relation to other countries, or to groups of countries, through the exercise of this instrument of power (Diplo, 2021a). Oil diplomacy can be closely associated with **economic diplomacy**, particularly when related to international economic issues. It integrates strategies aimed at promoting foreign policy objectives (such as foreign aid or economic sanctions), fostering international cooperation (bilateral, regional, plurilateral or multilateral), obtaining benefits and maximizing national advantages, as well as supporting economic growth (Diplo,

2021b). In a broader sense, oil diplomacy, which, besides "petroleum diplomacy", overlaps with **energy diplomacy**, refers to a country's policies or strategies to pursue two main goals in international relations: (1) to generate benefits for the national energy sector, and (2) to ensure national and international security while enhancing the country's role on the global stage (Eseosa et al., 2023).

## Methodology

The study analyzes the role of oil in shaping oil diplomacy, underlying its strategic role on international markets and in international relations. It is based on a qualitative approach, drawing on a range of sources, such as scientific articles, online resources, and statistical databases.

The research aims to frame the historical, economic, political and diplomatic dimensions of the international oil industry. Statistical data and literature are used to trace the evolution of key phenomena and support the study's conclusions. Graphical methods illustrate trends in economic indicators and highlight relationships among the analyzed variables.

The economic analysis is applied to extract detailed insights from each component or stage of the phenomena studied, while economic synthesis permits the formulation of general conclusions related to the subject analyzed.

## Results and discussions

### Characteristics and evolution of the oil market

The oil market has been deeply shaped by the expansion of oil exploitation in different regions, not only on the surface, but also at greater depths. This was possible by the development of advanced techniques and modern extraction technologies. Technological progress in the oil industry significantly contributed to overcoming the fragile economic situation generated by the oil crises of the 1970s and early 1980s (Ilie & Murzakova, 2003).

In this difficult context, oil diplomacy required both producer states and major energy-consuming countries to resort to a series of policies aligned with their national interests, to obtain specific strategic objectives. For example, during the 1970s and the following decades, the interests of the United States were focused on efforts to reduce dependence on oil imports (Bahgat, 2000). At that time, U.S. and the global economy heavily depended on the oil reserves of the Gulf region, particularly related to production levels and price formation. Even more, geopolitical realities were increasingly shaped by the growing role of Saudi Arabia, the impact of sanctions imposed on Iraq, and Iran's expanding influence in the exploitation of resources in the Caspian region (Bahgat, 2000).

The significant growth of oil production and its dominant share in the global energy system led to a redefinition of national energy policies. Oil-producing and exporting states adopted a series of measures, including partial nationalization of the oil industry, restrictions on the profits of international oil companies, and stronger protection of national oil reserves. These measures had major consequences for highly industrialized economies.

A decisive role in this process was played by OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries). In the 1970s, OPEC had 13 member states: five founding members - The Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, followed by Qatar (1961), Indonesia (1962), Libya (1962), the United Arab Emirates (1967), Algeria (1969), Nigeria (1971), Ecuador (1973), and Gabon (1975). Subsequent members were Angola (2007), Equatorial Guinea (2017), and Congo (2018) (OPEC.org). (Appendix 1)

OPEC was set up to promote the interests of its member states as major oil-producing and exporting countries, mainly through managed control over oil production levels, market forces, and pricing of this valuable and strategic resource. In the early 1970s, OPEC members succeeded in gaining control over their national oil resources by taking ownership from the large international companies that had previously activated on their territories. As part of their oil diplomacy strategy, OPEC countries substantially increased oil prices to gain more revenues from international markets, mainly during the period 1973–1974 and 1979–1981. By 1976, OPEC recorded approximately 52% of total world oil production and roughly 66% of production outside the communist bloc. Responding to OPEC's pricing policy, non-OPEC members increased their own production levels. Over time, OPEC's pricing policy influenced several oil companies to extend exploration and production activities, leading to an increase in global oil supply. New production capacities emerged in regions such as Latin America, the Far East, Africa, and the North Sea. Refining capacities also developed, not only within OPEC member states, but also in developing countries outside this organization. High crude oil prices directed investments outside OPEC, as well as in alternative energy sources (Ilie & Murzakova, 2003).

By the end of the 1980s, the United States and the United Kingdom experienced a decline in oil production, correlated with production discipline within OPEC. These processes contributed to the stabilization of oil prices in the early 1990s. Furthermore, the early 1990s were characterized by the reduced economic activity within OECD member states and by the collapse of the communist bloc in Eastern Europe and the USSR. These economic and political challenges contributed to a reduction in crude oil production. In the 2000s, global oil supply evolutions were characterized not only by OPEC's ongoing influence, but also by the consolidation of the production facilities and consistent output levels in the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (Attiga, 1987; Barros et al., 2011; Stratta, 2016).

The economic literature has constantly correlated oil demand to macroeconomic indicators, such as gross national product (GNP) and gross domestic product (GDP). The increase in crude oil prices during the 1970s and early 1980s oil crises forced non-OPEC countries to intensify the exploitation of their own resources, thus causing downward pressure on international oil prices. Country-level or regional analyses highlighted different degrees of dependence on domestic versus external sources of oil supply. Between the two oil crises, energy consumption statistics showed significant differences between the communist countries, which recorded an average annual increase of 1.9%, and other countries which experienced an average annual decline of 4.3%. During the 1980s and 1990s, the structure of global oil product consumption changed: fuel oil consumption declined, while demand for gasoline and middle distillates increased, particularly in developed countries. In the 1990s, global energy consumption grew at an average annual rate of 1.85%, reaching approximately 55.3 billion barrels of oil equivalent, with similar consumption levels preserved in subsequent years. By the end of the decade, consumption had risen to approximately 62.4 billion barrels of oil equivalent (Ilie & Murzakova, 2003).

An analysis of the global distribution of oil reserves is important for gaining insights into the evolution of international economic relations and the dependency patterns between oil-producing and oil-importing states. The distribution of reserves is closely linked to bargaining power and political outcomes. The uneven geographical distribution of reserves transforms into negotiating advantages, the capacity to influence diplomatic discourse within international organizations, and concrete political actions (see Table 2 and Table 3).

**Table 2. World Oil Reserves \* / \*\*, 1970s–2001 (trillion barrels)**

| Period | USA         | Canada    | Latin America | Middle East   | Africa      | Western Europe | OPEC          | Total World   |
|--------|-------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1970s  | 29.6 – 27.8 | 8.6 – 6.8 | 29.2 – 56.5   | 333.5 – 362   | 54.7 - 57   | 1.8 – 23.5     | 383.7 – 444.9 | 530.5 – 642.2 |
| 1980s  | 27.1 – 34.6 | 6.8 - 9   | 56.5 – 122.1  | 362.1 – 571.6 | 55.1 – 56.2 | 23.1 – 22.4    | 435.6 – 675.4 | 651.9 – 916.6 |
| 1990s  | 34.1 – 30.5 | 8.3 – 6.8 | 125.2 - 137   | 660.3 – 673.6 | 58.8 – 75.4 | 18.4 – 18.7    | 767.1 – 800.5 | 1000 - 1034   |
| 2000s  | 29.8        | 6.6       | 142.7         | 683.5         | 74.9        | 17.2           | 814.4         | 1028          |

Source: Realized by authors using data from: Energy explorations and Exploitation  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1260/0144598011492561>.

\* Approximately 25% of the estimated 1.000 billion barrels of oil are classified as commercial reserves, while 75% are considered resources.

\*\* In the 1980s, the USSR held approximately 11.84% of the world's proven oil reserves, whereas by 2002 the former USSR countries accounted for only 5.55% (Ilie & Murzakova, 2003).

**Table 3. World proven crude oil reserves by country/region (million barrels)**

| Period      | USA                     | Canada        | Latin America     | Middle East       | Africa    | OECD - Europe   | OPEC                  | Russia          | Total World           |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 2020 - 2024 | 35,8<br>35 – 45,0<br>14 | 4,299 – 4,344 | 330,719 – 344,883 | 865,519 – 871,218 | 54.7 - 57 | 12,412 – 10,399 | 1,236,146 – 1,241,294 | 80,000 – 80,000 | 1,543,613 - 1,566,869 |

Source: Realized by authors based on data from OPEC (2025).

Tables 2 and 3 illustrate the persistent unequal distribution of global oil reserves, despite technological developments in exploration and extraction that have facilitated access to new sources. This systemic discrepancy shows that developed countries, which hold the largest share of global energy demand and consumption, cannot meet their needs based only on their domestic reserves. In contrast, OPEC countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, have gained a dominant position due to their substantial proven reserves and relatively low extraction costs. These countries benefit not only from the scale of their reserves, but also from favorable geological conditions that allow for lower exploitation costs and better accessibility to resources. Despite the continuous global energy transition, oil still occupies a central role in the world economy, recording approximately 70% of global energy demand. Therefore, the afore mentioned countries remain key suppliers in international energy markets (Venditti, 2025). In this context, oil continues to operate as a strategic tool for shaping geopolitics, trade patterns, investment flows, and relations among states. Its influence can manifest in a positive way, when states resort to cooperation and mutually beneficial agreements, or negatively, through sanctions, supply disruptions, or conflicts when diplomatic negotiations fail.

According to Venditti (2025), four countries hold more than 50% of the world's proven oil reserves:

1. Venezuela (approximately 330 billion barrels), although its export capacity and its ability to financially benefit from these reserves remain limited;
2. Saudi Arabia (approximately 267 billion barrels);
3. Iran (approximately 209 billion barrels); and
4. Canada (a non-OPEC country), mainly due to its large oil sands reserves, which more expensive and carbon-intensive to extract. (See Appendix 2.)

In general, oil reserves and production capacities are concentrated in the Middle East region, the former Soviet states, South America, and West Africa, whereas oil consumption is primarily located in industrialized economies (the United States, the European Union, Canada, and Japan, as well as in China, the world's largest manufacturing center, which continues to extend its industrial and infrastructural capacities). During the 2000s, OPEC member states preserved and leveraged the competitive advantage, accounting for approximately 80% of the world's proven oil reserves while benefiting from lower average extraction and production costs compared to the majority of non-OPEC producers (OPEC.org).

Conventionally, the oil market has been influenced by its two main components: supply and demand, which configure patterns of interdependence between producers and consumers and shape specific instruments of oil diplomacy. In addition, since the 2000s, oil prices have become progressively integrated into global financial markets. In a highly globalized world, prices are greatly affected by speculative ventures undertaken by financial entities who try to profit from price volatility rather than carry out physical oil trade (Fan & Xu, 2011; DeCoste, 2025). Even more, a series of economic and political events have shaped regional and global economic activity, with implications on price volatility and fluctuations in energy demand. These events include the prolonged effects of the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the 2007–2008 global financial crisis, the 2019 global health crisis, the U.S. embargo on Venezuelan oil (beginning in 2019), the military conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the ensuing sanctions imposed on Russia, as well as the persisting conflicts in the Middle East that have escalated to the present day (Vidu, 2019; Eseosa et al., 2023; DeCoste, 2025; ING, 2026).

### **Current trends in oil diplomacy**

According to recent data issued by the International Energy Agency (IEA, 2025), the world witnesses a period characterized by geopolitical fragility and relatively low oil prices despite continuous international instability. States keep on prioritizing energy security, while international cooperation in the energy field remains fragmented. This fractured environment may generate further uncertainty in the global energy markets (IEA, 2025).

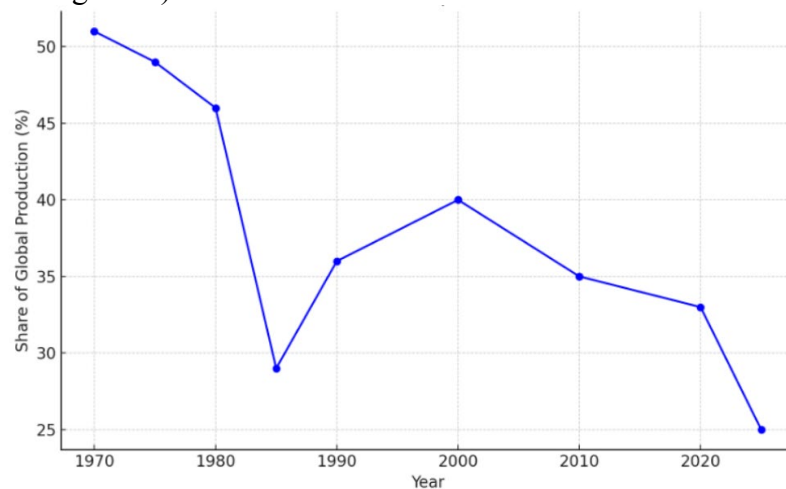
China ("the world's industrial laboratory"), in its drive to consolidate its position on the world market, has tried to overcome a series of difficulties in oil supply by capitalizing the alliances within the BRICS group, or by redefining priorities within its own energy policy, in the sense of finding energy alternatives. China steadily uses state diplomacy to conclude agreements in the energy field and to protect its access to energy resources on international markets. Other major resource holders and producers, such as Russia, have also resorted to state support to consolidate their domestic energy sectors and extend their access to foreign markets. The paths followed by both China and Russia are part of a wider strategy known as energy diplomacy.

Energy diplomacy facilitates both producing and consuming countries to lower dependence on specific resources (such as oil) and to increase strategic flexibility. In China's case, it renders domestic companies with a strategic advantage in competing for foreign resources by leveraging state support. Importing countries can secure their energy supply on a more solid basis through diplomatic "language" related to energy contracts, whereas producing countries, such as Russia, use diplomacy to consolidate access to reserves and scale up their market reach. Energy diplomacy does not represent a new phenomenon in the international political economy. Oil and gas commerce has long been subject to government intervention. This pattern also characterizes other major international actors, such as European countries, the United States, and Japan (Eseosa et al., 2023). For example, the natural gas supply project "Power of Siberia" can be interpreted as part of a

broader and more flexible energy strategy between China and Russia. This project aims at reducing oil dependence for Russia, as an energy-exporting country, as well as for China, as one of the world's major energy consumers (The Caspian Post, 2025; Tan, 2025).

Oil diplomacy as part of the EU - Russia relations has been determined by political and military developments, as both players have significant roles in influencing the international order. The EU has reduced its reliance on Russian energy resources, mainly by decreasing imports of oil from Russia and finding alternative sources of supply on the international markets. Because of the military conflict which outburst between Russia and Ukraine in 2022, the EU introduced bans on Russian crude oil imports and imposed an embargo on refined oil products. While Russia was the EU's major supplier of petroleum products in 2021, by 2025 the main oil suppliers had become the United States and Norway (Eurostat, 2026).

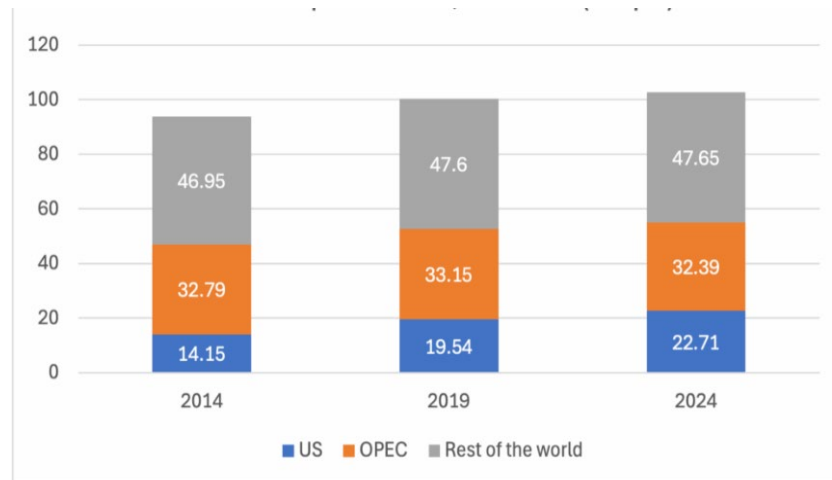
According to Ahmed (2025), Middle Eastern oil-producing countries, specifically Saudi Arabia, remain key global actors, exerting influence through the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) by controlling production levels and managing the price mechanism. Since 2016, OPEC's operations within the organization's cooperation framework (OPEC+) have been coordinated together with other ten oil-producing countries, that is Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Bahrain, Brunei, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan, and Sudan (Middle East Institute, 2025). (See Figure 1.)



**Figure 1. OPEC's share of global crude oil output (1970-2025)**

Source: IEA, Reuters cited by Middle East Institute (<https://mei.edu/backgrounder/opec-and-opec/>).

The United States, as both a major oil consumer and producer, acted on OPEC+ initiatives by releasing oil from its Strategic Petroleum Reserve and increased domestic energy production, to decrease OPEC+'s control over international oil prices. In addition, it initiated diplomatic measures to stabilize global energy markets (MEI, 2025; Ahmed, 2025). (See Figure 2.)



**Figure 2. Global Oil Production, 2014–2024 (mbpd - million barrels per day)**

Source: Reuters cited by Middle East Institute (<https://mei.edu/backgrounder/opec-and-opec/>).

Oil consumption trends in 2025 indicate significant asymmetries in global energy demand, with considerable implications for international energy diplomacy and geopolitical competition (Deb, 2025):

1. **The United States** stands as the world's largest oil consumer, with an average daily consumption of approximately 20.01 million barrels/day. Demand is mostly generated by the transportation sector, industrial activity, and electricity needs.
2. **China** occupies the second position, with daily consumption of approximately 15.5 million barrels. This demand expresses the needs of its large industrial base and continuous urbanization processes.
3. **India** records approximately 5.05 million barrels per day, driven by population growth, economic development, and increasing demand for goods and services.
4. **Russia** consumes around 3.68 million barrels/day.
5. **Saudi Arabia** follows closely, with approximately 3.56 million barrels per day.
6. **Japan** accounts for a daily consumption of about 3.38 million barrels.

It can be noticed that, although the global energy transition involves new dynamics and long-term uncertainties, oil continues to sustain industrial production, transportation infrastructure, and urbanization processes (IEA, 2025). Hence, power structures in the international system remain closely linked to control over reserves, production capacity, transportation routes, and pricing system.

## Conclusion

Oil diplomacy represents a central element of the global economy, shaping trends and patterns of production, dependency, and power configurations among states. Despite technological developments in exploration and extraction capacities, the uneven geographical distribution of oil reserves keeps on influencing international economic relations. Production remains located in a limited number of regions, mainly in the Middle East and parts of the former Soviet Union, while consumption is considerably concentrated in industrialized and rapidly expanding economies. This systemic asymmetry generates ongoing dependency patterns between producers and consumers.

OPEC's strengthening of production control in the 1970s represented a turning point in the "politicization" of oil, converting it from a simple commodity into a strategic instrument of state

power and influence. Since then, oil pricing, production rates, and export policies have operated not only as economic tools, but also as diplomatic strategies. At the same time, non-OPEC producers, financial market participants, and emerging economies have transformed the oil market into a more complex and globally integrated system, where price formation highlights real physical supply and demand, but also speculative financial ventures.

In the long run, oil diplomacy may illustrate how natural resource endowment can be converted into bargaining power within the world economy. The interaction between production structures, dependency patterns, and geopolitical strategies shows that oil is not only a valuable energy resource, but a crucial factor in shaping international power systems. If global economic activity remains significantly dependent on hydrocarbons, oil diplomacy will continue to impact the architecture of global markets, as well as the strategic approach of states.

**Acknowledgments:** During the preparation of this work, the authors utilized ChatGPT (GPT-5.5) to enhance readability and language clarity. Following the use of this tool, the authors meticulously reviewed and revised the content as necessary and assume full responsibility for the final content of the publication.

## References

- Ahmed, S. (2025). *The Geopolitics of Energy. How Oil and Gas Shape Diplomacy*. Retrieved from <https://modern diplomacy.eu/2025/02/17/the-geopolitics-of-energy-how-oil-and-gas-shape-diplomacy/>
- Attiga, A. (1987). The arabs and the oil crisis 1973 – 1986. *The Journal of Energy and Development*, 336. Retrieved from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24807948>
- Bahgat, G. (2000). Oil diplomacy: American Policy in the Persian Gulf. *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, 24(2), p.143. Retrieved from <https://dl.tufts.edu>downloads>
- Bal, A. (2009). *Transformari economice regionale si globale*. Editura Alpha MDN, Buzau, p.25
- Barros, C., P., Gil-Alana, L., A., Paine, J., E. (2011). An analysis of Oil Production by OPEC Countries: Persistence, Breaks and Outliers, *Energy policy*, 39(1), 442 – 453. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0301421510007755>
- Dahl, R. (1976). *Modern Political Analysis*. Third edition. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.
- Deb, K. (2025). *Top 10 countries with highest oil consumption: see where India ranks*. Retrieved from <https://www.wionews.com/photos/top-10-countries-highest-oil-consumption-2025-1760605571517/1760605571518>
- DeCoste, J. (2025). Does excess market demand affect the spot price of oil? *Energy economics*, Vol. 149, September 2025. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140988325004487>
- Diplo. (2021a). *Oil diplomacy*. Retrieved from <https://www.diplomacy.edu/topics/oil-diplomacy/>
- Diplo. (2021b). *Economic diplomacy*. Retrieved from <https://www.diplomacy.edu/topics/economic-diplomacy/>
- Eseosa, O.F., Enahoro, A. Ph., Agba, E.A., (2023). Oil Diplomacy in the International Economy: Impact of Russia – Ukraine Conflict. *The International Journal of Humanities & social Studies*, 11(4), pp. 35-36. Retrieved from <https://www.internationaljournalcorner.com/index.php/theijhss/article/view/172906/117219>

- Eurostat. (2026). *EU Trade with Russia – latest developments*. Retrieved from [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU\\_trade\\_with\\_Russia\\_-\\_latest\\_developments#Key\\_product\\_groups\\_in\\_EU\\_imports\\_from\\_Russia](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_trade_with_Russia_-_latest_developments#Key_product_groups_in_EU_imports_from_Russia)
- Fan, Y., Xu, J.H., (2011). What has driven oil prices since 2000? A structural change perspective. *Energy economics*, 33(6), pp. 1082-1094. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0140988311001228>
- Hartshorn, J.E. (1973). Oil diplomacy: the new approach. *The World Today*. Retrieved from <https://jstor.org/stable/40394710> , p.281
- Iancu, A. (2009). Industrii strategice, criterii de determinare și politici de susținere a acestora. *Studii economice*. Academia Romana. Institutul National de Cercetari Economice. Retrieved from <https://www.studii-economice.ro/2009/seince090901.pdf> , pp. 18 - 19
- Ilie, A.G., Murzakova, A., (2003). *Consideratii generale privind piata mondiala a petrolului*. Bucuresti, Editura ASE
- ING, (2026). *The Commodities Feed: Oil spikes as US – Iran conflict concerns intensify*. Retrieved from <https://think.ing.com/articles/the-commodities-feed-oil-spikes-as-us-iran-conflict-concerns-intensify190226/>
- International Energy Agency (IEA). (2025). *World Energy Outlook*. Retrieved from <https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-outlook-2025/overview-and-key-findings>
- Khoma, N.& Nikolaieva, M. (2025). The Weaponization of Energy Resources: Fossil Fuels as Instruments of Geopolitical Leverage in the EU–Russia Context, *Journal of Liberty and International Affairs*, 11(2). Retrieved from [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/395795584\\_The\\_Weaponization\\_of\\_Energy\\_Resources\\_Fossil\\_Fuels\\_as\\_Instruments\\_of\\_Geopolitical\\_Leverage\\_in\\_the\\_EU-Russia\\_Context](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/395795584_The_Weaponization_of_Energy_Resources_Fossil_Fuels_as_Instruments_of_Geopolitical_Leverage_in_the_EU-Russia_Context)
- Middle East Institute (MEI). (2025). *OPEC and OPEC +*. Retrieved from <https://mei.edu/backgrounder/opec-and-opec/>
- Oltulular, S. (2024). Circular behavior of oil consumption and the impact of oil prices with the Fourier approach. *Energy Strategy Reviews*, vol.53, Retrieved from [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/380362747\\_Circular\\_behavior\\_of\\_oil\\_consumption\\_and\\_the\\_impact\\_of\\_oil\\_prices\\_with\\_the\\_Fourier\\_approach](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/380362747_Circular_behavior_of_oil_consumption_and_the_impact_of_oil_prices_with_the_Fourier_approach)
- OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries). *Member countries*. Retrieved from <https://www.opec.org/member-countries.html>
- OPEC (2025). *2025 OPEC annual statistical bulletin*, p. 24. Retrieved from <https://www.opec.org/assets/assetdb/asb-2025.pdf>
- Sttrata, E., (2016). *El precio del crudo y su historia*. Retrieved from <https://www.petrotecnica.com.ar/junio16/PetroSINpublic/Precio.pdf>
- Tan, H., (2025). *Power of Siberia 2 reshapes China's energy security calculus*. Retrieved form <https://eastasiaforum.org/2025/10/31/power-of-siberia-2-reshapes-chinas-energy-security-calculus/>
- The Caspian Post (2025). *Gazprom Breaks Another Record for Gas Export to China via Power of Siberia*. Retrieved from <https://caspianpost.com/energy/gazprom-breaks-another-record-for-gas-exports-to-china-via-power-of-siberia>
- Venditti, B. (2025). *All of the World's Oil Reserves by Country, in one visualization*. Retrieved from <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/all-of-the-worlds-oil-reserves-by-country-in-one-visualization/>

- Vidu, V. (2019). *Embargoul American impus petrolului venezuelean intra in vigoare*. Retrieved from <https://www.news.ro/externe/embargoul-american-impus-petrolului-venezuelean-intra-in-vigoare-1922400428002019041918989603>
- Yergin, D. (1991). *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power*. Simon & Schuster. Retrieved from <https://www.iwp.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/The-Prize-The-Epic-Quest-for-Oil-Money-and-Power-by-Daniel-Yergin.pdf>
- \*\*\* World Oil Reserves 1948 - 2001: Annual Statistics and Analysis. *Energy Explorations and Exploitation*, 19(2-3), 261 – 264. Retrieved from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1260/0144598011492561>

PICBE |  
2218

## Appendix 1: OPEC - Member Countries

<https://www.opec.org/member-countries.html>

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

Home About Us Media Centre Research Publications OPEC Seminar Contact Us

# Member Countries

Home » About Us » Member Countries » Overview

**Our Mission**

**OPEC Statute**

**Brief History**

**Solemn Declarations**

**Declaration of Cooperation**

**Charter of Cooperation**

**Member Countries**

**Overview**

Algeria

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization.

These countries were later joined by Qatar (1961), Indonesia (1962), Libya (1962), the United Arab Emirates (1967), Algeria (1969), Nigeria (1971), Ecuador (1973), Gabon (1975), Angola (2007), Equatorial Guinea (2017) and Congo (2018).

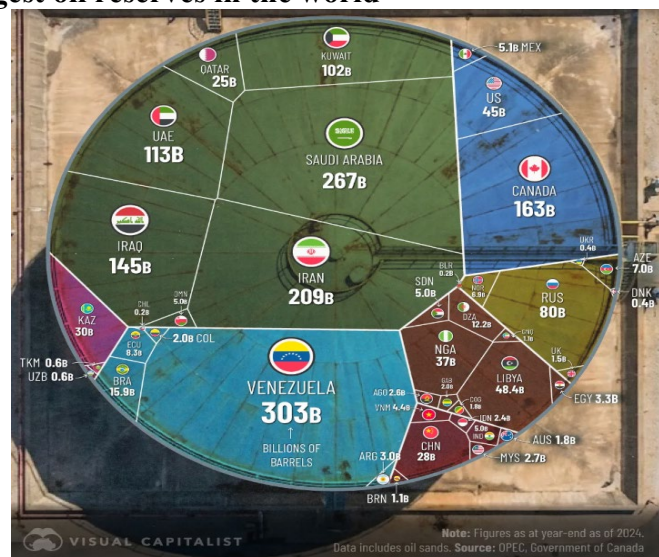
Ecuador suspended its membership in December 1992, rejoined OPEC in October 2007, but decided to withdraw its membership of OPEC effective 1 January 2020. Indonesia suspended its membership in January 2009, reactivated it again in January 2016, but decided to suspend its membership once more at the 171st Meeting of the OPEC Conference on 30 November 2016. Gabon terminated its membership in January 1995. However, it rejoined the Organization in July 2016. Qatar terminated its membership on 1 January 2019. Angola withdrew its membership effective 1 January 2024.

This means that, currently, the Organization has a total of 12 Member Countries.

Activate Windows  
Go to Settings to activate W

Source: <https://www.opec.org/member-countries.html>.

## Appendix 2: The largest oil reserves in the world



Source: <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/all-of-the-worlds-oil-reserves-by-country-in-one-visualization/>.