

IB DP Geography – Peak Oil Infographic Analysis

THE PEAK OIL

Are we in it? Are we prepared?

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1 Oil barrel (42 gallons) = 19 gallons Petrol = 2 car gas tanks

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Oil is the world's single most important commodity. It is a finite resource and it's coming to an end. "Peak Oil" is a term that refers to a time when maximum global petroleum supply is reached. Right now our species is faced with the depletion of the core resource central to our current system of survival.

DR. HUBBERT'S CURVE

Dr. Hubbert's peak theory curve shows that the amount of oil under the ground in any region is finite, therefore the rate of discovery which initially increases quickly must reach a maximum and decline.

PRODUCTION (10⁹ BBL/S/YEAR)

YEAR

- 1 PROVEN RESERVES (250x10⁹ BARRELS)
- 2 CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION (90x10⁹ BARRELS)
- 3 FUTURE DISCOVERIES (910x10⁹ BARRELS)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

As the world's oil supply decreases we see a natural increase in both the demand and cost of crude oil.

WHAT'S THE RESULT?

Many analysts fear that a shift in demand and cost of oil will result in widespread problems including:

ECONOMIC DEPRESSION

GLOBAL TURMOIL

GLOBAL WARMING

WHO'S USING IT ALL?

World's top 6 oil consuming nations as of 2010.
*Note: Right now we use up to 6 barrels of oil for every 1 we find.

Nation	Consumption (Million bbls/day)
GERMANY	2.4
INDIA	2.7
RUSSIA	2.8
JAPAN	5.0
CHINA	7.5
USA	20.5

WHAT'S IN A BARREL?

85 Million

Barrels used each day.

WHEN WILL IT PEAK?

Pinpointing when oil will peak is still unclear. Some scientists believe it may have already peaked between 1968 and 1972 and others predict between the years 2010 and 2020.

WHAT'S LEFT?

World proven reserves of oil. (In Billions of barrels)

*Total: 1292.6

WHAT'S OUR ALTERNATIVE?

There are multiple alternative energy sources in use today. The problem is that these mediums are hindered by the need to compete for market share with the established power structure. It's time for our world to move itself away from dependency on oil and begin using clean, abundant and renewable energies.

SOLAR POWER

TIDAL POWER

GEOTHERMAL POWER

WIND POWER

