

## *Myths, Lies and Oil Wars*<sup>1</sup>, Engdahl, F. William

The book *Myths, Lies and Oil Wars* can be considered as an interesting one in which the author presents a theory through which he analyzes the correlation between oil issues and conflicts which happened in last hundred years. From the beginning, the mentioned theory deals with the explanation of causes of numerous conflicts and relations between the Western countries and Arabic ones, as well as the background of Western political interest related to the oil deposits in the world. Therefore, in the introduction the author touches upon the crusades which he interconnects with the recent conflicts in Arabic countries. From his point of view, crusades as well as conflicts in Arabic countries were initialized by the Western countries for the purpose of establishment of the control over the "Asian spices" at first and later over the oil. To confirm his theory, the author uses numerous sources, such as statement of Henry Kissinger<sup>2</sup> which says "Control the oil and you will control whole countries"<sup>3</sup> and which is used as a starting point in author's explanation of American interests in the oil world.

The first chapter analyzes the period during the First and Second World War and it explains the reason of German failure in the most important battles of both wars. During that time Germany did not possess a large number of oil deposits which would ensure enough fuel for its armed forces and from the author's point of view that fact was the main reason why Germany was defeated in two world wars.

The second chapter focuses on USA and its role in the world order. The USA has always had a significant influence on the world politics and its position in world order was never doubtful. Since oil became the world's most important source of energy, American primary goal was to establish the control over the world's oil deposits. From author's point of view, American policy was successful considering the fact that on one hand it was orientated on denying access to oil deposits to its enemies, while on the other hand ensuring that it had enough oil stocks for achieving its

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1 Zagreb: Profil, 2012, pp. 304. ISBN: 978-3-9813263-6-9

2 In 70's Henry Kissinger was Minister of Foreign Affairs in the administration of President Richard Nixon.

3 Engdahl, F. William: *Myths, Lies and Oil Wars*, Zagreb, Profil, 2012, p. 14

intents. This chapter also covers the period of Rockefeller's success and their role in changing the American economy in whole.

The third chapter describes the role of Rockefellers' in the American economy during the '50 of the last century. Their oil company which consisted of three biggest oil companies at that time<sup>4</sup> enabled them to become influential in politics as well. The author connects them with both political parties in USA, Democrats and Republicans, with CIA and with the biggest American universities. To ensure the main role in oil world, Rockefellers' initialized the creation of theory related to the oil origin. Hubbert's theory and project of young Russian immigrant Leontief backed up the theory that oil deposits are limited considering the fact that oil is produced from fossil remains of dinosaurs. Abovementioned things ensured that the main role is in the hands of oil companies and that they make the final decision how limited oil deposits will be used and by whom.

The following two chapters are analyzing the "Oil shock" which happened at the beginning of 70's and its background. The fourth chapter touches upon the role of a dollar in world's economy in the period when it became a unit of account and world's reserve currency as well. This was also the period when American economy began to collapse and from author's opinion in order to maintain high value of dollar Americans have initialized Yom Kippur<sup>5</sup> war which had "Oil shock" as its result. Therefore, the fifth chapter continues to analyze "Oil shock", as well as the report known as "The Limits to Growth" which defined population increment as a possible threat to world's economy. The mentioned report assumed that it could cause the industrial crash giving the fact that industrial potential is limited.

The sixth chapter continues to deal with the consequences of "Oil shock" and its impact on oil demand in the world market. The "Oil shock" led to strengthening dollar's value but on the other hand it made alternative energy sources more attractive considering the fact that oil price went up for 400 per cent. Oil consumption has decreased and, in order to save oil production, Rockefeller has established the Trilateral Initiative which consisted of most developed industrial countries. Furthermore,

4 In the mid 50's Rockefeller's family held block of shares in three most important international oil companies - Standard Oil of California (Chevron), Standard Oil of New Jersey (Exxon) and Standard Oil of New York (Socony, later named Mobil)

5 From author's point of view, this was American method to provoke Arabic oil embargo to increase the oil price.

chapter touches upon the situation in Iran and America's influence on it. As Mossadegh's government wanted to nationalize the oil resources, what was not in the best interest of USA, America has given its support to Mohammad Rezā Shāh Pahlavī. The dissatisfaction of citizens with new pro-American regime has increased from year to year and at the end it resulted with the hostage crisis in 1979 which will last for 444 days.

The seventh chapter under the name Oil Wars by Proxy analyzes the eight years long conflict between Iran and Iraq as a first conflict between OPEC's countries. But the main focus is on the role of USA in the aforementioned conflict, as well as its relation with the Saddam Hussein who was the president of Iraq at that time. The chapter also touches upon the crash of oil price in the late 80's and its consequences for the American economy and situation in the Soviet Union. As the economy of Soviet Union depended on the exportation of oil, reduction of the oil value caused the collapse of the Soviet Union which led to the strengthening of USA role in oil world.

The eighth chapter continues to analyze the interrelation between Saddam Hussein and USA after the end of Iran-Iraq war. The Carter's doctrine which proclaims that "an attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America, and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force"<sup>6</sup> is examined as one of the indicators of USA foreign policy and its interests in the oil wealth countries. Besides abovementioned issues, this chapter focuses on the Iraq invasion on Kuwait and the background of the conflict, i.e. the Kuwait's economic pressure.<sup>7</sup>

The next two chapters explain the role of Russia in the oil world and its relationship with USA in last three decades. The collapse of Soviet Union has given the opportunity to USA foreign policy to establish the control over the biggest oil producer in the world. After Soviet Union fell apart, USA supported Chechnya in its intents to proclaim independence. From author's point of view, huge oil deposits in Baku were of great

6 Engdahl, F. William: *Myths, Lies and Oil Wars*, Zagreb, Profil, 2012, p.169

7 The measures which were taken by Kuwait led to the reduction of the oil price and therefore Iraq and other OPEC countries were concerned with the eventual consequences of the mentioned Kuwait's economic pressure.

importance for Americans so war between Russia and Chechnya can be marked as war over the oil pipelines. The tenth chapter continues to deal with American and Russian relations and it touches upon the Santa Fe conference on which Hubbert's theory was disputed by Russian and Ukrainian scientists. Their forty years long research led them to the conclusion that oil is renewable source of energy and that process of its creation is not related to the fossil remains of dinosaurs. The mentioned research was totally opposite to Hubbert's theory so its adoption became a serious concern for the Western countries.

In the eleventh and twelfth chapter author describes the reaction of USA and Britain on the new theory of Russian and Ukrainian scientists, as well as the background of American invasion on Iraq, war in Afghanistan and revolution in Ukraine. The eleventh chapter touches upon the research done by Irish and French geologists which claimed that oil shortage will happen soon and it will be a long term crisis. According to the author, this research was an attempt of American and British oil companies to dismiss the theory from Santa Fe. In order to affirm his theory about American role in world's policy, author explains the abovementioned conflicts as conflicts which were initialized by USA in order to establish its control over the world oil deposits.

Thirteenth chapter defines China as a new target, as well as its threat to the USA policy. The author claims that improvement of China's economy made it a new target which USA wanted to put under control. The American invasion on Iraq in 2003 led to the cancellation of the agreement between Iraqi government and Chinese oil companies which needed to ensure the development of oil resources in Iraq. In its effort to control China's usage of Iraqi oil sources as well as in other sources in the world, USA has drawn various moves in order to ensure its dominance in the world order.

In the last chapter author analyzes the most recent conflict in the Middle East, known as Arab Spring. In order to dethrone actual regimes, citizens of particular countries organized mass demonstration but it did not have the same consequences everywhere. Through the example of Libya, the author tries to give the example in which he tries to present USA as a world force whose goal is only to ensure the control over the oil deposits for itself but also to establish the concept of "full spectrum dominance".

Myths, Lies and Oil Wars is a book which provides lots of interesting and useful information related to the oil issue and international relations as whole. Whether a reader would agree or not with the author's theory and conclusions, it is interesting material considering the fact that it gives a radical overhaul to the theories regarding recent conflicts and their interrelation with the oil issue.

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