

THE GEOECONOMICS OF ENERGY SECURITY: ANALYZING THE ROLE OF
STRATEGIC RESOURCE POLICIES IN SHAPING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Affairs & Diplomacy- Emphasis in International Law

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Abstract

This research delves into the geoeconomic dynamics of energy security and the influence of strategic resource policies on international relations. It examines how nations strategically manage their energy resources to gain political leverage and shape global dynamics. The study investigates the interplay between energy markets, geopolitical interests, and state policies, providing valuable insights into the intricate nature of resource-based power struggles. By analyzing case studies and employing theoretical frameworks, the research sheds light on the complex interactions between energy security, national interests, and international relations. Ultimately, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the geoeconomics of energy security and its implications for global politics. The implementation of strategic resource policies results in heightened global competition and reinforces economic nationalism. These policies have extensive global ramifications, creating a competitive environment among nations striving to advance their interests and shape the international governance system according to their goals and requirements.

Key Words:

Strategic Resource Policies, Economic Nationalism, Development, Interests, Global Competition, Global Governance, Instability

Introduction

Resource scarcity has long been a driver of geopolitical competition and conflict. From the control of oil reserves to the access to rare earth minerals, nations have been forced to compete for access to these resources to maintain their economic and military power. In recent years, the importance of strategic resources in shaping international relations has only grown, as the global economy has become increasingly interconnected and resource-dependent. The adoption of strategic resource policies is a crucial aspect of this competition. These policies are designed to secure a nation's access to critical resources, often by restricting exports or incentivizing domestic production. While they can be an effective way to protect a country's economic interests, they can also have unintended consequences that can undermine global stability and cooperation.

One potential outcome of strategic resource policies is economic nationalism, a trend towards protectionism and isolationism in which nations prioritize their own economic interests over those of the global community. As noted by Kissinger's work on *realpolitik*, the pursuit of national interest can sometimes lead to conflict and instability. In the case of strategic resources, the risk of economic nationalism is particularly acute, as nations may be tempted to prioritize their own economic interests over those of the global community. This can lead to trade disputes, sanctions, and even military conflict, as nations seek to secure access to resources at any cost. On the other hand, strategic resource policies can also foster global competition which can lead to instability. For example, the 1973 oil crisis, which was triggered by an embargo on oil exports by OPEC nations, led to a global economic downturn and geopolitical tensions that lasted for years. The oil crisis simultaneously led to global competition on a significant scale whilst also fostering

economic nationalism. On the other hand, strategic resource policies may foster innovation and development as a consequence of competing interests as was observed as a consequence of the Sino-American trade war and the competition over the microchip supply chain. Lastly, strategic resource policies can also be a catalyst for innovation and cooperation. By incentivizing the allocation of resources strategically, nations can create new industries and drive economic growth while simultaneously leading to increased cooperation between nations, as they seek to share expertise and resources in pursuit of common goals. The former has been observed recurrently in the case of the Belt & Road Initiative, notably the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The research question of whether the adoption of strategic resource policies leads to economic nationalism or fosters global competition is therefore of crucial importance in understanding the dynamics of international relations. It requires a nuanced analysis of the various factors that influence the outcomes of resource policies, including economic, political, and social factors, as well as the role of international institutions and norms. One key factor to consider is the nature of the resources themselves. Some resources, such as oil or rare earth minerals, are highly concentrated in a small number of countries, making them vulnerable to political instability and manipulation. Other resources, such as renewable energy technologies or agricultural products, are more widely available and can be produced domestically with relative ease. The adoption of strategic resource policies for these different types of resources is likely to have different effects on global competition and economic nationalism. Another important factor is the role of international institutions and norms in shaping resource policies. Global organizations such as the World Trade Organization and the International Energy Agency have developed rules and guidelines for

the trade and use of strategic resources, which can help to prevent conflicts and promote cooperation. However, the effectiveness of these institutions is often limited by the political and economic power dynamics among member states.

Consequently, this research effort will seek to answer the research question from a literary and empirical perspective which will be supplemented by the analysis of case studies, notably the 1973 oil embargo which will be supplemented by evidence from different cases. Ultimately, this thesis will showcase that the adoption of strategic resource policies will inevitably foster global competition primarily whilst it drives economic nationalism and development at a secondary glance. In order to achieve the aforementioned objective, this thesis will define strategic resource policies in the second chapter whilst presenting an expose of global dependence on resources, notably oil. Chapter 3 will focus on presenting an overview of the current landscape of resources whereas Chapter 4 will present a case study analysis that depicts the use of strategic resource policies to affect international relations.

Chapter 1: Theoretical Foundation

Literature Review

Strategic resource policies are government interventions aimed at securing access to and control over strategic resources, defined as resources that are essential to national security, economic competitiveness, or the functioning of critical industries. These policies can take various forms, such as export restrictions, stockpiling, subsidies, tax incentives, or direct investment. Strategic resource policies are typically motivated by a desire to reduce dependency on foreign suppliers, ensure stable and affordable access to critical resources, and promote domestic industries that rely on these resources. However, strategic resource policies can also create tensions with other countries that may view them as protectionist or discriminatory. Thus, the impact of strategic resource policies on economic nationalism and global competition is a topic of ongoing debate among scholars and policymakers. Hence, the following literature review has been compiled to constitute a solid literary foundation to this research effort.

Theoretical perspectives on the relationship between strategic resource policies and economic nationalism or global competition vary depending on the assumptions and analytical frameworks used. Some scholars argue that strategic resource policies promote economic nationalism by reducing dependence on foreign suppliers, protecting domestic industries, and strengthening national security (Fetzer, 2022). They view strategic resource policies as a way to enhance a country's self-reliance and resilience in the face of external shocks or geopolitical risks. This perspective emphasizes the importance of strategic autonomy and national interests in shaping resource policies, and sees global competition

as a zero-sum game where countries compete for finite resources. On the other hand, others contend that strategic resource policies foster global competition by creating incentives for innovation, diversifying supply chains, and enhancing resource efficiency (Klare, 2011). They view strategic resource policies as a way to promote sustainable development, technological progress, and environmental protection, while avoiding the pitfalls of resource curse or resource depletion. This perspective emphasizes the potential benefits of cooperation and interdependence among countries, and sees global competition as a positive-sum game where countries can collaborate to create value and solve collective challenges. Still, others suggest that the impact of strategic resource policies depends on contextual factors such as the type of resources, the level of market concentration, and the degree of global interdependence, which inherently affects the type of competition (Gulley et al., 2018). For example, some resources may be more prone to monopolistic or oligopolistic structures, which can lead to market distortions and rent-seeking behaviors. Moreover, some resources may be more geographically concentrated, which can create regional imbalances or geopolitical tensions (Cooper, 2012). Finally, some resources may be more interlinked with other sectors, such as energy, agriculture, or manufacturing, which can affect the spillover effects and feedback loops of resource policies. Therefore, the impact of strategic resource policies on economic nationalism and global competition is a complex and context-dependent issue that requires a multidisciplinary and comparative approach.

A key issue in the debate over strategic resource policies is whether they promote or hinder global competition. Some scholars argue that resource nationalism, which is often associated with strategic resource policies, leads to protectionism, market distortions, and

trade frictions (Arbatli, 2018; Gorsline et al, 2022). They contend that resource-rich countries may use their leverage to extract rents, limit exports, and discriminate against foreign investors, which can lead to inefficiencies and welfare losses for both exporting and importing countries. Moreover, they argue that resource nationalism can reduce the incentives for innovation and diversification, as well as the benefits of comparative advantage and specialization (Mares, 2022). Therefore, strategic resource policies may not only harm the global economy but also backfire on the countries that adopt them, by limiting their growth potential and reducing their competitiveness in the long run. On the other hand, proponents of strategic resource policies argue that they can enhance global competition by fostering innovation, knowledge transfer, and learning effects. They contend that strategic resource policies can create incentives for local industries to develop new technologies, processes, and products that can be exported to other markets (Archibugi, 2003). Moreover, they argue that strategic resource policies can facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills from multinational corporations to local firms, which can enhance their capabilities and competitiveness. Furthermore, they suggest that strategic resource policies can promote learning effects by spurring the development of human capital, research infrastructure, and institutional capacity, which can create positive externalities for the economy as a whole (Chen et al, & 2017). Therefore, strategic resource policies may not only benefit the countries that adopt them but also contribute to global innovation and competition, by creating new opportunities for growth and development. The implementation of strategic resource policies involves various challenges and opportunities, which depend on the specific context and objectives of the policies. One of the main challenges is to balance the short-term and long-term interests of different

stakeholders, including the government, the private sector, and the society at large (Stevens et al, 2014). For instance, the government may be tempted to maximize the revenue from resource exploitation in the short run, while neglecting the environmental, social, and governance aspects of resource management, which can lead to negative externalities and conflicts with local communities. Moreover, the private sector may seek to capture the benefits of resource rents and technology transfers, while avoiding the risks and costs of local content requirements and capacity-building obligations, which can limit the spill-over effects and the sustainability of the policies (Stevens et al, 2014). Another challenge is to align the strategic resource policies with the broader economic and development goals of the country, and to integrate them into the national and international policy frameworks. This requires not only a coherent and comprehensive strategy for resource management, but also a supportive institutional and regulatory environment, which can ensure transparency, accountability, and participation in decision-making. Furthermore, it requires the engagement of multiple stakeholders, including civil society, academia, and international organizations, in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the policies, to ensure their legitimacy and effectiveness. Despite these challenges, strategic resource policies offer significant opportunities for countries to enhance their economic, social, and environmental performance, and to contribute to global sustainable development (Katila et al, 2019). By adopting a proactive and strategic approach to resource management, countries can leverage their resource endowments to diversify their economies, promote value-added activities, and create decent jobs. They can also use their resource revenues to finance public goods, such as education, health, and infrastructure, and to address poverty, inequality, and exclusion. Moreover, they can foster innovation, technology transfer, and

environmental stewardship, by promoting sustainable and inclusive resource use and by engaging in international cooperation and dialogue.

The implications of the literature on strategic resource policies for policy and practice are twofold. On the one hand, the literature highlights the potential benefits and risks of strategic resource policies for resource-rich countries, and the need for careful policy design and implementation, in order to maximize their benefits and minimize their costs. For example, policy-makers should take into account the long-term and dynamic nature of resource development, and adopt policies that promote sustainable and inclusive growth, while preserving the resource endowments for future generations. Moreover, policy-makers should engage in international dialogue and cooperation, and seek to leverage their resource wealth to enhance their position in the global economy, while avoiding excessive dependence on a single resource or market. On the other hand, the literature also emphasizes the role of external actors, such as donor agencies, investors, and trading partners, in supporting the development of strategic resource policies that are aligned with global goals and standards, and that promote mutual benefits and cooperation. For example, external actors can provide technical assistance, capacity building, and financial support to resource-rich countries, to help them improve their policy-making and institutional frameworks, and to enhance their participation in global value chains and markets. Moreover, external actors can promote the adoption of international norms and standards, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs), that promote transparency, accountability, and responsible practices in the management of natural resources.

Future research on strategic resource policies can explore several directions to advance the theoretical and empirical understanding of their impact on economic nationalism and global competition. First, future studies can examine the relationship between strategic resource policies and other policy domains, such as trade, investment, and environmental policies, and their interactions and trade-offs, in order to capture the complexity and multidimensionality of policy-making in resource-rich countries. Second, future studies can analyze the role of different actors, such as multinational corporations, civil society groups, and international organizations, in shaping the outcomes of strategic resource policies, and their incentives, interests, and power dynamics. Third, future studies can explore the impact of strategic resource policies on specific sectors, such as energy, minerals, and agriculture, and their value chains, and how they affect different actors along the chain, such as producers, processors, and consumers.

Despite the substantial body of literature on strategic resource policies, a gap remains evident in academia when it comes to identifying the primary impact of these policies within the realm of international relations. While there is growing recognition of the interdependence between resource security and national security, there is still limited understanding of how strategic resource policies shape global power dynamics, international cooperation and conflict, and the distribution of economic and political influence among countries. As such, there is a need for further research and analysis that can shed light on the broader implications of strategic resource policies for international relations, as well as the policy and practice implications that follow.

Methodology:

The methodology adopted for this study involves a qualitative research design that primarily relies on content analysis of secondary data sources. The data will be analyzed to identify patterns, themes, and relationships related to the impact of strategic resource policies on economic nationalism and global competition. When it comes to data collection, the study will rely on secondary data sources, including academic articles, studies, news reports, and other relevant documents. The primary sources of data for this study are the case studies, including the 1973 oil embargo, the 2018 Chinese-American trade war on microprocessors, and the CPEC under the Belt and Road Initiative. The data collected from these sources will be analyzed using content analysis method as it constitutes a useful tool for identifying trends, patterns, or biases in communication, as well as for examining the effects or impacts of specific messages, interventions, or policies.

The data analysis method for this study will be content analysis, which will involve a systematic and objective analysis of the content of the selected documents. The data collected from the case studies will be analyzed to identify patterns, themes, and relationships related to the impact of strategic resource policies on economic nationalism and global competition.

The study will adhere to ethical considerations related to the use of secondary data sources. The sources will be cited appropriately to ensure proper attribution, and no individual or group will be harmed or placed at risk due to the study's findings.

The primary limitation of the study is the potential lack of access to data that is valid and reliable. To address this limitation, the study will use a variety of secondary data

sources and focus on analyzing the data carefully to ensure its validity and reliability. Efforts will be made to identify a broad range of secondary data sources that are valid and reliable. The data analysis will be based on a comprehensive review of the literature related to the study's research question.

Overall, the study's methodology will rely on a qualitative research design that uses content analysis to analyze secondary data sources related to the impact of strategic resource policies on economic nationalism and global competition. The data analysis will involve a systematic and objective review of the selected documents to identify patterns, themes, and relationships related to the study's research question. Efforts will be made to ensure that the study adheres to ethical considerations related to the use of secondary data sources, and limitations will be addressed by selecting a broad range of secondary data sources that are valid and reliable.

Theoretical Framework:

Realism and neomercantilism are the two theoretical frameworks that will be adopted to provide valuable insights into the topic of strategic resource policies.

Realism is a theoretical framework that emphasizes power politics and national interests in international relations (Korab-Karpowicz, 2010). Being one of the key tenets of realism, the concept of power politics refers to the idea that states engage in a constant struggle for power and security, and they are willing to use force or coercion to protect their interests. Realists argue that the distribution of power among states is a crucial factor in determining their behavior and relationships, and that states will act to maintain or increase their power and influence in the system. In the context of strategic resource policies, realism suggests that states will use all available resources, including strategic resources, to advance their national interests. Realism argues that states seek to maximize their power and security in the international system, and they will use strategic resource policies to gain advantages over their rivals. States may use strategic resource policies to control the production and distribution of critical resources, limit access to these resources by other states, or engage in strategic alliances to protect their access to these resources.

Neomercantilism, on the other hand, is a more recent framework that emphasizes economic nationalism and strategic trade policies. Neomercantilism emphasizes state intervention in the economy to promote domestic industry and exports, while limiting imports and foreign competition. Proponents argue that this approach is necessary for national economic competitiveness and security, while critics argue that it can be harmful to international trade and cooperation. In the context of strategic resource policies,

neomercantilism suggests that states use trade policies to protect their domestic industries and promote their economic interests. Neomercantilism argues that strategic resource policies can be used to gain strategic advantages over other states, particularly in industries that are critical to national security or economic growth. States may use strategic resource policies to promote domestic industries and protect national interests in the global economy.

Both realism and neomercantilism provide valuable insights into the impact of strategic resource policies on economic nationalism and global competition. Realism emphasizes the role of power and security in shaping state behavior, while neomercantilism emphasizes the role of economic interests and protectionism in shaping state behavior.

Chapter 2: Understanding Strategic Resource Policies

Defining Strategic Resource Policies:

Strategic resource policies refer to the set of principles, practices, and standards that a government or organization implements to manage the production, distribution, and consumption of crucial resources to achieve specific goals (Muth, 2018). These resources may be natural resources such as oil, gas, timber or minerals, financial resources such as reserves, grants or loans, or human resources such as a highly skilled and trained workforce. These policies are designed to ensure that the resources are utilized effectively and efficiently to maximize their benefits while minimizing the negative impact on the environment and social inequalities.

Strategic resource policies are formulated to promote the stability and growth of a country's economy (Biermann & Pattberg, 2008). They are often outlined in long-term development plans that aim to balance economic growth and social welfare while protecting the country's natural resources. Countries that are rich in natural resources often use strategic resource policies to manage their resources and ensure they are used for the benefit of their citizens.

The main objective of strategic resource policies is to ensure that the resources are used in a manner that promotes the sustainable development of the economy. These policies seek to balance the interests of various stakeholders including the government, the private sector, and the local communities. They also aim to minimize the risks associated

with the extraction and use of the resources, protect the environment, and address social inequalities (Muth, 2018).

Strategic resource policies also aim to promote transparency, accountability, and responsible governance of the resources. In many countries, the management of natural resources is often characterized by corruption, lack of transparency, and weak governance systems. Strategic resource policies are designed to address these issues by putting in place measures to promote accountability, combat corruption, and strengthen governance systems (Patrahau & Singhvi, 2020).

One of the key components of strategic resource policies is the establishment of appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks for the management of the resources. These frameworks define the rights and obligations of the government, the private sector, and the local communities in relation to the resources. They also set out the rules and standards for the extraction, processing, and transportation of the resources (Biermann & Pattberg, 2008).

In addition to legal and regulatory frameworks, strategic resource policies also involve the development of effective monitoring, reporting, and evaluation systems. These systems are crucial in ensuring that the policies are implemented effectively and that the resources are used in a sustainable manner. They provide reliable data and information that can be used to assess progress, identify challenges, and inform decision-making (Mishra & Mohanty, 2022).

Strategic resource policies also involve the promotion of stakeholder engagement and participation. This involves engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including local

communities, civil society organizations, and the private sector, in the formulation and implementation of the policies. This helps to ensure that the policies take into account the interests and perspectives of all stakeholders and that they are more likely to achieve their intended outcomes (Mishra & Mohanty, 2022).

Adopting strategic policies to minimize dependence on other states can help achieve economic and political security in several ways:

- I. **Economic Security**, states may reduce their vulnerability to price fluctuations and supply interruptions in the international market by diversifying their resource bases and investing in alternative energy sources. For long-term economic growth and development, it can help to build a more stable and predictable economic climate. By stabilizing prices, reducing vulnerability, boosting competitiveness, and improving resource security, strategic policies to reduce reliance on other states can aid in achieving economic security. For long-term economic growth and development, it is essential to establish a more resilient and stable economy (Economic security, 2022).
 - i. Price stability, one of the key advantages of implementing strategic strategies that reduce reliance on other states is that it can contribute to price stabilization. States may mitigate their sensitivity to price changes in the global market by diversifying their resource base and investing in alternative energy sources. For long-term economic growth and development, it can help create a more stable and predictable economic environment (E3G, 2014).
 - ii. Reduced vulnerability: states might reduce their vulnerability to supply disruptions by limiting their reliance on imports from other countries. This is crucial for vital resources like oil and gas since a disruption in their supply could have a big impact on the

- economy. States could establish a more resilient economy that is better able to withstand shocks and disruptions by investing in alternative energy sources and resource efficiency (Martin, 2021).
- iii. **Increased competitiveness:** competitiveness can be increased by implementing strategic policies to reduce reliance on other governments. States can develop fresh industries and businesses that can compete on a global scale by investing in modern technology and alternative energy sources. This may contribute to employment creation and economic growth, resulting in increased prosperity for the general population (Delivering sustainability, 2005).
 - iv. **Resource security:** states can improve their resource security by decreasing their reliance on other states. As a result, they are able to guarantee a steady supply of vital resources required for development and economic advancement. As a result, the economy may become more stable and predictable, attracting investment and fostering long-term economic growth (Galetti & Langhorst, 2006).
- II. **Political Security:** by reducing the possibility of political pressure or influence from other nations, strategic approaches that decrease the dependence on other states can also help to improve political security. States may protect their sovereignty and keep more control over their own economic and political destiny by relying less on other states for their strategic resources (Wæver, 2011). Adopting strategic policies to minimize dependence on other states can help achieve political security by protecting sovereignty, reducing vulnerability to political pressure or conflict, and promoting international cooperation. These benefits can help create a more stable and secure political environment, which is crucial for long-term political stability and development (Wæver, 2011).

- i. Protecting Sovereignty is by reducing their dependence on other states for critical resources, states can protect their sovereignty and maintain greater control over their own economic and political destiny. This can help ensure that their policies and decisions are not unduly influenced by external forces. As for Political Pressure, is mainly when states that are heavily dependent on other states for critical resources may be more vulnerable to political pressure or influence (JASPER, 2012).
 - ii. Conflict Prevention, is by the dependence on other states for critical resources can sometimes lead to conflicts over access to these resources. By reducing their dependence on other states, states can help prevent these types of conflicts from arising, which can help enhance their political security (United Nations, 2021).
 - iii. International Cooperation: by adopting strategic policies that reduce dependence on other countries can also help to improve international cooperation. States can establish a more stable and predictable economic environment, which can contribute to greater international cooperation and stability, through encouraging energy independence and resource security (JASPER, 2012).
- III. **Energy Security:** Energy security can be enhanced by adopting strategic strategies to lessen dependency on oil. Disruptions in the global oil market can have severe consequences on the economy and national security of countries that depend largely on imported oil. States can reduce their vulnerability to these sorts of fluctuations by varying their energy sources and putting investment into alternate energy sources (Pascual & Elkind, 2010). By diversifying energy sources, promoting domestic energy production, improving resource efficiency, and investing in renewable energy sources, strategic initiatives to reduce reliance on foreign states can assist achieve energy security. These advantages may contribute to the development of a

more secure and long-lasting energy environment, which is essential for long-term political and economic stability (Pascual & Elkind, 2010).

- i. States may reduce their susceptibility to supply disruptions and price volatility by diversifying their energy sources. For long-term economic growth and development, a more stable and predictable energy environment can be produced as a result (Delivering sustainability, 2005).
- ii. Domestic energy production improves energy security States might reduce their reliance on imports from other states by boosting domestic energy production, which can help safeguard against supply disruptions and price volatility. By using resources more effectively, states can lower their overall energy consumption and lessen their reliance on imports from other states. Promoting resource efficiency can also help strengthen energy security (IEA, 2005).
- iii. Investments in renewable energy sources can also help to improve energy security. These energy sources not only contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the advancement of sustainable development, but are also typically more reliable and predictable than conventional fossil fuels (United Nations, n.d.).

IV. **Environmental Security:** Many strategic policies intended to lessen reliance on other states also work to advance environmental security. States may aid in lowering the risks associated with climate change and fostering a more sustainable future by investing in clean energy technology and reducing their reliance on fossil fuels (Policies to enhance sustainable development, 2001). In a number of different ways, implementing strategic measures to reduce reliance on other governments can contribute to environmental security:

- i. Promoting Sustainable Development: states can encourage sustainable development by adopting policies that are more environmentally friendly by minimizing their reliance on other states for essential resources (UNDP, n.d.). This can assist ensure the long-term sustainability of natural resources and lessen the negative impact of economic activity on the environment. Another factor to take into account involves reducing greenhouse gas emissions; dependence on fossil fuels can increase these emissions, which are a key contributor to climate change. States may assist lower greenhouse gas emissions and lessen the effects of climate change by cutting their reliance on fossil fuels and investing in renewable energy sources (UNDP, n.d.).
- ii. Improving Environmental Diplomacy can be accomplished by taking measures to advance environmental security and by enhancing environmental relations among nations. States can strengthen their relationships with other states and foster collaboration through fostering sustainable growth and minimizing damages to the environment, which may lead to the establishment of a more secure and stable political environment. Finally, reducing dependence on other states by adopting policies to protect biodiversity can also help (Murombo, 2007). Dependence on other countries for these resources can result in habitat damage and the extinction of species because many essential resources originate from natural environments. States can contribute to the protection of biodiversity and guarantee the long-term viability of natural resources by encouraging sustainable development and minimizing resource consumption (Murombo, 2007).

Reducing Dependency on Oil:

There are several policies that states are adopting to reduce their dependence on oil such as, Promotion of renewable energy, Energy efficiency, Diversification of energy sources, investment in research development, and Diplomacy (Reduce oil dependence costs, n.d.).

- I. Promotion of Renewable Energy**, state governments are encouraging the usage of renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and hydropower. This involves providing financial incentives for the development of renewable energy projects, establishing production goals for renewable energy, and creating regulatory frameworks that support the development of renewable energy. To reduce their reliance on oil, many nations are implementing policies to support renewable energy sources. Concerns about climate change, energy security, and the volatility of oil prices have sparked a trend toward renewable energy (Economic security: A need for a renewed global effort, 2022).

Feed-in tariffs (FITs) are one type of policy that states are using to encourage the use of renewable energy. By ensuring a set price for electricity generated by renewable sources, FITs are a financial tool that encourages the production of renewable energy (EIA, 2013). To promote the growth of wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources, several countries have implemented FITs. The expansion of research and development of renewable energy technology is another policy that states are implementing. Investments in energy storage, intelligent grid technology, and other infrastructure that can support the expansion of renewable energy sources have also been included (EIA, 2013).

Global energy politics are being impacted by the shift toward renewable energy in terms of international affairs. Less demand for oil on the global market results from more states switching to renewable energy, which may have a direct effect on the economics of

countries that produce oil. This change may also result in a reduction in geopolitical tensions, which are frequently linked to areas that produce oil (CSIS, 2023). Furthermore, new opportunities for international cooperation and investment are being opened up by the development and promotion of renewable energy technologies. Countries are working together on initiatives like cross-border transmission lines, collaborative study collaborations, and infrastructure investments for renewable energy. For instance, the Clean Energy Package of the European Union has policies to boost the use of renewable energy, such as novel targets for the production of renewable energy and the development of cross-border energy infrastructure. Additional provisions in the package promote the development of energy storage technologies and energy efficiency (OECD, 2023).

II. Energy Efficiency, States are encouraging energy-saving methods to reduce their overall energy usage. This includes initiatives like energy-efficient appliances, energy audits, and building codes and standards. One key tactic for reducing a state's reliance on oil is to promote energy efficiency measures. A state's dependence on importing oil for its energy needs may be minimized as a result of energy efficiency measures that contribute to reducing overall energy generation (Energy.gov, 2017).

The promotion of energy-efficiency measures can have a substantial impact on global energy politics in international affairs. States can lessen their need to import oil by reducing their overall energy use, which can have a big impact on the world's oil markets. This may have a detrimental effect on the economies of countries that produce oil and may increase the energy security of countries that import energy (World Economic Forum, 2015). Additionally, promoting energy-efficiency initiatives can help the world reach its sustainability objectives, like lowering greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing air quality.

States collaborating to overcome common environmental concerns may have an advantageous impact on international relations. For instance, one of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations is to double global energy efficiency by 2030. Many states are adopting policies to support this goal, including the development of energy-efficient building codes, appliance standards, and transportation policies. In terms of international cooperation, states are also collaborating on initiatives to promote energy efficiency and sustainable energy practices (United Nations, n.d.). For example, the International Energy Agency's Energy Efficiency 2021 report outlines a series of recommendations for promoting energy efficiency, including the development of international energy efficiency standards and the promotion of energy-efficient technologies (IEA, 2021).

III. Diversification of Energy Sources, which the States are seeking to diversify their energy sources by developing alternative fuels such as biofuels, hydrogen, and natural gas. This involves developing infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles and promoting the use of these fuels in the transportation sector. Diversification of energy sources is an important strategy for reducing a state's dependence on oil. By diversifying their energy mix, states can reduce their reliance on oil imports for energy generation and improve their energy security (Yilanci & Haouas, 2021).

In terms of domestic energy policy, many states have adopted policies to encourage the use of renewable energy sources like wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal power on the national level. This may involve measures like feed-in tariffs, tax breaks, and requirements for renewable energy sources. States can lessen their dependency on oil and other fossil fuels for the production of energy by encouraging the use of renewable energy sources (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2021). Some states are promoting the use

of nuclear energy as a low-carbon substitute for oil and other fossil fuels in addition to renewable energy sources. Nuclear energy use, however, continues to be debatable in many parts of the world due to its unique set of environmental and safety problems. As for the terms in international affairs, the diversification of energy sources can have significant implications for global energy politics. By reducing their reliance on oil imports, states can reduce their vulnerability to supply disruptions and price shocks in global oil markets. This can contribute to greater energy security and stability in the international system (United Nations, 2021).

Additionally, the promotion of renewable energy sources can help the world reach its sustainability objectives, including lowering greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing air quality. States collaborating to overcome common environmental concerns may have a favorable effect on international relations. For example, the European Union's Clean Energy for All Europeans package includes a series of measures to promote the use of renewable energy sources, such as a binding target for renewable energy to account for at least 32% of the EU's energy consumption by 2030. Measures to encourage energy efficiency and the insertion of renewable energy sources into the electrical grid are also part of the package (European Commission, 2019). States are working together on efforts to encourage the use of renewable energy sources and lessen their dependence on oil as part of international cooperation. For example, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is a global platform for cooperation on renewable energy, with a mandate to promote the widespread adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy (Bonugli, 2017).

IV. Investment in Research and Development is the fourth policy, an important approach for lowering a state's reliance on oil is investment in research and development (R&D). States

can lessen their dependency on oil imports for energy generation and increase their energy security by investing in the development of innovative technologies and alternative energy sources (Czarnitzki & Hottenrott, 2011).

Regarding domestic energy policy, numerous states are funding research and development in R&D to encourage the development of advanced batteries, hydrogen fuel cells, and carbon capture and storage systems, among other emerging technologies. This can include grants for research institutions, incentives for private-sector R&D, and government-sponsored R&D initiatives (IEA, 2019). States can encourage innovation and the creation of new technologies that may help in dropping energy usage and promoting sustainable energy practices by investing in R&D. This can lead to cost savings for consumers, as well as greater energy security and environmental benefits. As in terms of international affairs, investment in R&D can have significant implications for global energy politics. By developing new technologies and alternative energy sources, states can reduce their reliance on oil imports and contribute to the global transition to a more sustainable energy future (World Economic Forum, 2022).

Additionally, the creation of new technologies and alternative energy sources can help the world achieve its sustainability objectives, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing air quality. In this regard, the United States has initiated a number of projects to encourage investment in R&D for sustainable energy technology, such as the Energy Storage Grand Challenge and the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) (Council on Foreign Relations, 2019). The aforementioned initiatives seek to hasten the creation of new technologies and energy storage options that can aid in lowering the cost and enhancing the efficiency of renewable energy sources. States are working

together on efforts to encourage investment in R&D for sustainable energy technology as part of international cooperation. For example, the Mission Innovation attempt to unite countries across the world to significantly improve research and development expenditure in order to hasten the development of renewable energy solutions (World Economic Forum, 2021).

- V. **Diplomacy**, and it is another important strategy for reducing a state's dependence on oil. By engaging in diplomacy with other states and international organizations, states can work together to address shared energy challenges and promote the use of alternative energy sources (Guillermo, 2022).

In terms of domestic energy policy, diplomacy can involve engaging with other states to promote the development and adoption of alternative energy sources. This can include collaborating on research and development initiatives, sharing best practices for energy efficiency and conservation, and coordinating on energy infrastructure projects. By engaging in diplomacy, states can also work to reduce geopolitical tensions related to energy resources, such as disputes over oil and gas reserves or pipeline routes (EEAS, 2021). This can promote greater energy security and stability in the international system. In terms of international affairs, diplomacy can involve engaging with other states and international organizations to promote the use of alternative energy sources and reduce dependence on oil.

Additionally, diplomacy can contribute to the promotion of energy security and stability in areas where the availability of oil and gas fuels conflict. For instance, diplomatic efforts may help in resolve disputes over pipelines in Europe or Middle Eastern oil and gas

supplies. The engagement of the United States with other nations in the Middle East to encourage the use of alternative energy sources is an illustration of diplomacy in reducing a state's dependence on oil in international affairs. The Middle East is a region with substantial oil reserves, and historically, the United States has depended heavily on imports of oil from this region (CSCE, 2021).

The United States has made diplomatic efforts to promote the development and implementation of alternative energy sources in the Middle East in an effort to reduce this dependence. For instance, the United States and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have worked together to establish renewable energy initiatives like the Masdar city project, which intends to be a city that is totally powered by renewable energy sources and is carbon neutral. Additionally, the United States has made diplomatic efforts to encourage energy conservation and efficiency in the Middle East. Along with promoting the adoption of energy-efficient technologies, this also involves working with nations in the area to raise energy efficiency standards (CSIS, 2022).

Diplomacy can assist in easing geopolitical tensions related to energy resources, in addition to promoting energy efficiency and alternative energy sources. The US has engaged in diplomatic efforts with Middle Eastern countries to enhance stability and security in the region, which includes resolving disagreements over oil and gas reserves and pipeline routes. Diplomacy is a vital means for decreasing a country's reliance on oil in international affairs, and the US' work with the Middle East regarding alternative energy and energy efficiency is an illustration of this approach (Diplo, 2009).

Another example is the case of China and India, while both countries have made efforts to develop nuclear energy, they have faced challenges in overcoming these issues. For example, India has been working to expand its nuclear energy capacity, but it faces challenges related to safety and security, as well as opposition from local communities (China-India nuclear relations after the Border Clash, 2020). China has also been investing in nuclear energy, but concerns over safety and security have led to delays in the construction of new nuclear plants. At COP26 and COP27, China and India were among the countries that did not make significant commitments to reduce their carbon emissions. The reasons for this vary but may include concerns over the cost and feasibility of transitioning to cleaner energy sources, including nuclear energy (Council on Foreign Relations, 2021). However, reducing dependence on oil and transitioning to cleaner energy sources will be critical to addressing the global climate crisis, and it is essential that countries work together to find solutions that balance economic, environmental, and security concerns.

In conclusion, reducing dependence on oil can have significant implications for international relations between states. This is because oil is a strategic resource that has historically played a central role in global energy politics and the global economy. Reducing dependence on oil can also have implications for international security and stability. For example, in regions where oil is a source of conflict, reducing dependence on oil can help to reduce tensions and promote stability. On the other hand, if countries are unable to successfully transition away from oil, this could lead to competition over remaining reserves and potential conflict. In addition to these geopolitical implications, reducing dependence on oil can also have economic implications for states. Countries that

are heavily reliant on oil exports may experience significant economic challenges if demand for oil decreases. At the same time, countries that are able to develop and export alternative energy technologies may benefit economically.

Explanation of the relevance of strategic resource policies in international relations:

Strategic resource policies have played a crucial role in shaping international relations over the past century. As countries compete for finite natural resources, such as energy, water, and minerals, access to these resources becomes a strategic imperative for many nations. This competition has led to conflicts and alliances, as countries seek to secure their access to critical resources (Howard, 1976).

Oil is an essential resource that has a significant impact on a country's economic, political, and strategic interests domestically and internationally. Oil is an important strategic resource in international relations because of its significance in modern society as a fuel for transportation, electricity generation, and industrial processes (Odell, 1968). Oil-rich countries have significant power in the global economy due to their abundance of petroleum resources. Companies that control the exploration, extraction, and distribution of oil have immense economic power, and their activities can affect global economic stability (Odell, 1968). Countries that have significant oil reserves are often able to use their resource wealth as a tool of foreign policy. They may use oil exports as a means of influencing other countries or alter their oil production levels to achieve strategic goals. Oil production and transportation infrastructure are also regarded as essential elements of national security. Countries may enact policies to protect their oil reserves and oil infrastructure to prevent hostile actors from taking control of or disrupting oil supplies.

Because oil is a finite resource, it is subject to competition among countries seeking to secure future supplies. Countries that have inadequate oil reserves may seek to secure access to the resource through international partnerships, alliances, or military action.

In summary, the relevance of oil in strategic resource policies in international relations cannot be understated. It has significant impacts on economic, political, and security interests, and controlling or influencing its production, transportation and distribution is a significant tool for pursuing national and foreign policy goals (Crane & Goldthau, 2009).

Historical Context:

Since the discovery of oil in the early 20th century, many countries have become reliant on this resource for economic growth and development. The importance of oil was highlighted during World War II, when access to oil became a critical factor in the outcome of the war. The United States and its allies relied on oil imports from the Middle East to fuel their military operations, while Germany and Japan struggled to secure access to this vital resource (Colgan, 2013).

In order to promote a stable international economic environment, the Bretton Woods system was founded in 1944 following World War II. Under this system, other countries fixed their currencies to the U.S. dollar while the U.S. dollar was fixed to gold at a value of \$35 per ounce. In order to promote global economic cooperation, the system also established the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). While Saudi Arabia agreed to price its oil exports in US dollars and use the proceeds to buy US Treasury

bonds and other American investments, the petrodollar agreement was a deal made between the US and Saudi Arabia in the 1970s (World Economic Forum, 2023).

When the United States faced serious economic challenges in the 1970s, including high inflation rates and a declining value of the dollar, one can see an illustration of how these two systems are related. The U.S. government opted to create additional money in order to address these problems, which increased the amount of money in circulation and caused inflation (Council on Foreign Relations, n.d.). The price of oil was rising concurrently due to Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing nations, which led to global economic turmoil. As a result, the US negotiated the Petrodollar Agreement, allowing Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing nations to sell their oil only in US dollars (Council on Foreign Relations, n.d.).

In accordance with the agreement, Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing nations agreed to sell their oil only in U.S. dollars in exchange for military protection from the United States. According to the requirement that other nations acquire U.S. dollars in order to buy oil, this agreement made the U.S. dollar the predominant currency in the world's oil trade (Rustow, 1977). The petrodollar agreement significantly boosted the American economy by increasing demand for dollars and stabilizing the value of the dollar. Additionally, it has made possible for the United States to continue importing oil without having to worry about its negative effects on the dollar's value. The petrodollar arrangement has, however, also come under criticism for having a negative impact on other nations (Oweiss, 1984). Since the oil-producing nations were required to buy American treasuries and other investments, they were essentially supporting the American economy and adding to its significant trade deficit. In addition, since U.S. dollars had to be used for

purchasing oil, there was constant demand for the currency, which allowed the United States to print more money without having to worry about inflation (Oweiss, 1984).

The emergence of other currencies, such as the euro, has put the petrodollar system under pressure and caused the euro's value relative to the US dollar to increase. A variety of factors, including the reorientation of the world's economic power toward Europe, can be attributed for the increasing value of the euro against the US dollar. With a GDP of more than \$15 trillion, the eurozone is one of the greatest economic regions in the world, and the countries which make up the bloc are significant competitors in international trade and finance (E. D. I. M. F. B, 2019). The euro is now used more commonly in international trade than the U.S. dollar, ranking in second place. This economic power has increased the adoption of the euro as a global currency.

The demand for euros has surged as more nations look to diversify their foreign exchange reserves away from the U.S. dollar and toward the euro, which has helped to raise the currency's value. One of the largest holders of foreign exchange reserves in the world, China, has been actively diversifying its reserves away from the dollar and toward other currencies, such as the euro (European Central Bank, 2021). The value of the euro relative to the U.S. dollar is under pressure to rise as China's demand for euros increases. In addition to China, several other countries have been shifting their foreign exchange reserves away from the US dollar and toward the euro, including Russia, India, and the Middle East. This trend has been driven in part by concerns over the stability of the U.S. dollar and the global economic system, as well as a desire to reduce dependence on the U.S. dollar in international trade and finance (Bertaut & Beschwitz, 2021).

The European Central Bank's (ECB) initiatives to encourage the use of the euro in international trade and finance additionally contributed to strengthen the euro's status as a reserve currency. The ECB has implemented policies to increase the liquidity of the euro and expand the selection of instruments denominated in the euro in order to increase the currency's appeal for international investors (Schmidt, 2022). Saudi Arabia, a major contributor to the petrodollar system, has thus historically been instrumental in preventing the use of the euro in the international oil trade. This is because the petrodollar system is based on the U.S. dollar as the primary currency for oil pricing and trading, and Saudi Arabia's oil exports are denominated in U.S. dollars (US–Saudi tensions, 2022). One reason for this preference for the U.S. dollar is that it provides stability and liquidity in the global oil market. Because the U.S. dollar is the most widely used currency in the world, it is easily traded and readily accepted in international markets, making it easier for buyers and sellers to transact in oil using the U.S. dollar. This has helped to maintain the stability of the global oil market and reduce transaction costs for buyers and sellers (US–Saudi tensions, 2022).

Furthermore, Saudi Arabia and other petrodollar countries have benefited greatly from the U.S. dollar's position as the world's reserve currency. By holding U.S. dollars in their foreign exchange reserves, these countries have been able to enjoy access to global financial markets, lower borrowing costs, and greater economic stability (Congressional Research Service, 2022). As a result, Saudi Arabia has historically been resistant to the idea of using the euro as an alternative currency for oil pricing and trading. However, this has started to shift in recent years as more countries have started to diversify their foreign exchange reserves away from the U.S. dollar and towards other currencies like the euro

and the Chinese yuan. This has led to some speculation that the petrodollar system could eventually be replaced by a more diverse currency system, although it is still too early to tell how this will play out in the long term (Congressional Research Service, 2022). The Federal Reserve's and the U.S government's policies additionally contributed to the euro's strengthening against the dollar. A trade deficit occurs when the United States imports more products and services than it exports. As a result, there is an excess of US dollars in the world economy, which may cause the dollar's value to decline. This is due to the fact that a dollar surplus expands the currency's supply in the global economy, which may cause a decline in the value of the dollar in comparison to other currencies like the euro (Bertaut & Beschwitz, 2021).

Therefore, the Federal Reserve's policy of maintaining low interest rates has contributed to pushing up the value of the euro in comparison to the dollar. Investors seeking greater yields may consider making investments in other nations with higher interest rates, such as the eurozone, while interest rates are low in the United States. The demand for euros may rise as a result, strengthening the euro against the dollar. Low interest rates may also result in inflation, which lowers the dollar's worth (Bertaut & Curucru, 2021). The purchasing power of the dollar decreases with rising inflation, which makes it less attractive to investors and decreases its value in comparison to other currencies like the euro. Additionally, the U.S. government's fiscal policies can also impact the value of the U.S. dollar. For example, if the U.S. government increases its spending without a corresponding increase in tax revenues, it can lead to an increase in the budget deficit. This can lead to inflation, which can weaken the value of the dollar and make other currencies like the euro more attractive to investors (Bennett, 2021).

Overall, the United States' and Saudi Arabia's agreement on the petrodollar marked an important turning point in the history of world finance. Even though it had significant beneficial consequences for the American economy, it also had negative impacts on other nations and has been the subject of ongoing debate and scrutiny. The Bretton Woods system and the Petrodollar Agreement are two instances of how international monetary systems can have significant effects on the stability of our global economy. Additionally, the petrodollar agreement between the United States and Saudi Arabia has assisted in maintaining the U.S. dollar as the dominant currency in global trade. However, the rise of other currencies like the euro has put this system in jeopardy and caused the euro to appreciate against the U.S. dollar.

Chapter 3: The Role of Strategic Policies in Shaping International Relations

Overview of the current strategic resource landscape:

The current strategic resource landscape in geoeconomics of energy security is characterized by a range of interrelated factors that have significant impacts on global energy markets, geopolitics, and security (IMF, 2022) Some of the key trends and developments in this area include:

- I. **Growing demand for energy:** The growing demand for energy is a result of several factors, including population growth, urbanization, and economic development. As the global population continues to grow, so does the demand for energy to power homes, businesses, and industries. Urbanization, which involves the migration of people from rural areas to cities, also contributes to the increasing demand for energy, as cities require significant amounts of energy to power transportation, buildings, and other infrastructure (EIA, 2021).

In addition to these demographic factors, economic development is also a significant driver of energy demand. As countries become more developed, they typically experience increases in per capita income, which leads to higher levels of energy consumption. This is because more affluent populations tend to use more energy-intensive goods and services, such as cars, air conditioning, and electronics (Hauser, 1959). Emerging economies such as China and India are expected to account for a significant portion of the growth in energy consumption over the coming decades. These countries are undergoing rapid economic development, which is driving their energy demand upwards. For example, in China, energy consumption has grown at an average rate of 5.5% per year

over the past two decades, and is expected to continue to grow at a similar rate over the coming decade (IMF F&D, 2021). To meet the growing demand for energy, many countries are investing in new energy infrastructure, such as power plants and transmission lines. Some countries are also exploring new sources of energy, such as renewable energy and nuclear power. However, meeting the growing demand for energy while also addressing concerns such as climate change and energy security will be a significant challenge for the global community in the coming decades.

- II. **Increased focus on renewable energy:** There is a growing recognition of the need to transition to more sustainable and low-carbon energy sources in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change. This has led to a significant increase in investment and deployment of renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind, and hydropower (United Nations, n.d.).

One example is the significant increase in the deployment of solar energy technologies. In 2020, the global solar capacity reached over 760 GW, which is a significant increase from the 5 GW of installed capacity in 2005. This increase has been driven by falling costs and supportive policies, such as feed-in tariffs and tax incentives. For example, China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, has set a target of reaching 1,200 GW of installed solar capacity by 2030. Similarly, India has set a target of installing 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, with solar energy expected to play a significant role (IEA, 2022).

Another example is the deployment of wind energy technologies. In 2020, the global wind capacity reached over 733 GW, which is also a significant increase from the

17 GW of installed capacity in 2000. Wind energy has become increasingly competitive with traditional fossil fuels, and is now the cheapest source of electricity in many parts of the world. For example, Denmark, a country with significant wind resources, has set a target of sourcing 100% of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030, with wind energy expected to play a major role (IEA, 2022). Hydropower is also a significant source of renewable energy, and is the largest source of renewable energy globally. In 2020, the global hydropower capacity reached over 1,330 GW, which is a significant increase from the 764 GW of installed capacity in 2000. Hydropower can provide reliable and flexible energy, and can also be used to support other renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. For example, Norway, a country with significant hydropower resources, has set a target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and plans to use its hydropower resources to support the deployment of other renewable energy sources (Kumar et al. 2011).

- III. **Geopolitical tensions:** Energy resources such as oil and gas continue to play a significant role in global politics and security. Countries often compete for access to and control over these resources, which can lead to tensions and conflicts between nations (CSIS, 2023).

One illustration of this is the competition for control over oil and gas reserves in the Middle East. The region is home to some of the world's largest oil and gas reserves, and countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq are among the world's largest oil producers (World Socialist Web Site, 2020). The competition for control over these resources has led to tensions and conflicts between these countries, as well as with other major powers such as the United States and Russia. For example, the Iran-Iraq War, which

lasted from 1980 to 1988, was partly driven by the competition for control over oil resources in the Persian Gulf (Council on Foreign Relations, n.d.). Similarly, the Gulf War of 1990-1991 was largely driven by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which was motivated in part by a desire to control Kuwait's oil reserves.

Another example is the competition for control over oil and gas reserves in the Caspian Sea region. The Caspian Sea is a major source of oil and gas, and countries such as Russia, Iran, and Azerbaijan are among the major producers in the region. The competition for control over these resources has led to tensions and conflicts between these countries, as well as with other major powers such as the United States and China (Afzal, 2004). Moreover, the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region is partly driven by the competition for control over oil and gas pipelines that run through the region. Similarly, the rivalry between Russia and the United States over control of energy resources in the Caspian Sea has contributed to tensions between the two countries. The competition for access to and control over energy resources can lead to tensions and conflicts between nations. This underscores the importance of diversifying energy sources and transitioning to more sustainable and low-carbon energy sources to reduce dependence on finite and geopolitically sensitive resources.

- IV. **Technological advancements** are constantly changing the global energy landscape, enabling the development of new sources of energy and improving the efficiency of existing ones. Two examples of such technological advancements are the development of shale gas and tight oil and the increasing availability of energy storage technologies (Wolff, 2021). Shale gas and tight oil are unconventional sources of fossil fuels that have become increasingly important in recent years due to technological advancements

in drilling and extraction techniques. These techniques involve injecting a mixture of water, sand, and chemicals into the rock formations to release trapped natural gas and oil. The development of these technologies has led to a significant increase in the production of natural gas and oil in countries such as the United States, which has become the world's largest producer of both shale gas and tight oil (The future of oil, 2014).

The increasing availability of energy storage technologies is also changing the global energy landscape by enabling the integration of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind into the grid at a larger scale. Energy storage technologies such as batteries and pumped hydro storage systems can store excess energy generated by renewable sources during times of low demand and release it during peak demand periods (The Future of Energy Storage, 1970). This helps to address the issue of intermittency, which has been a significant challenge in the integration of renewable energy into the grid.

Overall, technological advancements in energy are continuously transforming the global energy landscape by enabling the development of new sources of energy and improving the efficiency and integration of existing ones. These advancements are important in ensuring energy security and sustainability in the face of growing demand and the need to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

- V. **Energy transitions** are underway in many countries around the world, as governments, businesses, and individuals seek to move towards more sustainable and low-carbon energy sources. These transitions are driven by a range of factors, including climate

change policies, technological advancements, and changing consumer preferences (World Economic Forum, 2021).

One example of a country undergoing a significant energy transition is Germany, which has set ambitious targets to phase out nuclear power and shift towards renewable energy sources. The country's *Energiewende* (energy transition) policy aims to achieve a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, and to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 (Appunn & Wehrmann, 2023). To achieve these targets, Germany has implemented a range of policies and incentives to support the development of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power. The country has also invested heavily in energy storage technologies to address the issue of intermittency and enable the integration of renewable energy into the grid at a larger scale.

Another example of an energy transition is taking place in China, which is the world's largest consumer of energy and greenhouse gas emitter. The country has set targets to peak its carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 (World Economic Forum, 2022). To achieve these goals, China is investing heavily in renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power and is also exploring the use of new technologies such as hydrogen fuel cells. The energy transitions taking place in Germany and China, among other countries, have significant implications for global energy markets and geopolitics (World Economic Forum, 2022). The increasing deployment of renewable energy sources is likely to reduce demand for traditional fossil fuels such as oil and coal, which could have significant impacts on energy-producing countries and the global economy. At the same time, the shift towards

renewable energy sources is likely to reduce the geopolitical tensions associated with traditional fossil fuel resources, as countries become less dependent on imports of these resources.

A) Analysis of the impact of strategic resource policies on contemporary international relations:

The impact of strategic resource policies on contemporary international relations in the geoeconomics of energy security cannot be overstated. Energy security is a critical issue for many countries, and access to strategic resources, such as oil, gas, and uranium, has become a significant factor in shaping international relations.

The emergence of new geopolitical alliances and rivalries in contemporary international relations is a significant impact of strategic resource policies. Countries with abundant strategic resources, such as oil and gas, have used their energy resources as a tool of foreign policy, seeking to increase their influence and leverage in the international arena. Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the United States are among the most significant players in the global energy market, with vast reserves of oil and gas. These countries have used their strategic resources to pursue their foreign policy objectives and shape international relations in their favor (Ritchie et al., 2022).

Russia, for example, has used its energy resources to strengthen its influence over neighboring countries in Europe and Central Asia. The country has used its control of natural gas supplies to gain political leverage and influence over countries such as Ukraine and Belarus. Russia has also used its energy resources as a tool of coercion, cutting off gas supplies to countries that do not comply with its political demands (IEA, 2022).

Petrodollar, on the other hand, has used its oil resources to promote its strategic interests in the Middle East and beyond. The country has used its oil wealth to support its allies and pursue its foreign policy objectives, such as the promotion of Sunni Islam and the containment of Iran (IMF, 2006).

The United States has used its energy resources to strengthen its global influence and promote its foreign policy objectives. The country has pursued a policy of energy independence, seeking to reduce its dependence on foreign oil and gas. The United States has also used its energy resources to exert political influence and pressure on countries that do not comply with its foreign policy goal (Gross, 2022). These examples demonstrate how countries with abundant strategic resources can use their energy resources as a tool of foreign policy to increase their influence and leverage in the international arena. The emergence of new geopolitical alliances and rivalries based on strategic resource policies has significant implications for global energy security and international relations.

Countries that rely heavily on energy imports, such as China, India, and Japan, have realized the importance of diversifying their energy sources and developing their own strategic resource policies to reduce their dependence on other countries. This is because dependence on foreign sources of energy can leave countries vulnerable to supply disruptions, price spikes, and political instability in energy-producing countries (Gross, 2022).

China, for example, has been investing heavily in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydro power, as well as nuclear energy. The country has also been investing in domestic oil and gas production to reduce its reliance on imports (Gross, 2022).

China has also been expanding its diplomatic outreach to energy-producing countries such as Russia and Iran to secure long-term energy supplies. India has also been investing in renewable energy sources and domestic oil and gas production to reduce its dependence on energy imports. The country has set a target of achieving 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022 and has been investing in solar, wind, and hydro power projects. India has also been diversifying its sources of oil and gas imports, seeking to reduce its dependence on Middle Eastern oil and gas (ChinaPower Project, 2022).

Japan, which is almost entirely dependent on energy imports, has also been investing in renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures. The country has set a target of achieving 22-24% of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and has been investing in solar, wind, and geothermal power projects. Japan has also been seeking to diversify its sources of energy imports, including investing in liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects in Australia, Mozambique, and the United States, which can help to reduce their dependence on traditional oil and gas suppliers such as the Middle East (IEA, 2021).

These examples illustrate how countries that rely heavily on energy imports are seeking to diversify their energy sources and develop their own strategic resource policies to reduce their dependence on other countries. The development of domestic sources of energy, investment in renewable energy sources, and diversification of sources of energy imports are critical components of these policies. This is not only beneficial for energy security but can also contribute to economic development and sustainability.

The geoeconomics of energy security has also contributed to the emergence of new forms of international cooperation, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and

OPEC. These organizations have played an essential role in promoting global energy security and cooperation among their member countries (World Economic Forum, 2022). For instance, Germany has become a leader in renewable energy technology through the implementation of its Energiewende policy, which aims to transition the country's energy system towards renewable energy sources (IEA, 2020). The policy has resulted in a significant increase in renewable energy capacity, particularly wind and solar power. In 2020, renewable energy sources accounted for around 50% of Germany's electricity consumption (IEA, 2020).

China is also investing heavily in renewable energy technologies as part of its strategy to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and promote sustainable development. The country has become the world's largest market for wind and solar power, with significant investments in research and development to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of renewable energy technologies. Another example is the development of geothermal power, which involves using heat from the earth's core to generate electricity (World Economic Forum, 2017). Iceland has become a global leader in geothermal power, with over 25% of its electricity coming from geothermal sources. The country's strategic resource policies have played a crucial role in the development of its geothermal energy sector, which has created jobs and contributed to the country's economic growth (Johnson, 2022).

Strategic resource policies have contributed to the emergence of new technologies and innovations in the energy sector, particularly in the field of renewable energy. Countries such as Germany, China, and Iceland have leveraged their strategic resource

policies to promote the development of renewable energy technologies, reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, and contribute to sustainable development.

In addition, Strategic resource policies can have a significant impact on economic development and growth. Countries that have been successful in developing their own strategic resources, such as the United States, have seen significant economic benefits, while countries that are heavily dependent on energy imports may face significant economic challenges if they experience supply disruptions or price spikes (World Bank, 2021). The United States is a prime example of a country that has benefited from developing its own strategic resources. The development of shale gas and oil resources in the United States has led to a significant increase in domestic production, which has not only reduced the country's dependence on foreign oil but has also contributed to economic growth and job creation (Education, n.d.). The shale gas revolution has led to the development of new industries, such as petrochemicals and manufacturing, which have created millions of new jobs and contributed to economic growth.

Countries that are heavily dependent on energy imports, such as Japan and many European countries, may face significant economic challenges if they experience supply disruptions or price spikes. This is because energy imports can be a significant drain on a country's balance of payments and can make the country vulnerable to external shocks. For example, if the price of oil were to spike suddenly, countries that rely heavily on oil imports may face significant inflationary pressures, which can lead to economic instability and recession (World Economic Forum, 2021). However, countries that are heavily dependent on energy imports can also benefit from developing their own strategic resources and diversifying their sources of energy imports.

Strategic resource policies can have a significant impact on economic development and growth. Countries that are successful in developing their own strategic resources can reap significant economic benefits, while countries that are heavily dependent on energy imports may face significant economic challenges if they experience supply disruptions or price spikes (World Bank Group, 2022). Developing domestic sources of energy and diversifying sources of energy imports are critical components of strategic resource policies that can contribute to economic development and stability. Strategic resource policies have also contributed to the emergence of new technologies and innovations in the energy sector (United Nations, n.d.). The development of renewable energy technologies, such as solar, wind, and geothermal power, has created new opportunities for countries to diversify their energy sources and reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.

In conclusion, the impact of strategic resource policies on contemporary international relations in the geoeconomics of energy security is significant and far-reaching. Energy security has become a critical factor in shaping international relations, with countries seeking to increase their influence and leverage through the control and manipulation of strategic resources. At the same time, new forms of international cooperation, economic development, and technological innovation have emerged in response to the challenges and opportunities presented by the geoeconomics of energy security.

Multilateral Cooperation:

Multilateral cooperation refers to the cooperation and collaboration among three or more countries or international organizations to achieve a common goal or address a shared

issue. It is an important aspect of international affairs and plays a critical role in addressing global challenges such as climate change, terrorism, poverty, and trade. Multilateral cooperation involves the negotiation and implementation of international agreements, treaties, and conventions that require the participation of multiple countries (Diplo, n.d.). When countries have opposite priorities and interests, cooperation and coordination are especially important. For instance, when it comes to energy resources, some countries may place more emphasis on supply security while others may place more emphasis on environmental sustainability. Cooperation on a multilateral level can also aid in averting conflicts over essential resources (UNDP, 2019). Tensions can develop as nations compete for scarce resources, resulting in disagreements and even armed wars. By encouraging peaceful and negotiated solutions to resource-related issues, multilateral cooperation can assist to lessen the possibility of such conflicts.

One example of successful multilateral cooperation in managing strategic resources is the International Energy Agency (IEA). The International Energy Agency (IEA) is a prime example of successful multilateral cooperation in managing strategic resources. The IEA was established in 1974, after the oil crisis of 1973, with the primary objective of ensuring energy security among its member countries through coordinated collective action (IEA, 2021). The IEA operates as an intergovernmental organization with 30 member countries, all of which are developed economies, including the United States, Japan, and various European countries. The agency acts as a platform for cooperation among its members, with a particular focus on energy data and analysis, policy development, and the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency (IEA, 2023).

One of the key roles of the IEA is to provide early warning of supply disruptions and to help member countries respond effectively to these events. To this end, the IEA maintains strategic oil reserves equivalent to 90 days of net oil imports for its member countries. The IEA can release these reserves in the event of a major supply disruption, helping to stabilize oil markets and prevent a severe energy crisis (IEA, 2023).

In addition to its work on oil supply security, the IEA also promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency, as previously mentioned. The IEA has been a leading advocate of renewable energy development, providing policy recommendations and technical assistance to member countries to help them transition to cleaner energy systems. The IEA has also developed a range of programs to promote energy efficiency, such as the Energy Efficiency Market Report and the Energy Efficiency Indicators Database.

The IEA has also played an essential role in promoting international cooperation on energy issues. The IEA works closely with other international organizations, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to promote global energy cooperation (IEA, 2023).

In conclusion, the IEA serves as a prime example of successful multilateral cooperation in managing strategic resources. Through its work on oil supply security, renewable energy, and energy efficiency, the IEA has helped member countries reduce their dependence on oil and promote sustainable energy systems. The agency's data and analysis, policy recommendations, and technical assistance have helped to promote global energy cooperation and contribute to global energy security and sustainability.

As for the reasons on why multilateral cooperation is crucial in managing strategic resources, there are several factors which identify them such as energy security, promoting sustainable development, mitigating geopolitical risks, enhancing economic development, and lastly, supporting innovation and technological advancements.

Starting with Ensuring global energy security, strategic resources such as oil, gas, and coal are distributed unevenly around the world. Some countries have abundant supplies, while others have to rely on imports. Multilateral cooperation helps to ensure global energy security by facilitating access to energy supplies were Multilateral cooperation can help to ensure that countries have access to reliable and affordable energy supplies (IMF, 2022). This can be achieved through measures such as joint investments in energy infrastructure, the creation of strategic reserves, and the promotion of trade and investment in energy resources. Stabilizing prices which can help to stabilize energy prices, reducing the potential for price volatility and supply disruptions. This can also be accomplished through mechanisms such as coordinated production and supply management, strategic stockpiling, and the establishment of common standards and regulations. Promoting energy efficiency and conservation which helps to promote energy efficiency and conservation, reducing the overall demand for energy and the dependence on strategic resources. This can be achieved through measures such as energy efficiency standards, public education campaigns, and the promotion of alternative energy sources.

Promoting sustainable development, the development and use of strategic resources can have negative environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. Multilateral cooperation can promote sustainable development by encouraging the adoption of cleaner energy sources and technologies, reducing energy waste, and

supporting the development of renewable energy (United Nations, n.d.). On the other hand, in Mitigating geopolitical risks, strategic resources have often been a source of geopolitical tensions and conflicts. Multilateral cooperation can help to mitigate these risks by promoting dialogue and cooperation between countries, establishing common standards and protocols, and reducing the potential for resource-related conflicts.

Multilateral cooperation is crucial in managing strategic resources to enhance economic development because strategic resources play a critical role in the global economy, and the management of these resources can have a significant impact on economic growth and prosperity (The Future of Multilateralism and Strategic Partnerships, 2020). Collaboration among countries can help ensure that resources are used efficiently, effectively, and sustainably to maximize their economic benefits. For example, in the energy sector, countries can work together to develop and implement policies that promote energy efficiency, increase the use of renewable energy sources, and promote access to affordable energy for all. By doing so, they can help reduce energy costs for consumers, stimulate economic growth, and create jobs.

Multilateral cooperation can also help to ensure that strategic resources are distributed fairly among countries, reducing the risk of resource conflicts that could harm economic development. For example, cooperation among oil-producing countries and oil-consuming countries can help ensure a stable supply of oil at fair prices, promoting economic stability and growth (World Economic Forum, 2017). Moreover, cooperation among countries can facilitate the transfer of technology and knowledge, which is crucial for developing new industries and enhancing economic competitiveness. By sharing

expertise and best practices, countries can learn from one another and develop new strategies for using strategic resources to promote economic development.

Lastly, supporting innovation and technological advancement. Multilateral cooperation can also support innovation and technological advancement in the energy sector. By pooling resources and expertise, countries can accelerate the development of new energy technologies, promote knowledge sharing, and facilitate the transfer of technology between countries. For example, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is a global platform for promoting the adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy. IRENA facilitates multilateral cooperation among its member countries to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy technologies and promote energy security, economic development, and environmental sustainability (IRENA, 2023). Through its collaboration with international organizations, private sector companies, and research institutions, IRENA has contributed to the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies, such as solar, wind, and geothermal power, in many countries. This has helped to promote energy security, create new jobs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In summary, multilateral cooperation is essential for managing strategic resources in the geoeconomics of energy security. It can help to ensure global energy security, promote sustainable development, mitigate geopolitical risks, enhance economic development, and support innovation and technological advancement in the energy sector.

B) The role of international Organizations such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization in managing strategic resources:

International organizations, such as the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), play a critical role in managing strategic resources in the geoeconomics of energy security. While the UN has a broader mandate to promote international cooperation and address global challenges, the WTO is specifically responsible for regulating international trade and investment. However, both organizations have a significant impact on managing strategic resources and promoting energy security (WTO, n.d.). One example of the role of international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in managing strategic resources in the geoeconomics of energy security is the Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) of the United Nations.

SDG 7 aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, and to increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. The UN recognizes that energy security is essential for economic and social development, poverty reduction, and environmental sustainability, and that achieving SDG 7 requires international cooperation and partnerships (United Nations, n.d.). The World Trade Organization also plays a role in managing strategic resources in the geoeconomics of energy security through its trade agreements and dispute settlement mechanisms. The WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement) sets rules for the use of subsidies in the energy sector, with the aim of promoting fair competition and preventing trade distortions (WTO, n.d.). The WTO's dispute settlement

panel can also be used to address trade disputes related to strategic resources, such as disputes over access to natural gas pipelines or restrictions on the export of oil.

The UN plays a vital role in promoting international cooperation on energy issues through various agencies and programs. For example, The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted in 1992, and it entered into force in 1994. The treaty has been ratified by 197 countries, including the United States, China, India, and the European Union (Unfccc.int, n.d.). The primary objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The treaty recognizes that developed countries have a greater responsibility for addressing climate change, given their historic and current contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and their greater capacity to finance climate action.

The UNFCCC took part in promoting international cooperation on climate change and energy security. The treaty provides a platform for countries to negotiate and agree on common goals and actions to address climate change. The UNFCCC has also facilitated the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies, which are critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting energy security (Unfccc.int, n.d.). The treaty has established various mechanisms and funds to support the implementation of climate action in developing countries, such as the Green Climate Fund and the Technology Mechanism.

In addition to the UNFCCC, the United Nations has also established other institutions and programs to promote sustainable development and energy security, such as

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). These institutions work with governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector to support sustainable development and promote the use of renewable energy sources.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) also plays a role in managing strategic resources in the geoeconomics of energy security. The WTO provides a framework for international trade and investment, which is critical to promoting access to strategic resources and promoting sustainable development. The WTO has established rules and agreements to promote trade in energy-related products, such as the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement). These agreements promote fair and open competition in the energy sector and help to prevent trade disputes related to strategic resources (Marhold, 2021).

To sum up, the role of the UN and the WTO in managing strategic resources is not without controversy. Some critics argue that the UN has been ineffective in promoting international cooperation on energy issues, while others argue that the WTO's focus on liberalizing trade can promote the exploitation of strategic resources and exacerbate energy insecurity. Nonetheless, both organizations play a significant role in managing strategic resources in the geoeconomics of energy security, and their efforts are essential in promoting sustainable development and global energy security.

Chapter 4: Case Study Analysis

Resource politics refers to the political and economic strategies that countries use to control, exploit, and manage their resources, natural or not. The availability and control of resources can have a significant impact on a country's economic, political, and social development. Therefore, it is not surprising that resource politics have played a crucial role in shaping international relations. This thesis seeks to explore the relationship between resource politics and international relations by presenting case studies that demonstrate the impact of strategic resource politics on the international arena. Resource politics have historically been linked to the quest for power and economic dominance. The struggle to control resources such as oil, gas, minerals, and information has led to intense geopolitical competition between countries. For example, the competition for resources has led to conflicts such as the Iraq War, which was largely motivated by the desire to control Iraq's oil resources (Hinnebusch, 2007). Similarly, the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been fueled by the struggle for control of the country's mineral resources (Burnley, 2011).

The importance of resource politics in shaping international relations has increased in recent years due to several factors. One such factor is the growing demand for resources driven by the rapid economic growth of emerging economies such as China. This has led to increased competition for resources and has heightened geopolitical tensions. Additionally, concerns about climate change and the shift towards renewable energy sources have also impacted resource politics. The move towards renewable energy has increased the demand for resources such as lithium and cobalt, which are essential for the production of batteries used in electric vehicles (Turcheniuk et al, 2018). Moreover, in a

world of ongoing digitalization, information remains one of the most important and growing aspects of resource politics.

The impact of resource politics on international relations is complex and multifaceted. On the one hand, the pursuit of resources can lead to conflicts and tension between countries. On the other hand, resource-rich countries have often used their resources as a tool of diplomacy and influence, giving them significant leverage in the international arena. For example, countries such as Russia and Saudi Arabia have used their oil resources to influence other countries' foreign policies.

Several case studies come to mind with regard to strategic resource policies and the weaponization of resources for political gain, whereas some are old while others are developing as we speak:

- The role of oil in the Middle East: The Middle East is home to some of the world's largest oil reserves, and the control of oil resources has played a significant role in shaping the region's politics and international relations (Hanieh, 2018).

The competition for resources in the Arctic: The melting of the Arctic ice cap has opened up new opportunities for resource extraction, including oil, gas, and minerals (Koivurova, 2015). The competition for resources in the Arctic has led to increased geopolitical tensions between countries such as Russia, the United States, and Canada.

- The struggle for minerals in Africa: Africa is home to many of the world's essential minerals, including cobalt, lithium, and rare earth metals. The struggle for control

of these resources has impacted relationships between countries such as China, the United States, and various African nations (Campbell, 2008).

Having showcased that resource management and their (ab-)use within the grand scheme of international political affairs has been, and remains a prolific topic and tool that actors employ in an attempt to advance their interests in the organized anarchy of the global system of governance, the analysis of the following case studies offers significant insight into the observations and repercussions of the use of strategic resource policies.

Case Study: 1973 Oil Embargo

Introduction:

The 20th century saw a significant shift in the global energy landscape, with the rise of oil as the dominant energy source. Oil became a critical commodity for the global economy, powering industries and transportation. This dependence on oil gave rise to a complex web of international relations and politics, as nations vied for control of this valuable resource.

Oil is undoubtedly one of the most valuable natural resources, serving as the lifeblood of modern industrial economies. It is a crucial component in almost every sector, from transportation to manufacturing, and its value extends beyond its primary use as a fuel. In addition, it is also used to produce petrochemicals, which are essential in the manufacturing of various products such as plastics, synthetic fibers, and medicines.

One of the key factors that contributed to the politics of oil was the formation of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1960. OPEC was

founded by five countries – Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela – with the aim of controlling the production and pricing of oil (Skeet, 1991). Over time, OPEC grew to include more countries, and by the early 1970s, it controlled a significant portion of the world's oil supply.

The importance of oil as a natural resource also gave rise to a new dimension of global politics, as oil-producing countries used their oil reserves as a tool of foreign policy. This was particularly true of the Middle Eastern countries that had formed OPEC, which saw their newfound oil wealth as a means of achieving greater political influence on the global stage. In addition to the politics of oil, the 1970s also saw a number of other geopolitical developments that set the stage for the oil embargo. These included the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict, the rise of anti-American sentiment in the Middle East (Zakariah, 2011), and the Nixon administration's decision to abandon the gold standard, which led to a devaluation of the U.S. dollar (Salameh, 2015).

The oil industry has been a crucial element in global politics since the late 19th century, shaping economic development and international relations worldwide. During the 1950s and early 1970s, American oil companies dominated the industry, controlling the world's oil supply through their operations in the Middle East (Painter, 2014). The United States' strategic investments in the region were aimed at securing access to the world's largest reserves of crude oil, leading to the emergence of a complex system of oil politics governing the relationships between oil-producing and oil-consuming nations.

The significance of oil reserves and their supply has always been a central concern of national security and foreign policy for many countries, with the United States being no

exception. As a result, the oil politics of the 20th century have been shaped by a range of factors, including geopolitical interests, economic factors, and the emergence of new technologies. In the early 1970s, a series of events shook the global oil industry, known as the "oil shocks" (Ikenberry, 1986). Among these events was the 1973 oil embargo, which had far-reaching consequences for the global economy and international relations. In the next section, we will delve into the events that led up to the 1973 oil embargo in more detail.

Underlying Reasons:

Scholars have identified several underlying factors that contributed to the embargo, including political tensions in the Middle East, the global economic climate, and the role of multinational corporations in the oil industry.

One of the primary factors that led to the embargo was the political instability in the Middle East. In 1973, Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) imposed an embargo on oil exports to countries that supported Israel in the Yom Kippur War (Mata, 2013). This move was largely motivated by the desire to use oil as a political weapon and put pressure on Western powers that supported Israel. As a result, oil prices skyrocketed, causing a global economic crisis that had long-lasting effects on energy policy and economic growth.

Another significant factor in the oil embargo was the global economic climate. In the early 1970s, many countries were experiencing high levels of inflation and economic instability, which made oil prices particularly volatile (Darby, 1981). The embargo

exacerbated these problems by creating a global shortage of oil and driving up prices even further.

Multinational corporations also played a role in the events leading up to the embargo. Many of these companies had significant investments in the Middle East and were heavily involved in the oil industry. Some scholars argue that these corporations contributed to the political tensions in the region by supporting Western powers and opposing nationalist movements that sought to nationalize the oil industry (Nye, 1974). This created an environment in which Arab countries felt that they had little choice but to use oil as a political weapon.

Weaponizing Oil: Strategic Resource Policies

The weaponization of oil by OPEC countries in 1973 was a strategic move aimed at exerting political and economic pressure on the West. The decision to cut oil production and exports was driven by a desire to force the West to change its foreign policy towards the Middle East and to achieve greater economic benefits from oil exports. The embargo led to a significant increase in the price of oil, which had a profound impact on the global economy and geopolitics.

One of the key strategies used by OPEC countries to weaponize oil was the use of a collective bargaining approach. By working together, the OPEC countries were able to exert greater pressure on the West than they would have been able to do individually (Franck & Chesler, 1974). The collective bargaining approach allowed OPEC countries to negotiate better prices for oil exports and to impose economic sanctions on countries that did not support their interests.

Another key strategy adopted by OPEC nations in 1973 was the use of production cuts as a means of controlling the global oil supply and thereby increasing prices. OPEC nations had long been frustrated with the relatively low prices they were receiving for their oil exports, which they believed did not reflect the true value of the resource. In response, they decided to band together and coordinate their actions, with the aim of limiting the global supply of oil and driving up prices (Garavini, 2011). In fact, OPEC had implemented similar cuts in the past, with varying degrees of success. However, the 1973 embargo marked a new level of coordination and commitment among OPEC nations. The decision to implement the embargo was made at a meeting of OPEC members in Kuwait in August 1973. The group agreed to cut production by 5% per month until their demands were met, which included an increase in prices and a more equitable distribution of oil profits.

Another crucial strategy adopted by OPEC nations during the oil embargo was the manipulation of oil prices. OPEC members used their collective dominance over the oil market to manipulate oil prices and gain significant profits. The goal of this strategy was not only to punish countries that supported Israel but also to strengthen the economic power of OPEC countries by raising oil prices. In fact, OPEC's price manipulation strategy was implemented through two main mechanisms. The first mechanism was to increase the official selling price (OSP) of crude oil (Claes & Moe, 2020). This mechanism was used to raise the price of oil to the level that OPEC countries deemed appropriate. The second mechanism was the imposition of an oil embargo. By imposing an oil embargo on countries that supported Israel, OPEC was able to reduce the supply of oil in the market, which subsequently increased oil prices. The price manipulation strategy was reinforced by the nationalization of oil companies within OPEC nations (Garavini, 2015) which granted

them greater control over production and subsequently over exports. One of the most significant examples of nationalization in OPEC nations was the takeover of the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) by the Saudi Arabian government in 1973.

Strategic Resource Policies: The Impact of Weaponizing Oil in 1973

Economic Impact

The world experienced two oil price shocks in the 1970s, with the first shock occurring in 1973 due to the embargo. The price of oil quadrupled from \$3 per barrel to \$12 per barrel (Ahuru & James, 2015), and inflation surged as a result. The United States, in particular, experienced an inflation rate of 11% in 1974 as per the Consumer Price Index, which was the highest since World War II. Inflation also affected other countries, with Japan experiencing an inflation rate of 23% in 1974 (Ito, 2010), and the United Kingdom experiencing an inflation rate of 16.5% in 1975 (Jones, 1977).

The oil embargo also led to a recession in many countries as presented by Darby (1982). The United States experienced a recession from 1973 to 1975, with GDP growth declining from 5.3% in 1973 to -0.5% in 1974 and -0.2% in 1975. In addition, the United States lost approximately 2 million jobs during this period. Other countries also experienced recessions, with Japan's GDP growth declining from 9.5% in 1973 to -1.5% in 1974, and the United Kingdom's GDP growth declining from 2.6% in 1973 to -1.1% in 1974.

Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, experienced a positive impact from the embargo. According to a report by the U.S. Department of Energy, Saudi Arabia's oil revenue

increased from \$4.7 billion in 1972 to \$52 billion in 1980 (Gilbar, 1997). This revenue allowed Saudi Arabia to finance large-scale infrastructure projects and transform its economy from an agrarian one to an industrial one. In addition, the embargo led to a shift in power in the oil industry, with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) gaining more control over oil prices and production.

Impact on Domestic Politics

The oil embargo of 1973, which was characterized by the weaponization of oil by Arab oil-producing nations, had a significant impact on domestic politics, particularly the energy policies, within the affected nations. The embargo created a new reality in which oil became a tool of foreign policy, and the energy policies of nations were increasingly dictated by global oil markets rather than domestic considerations.

The oil embargo led to a significant shift in energy policies within the United States. The embargo forced the United States to re-evaluate its energy policies and become less reliant on foreign oil. This shift in policy led to the creation of the Department of Energy in 1977 (DOE, n.d.), which was tasked with reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil by developing alternative energy sources such as nuclear, solar, and wind power.

Similarly, in Europe, the oil embargo led to the creation of a new energy policy. Europe had long been dependent on Middle Eastern oil, but the embargo highlighted the risks associated with this dependence. As a result, Europe developed a new energy policy focused on diversification and self-sufficiency (Geller et al, 2006). This policy involved increased investment in alternative energy sources, such as natural gas, coal, and nuclear power, as well as increased exploration and production of oil in the North Sea.

In Japan, the oil embargo had a profound impact on the country's energy policy. Japan had no domestic oil reserves and was entirely dependent on imported oil. The embargo highlighted the risks associated with this dependence and led to a fundamental shift in Japan's energy policy (Chen et al, 2014). Japan began investing heavily in alternative energy sources such as nuclear, geothermal, and solar power, as well as increasing its exploration and production of domestic coal.

The impact of the oil embargo was not limited to developed nations. Developing countries, particularly those in Africa, also felt the impact of the embargo on their energy policies. Before the embargo, many African countries were heavily reliant on foreign aid to finance their energy policies. However, the embargo highlighted the risks associated with this dependence, and many African countries began to invest in alternative energy sources such as hydroelectric and solar power (Bugaje, 2006).

Impact on Bilateral/Multilateral relations

The United States' support for Israel during the war caused a significant rift in its relations with OPEC nations, leading to a deterioration of diplomatic ties. OPEC members saw the US support for Israel as a violation of their sovereignty and perceived it as an attempt to dominate the region. This perception fueled anti-American sentiment in OPEC countries and caused a shift in their foreign policy, with many OPEC nations aligning themselves more closely with the Soviet Union and other non-aligned nations (Chiddick, 2007). Algeria, for example, played a leading role in the formation of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and was a vocal advocate for using oil as a political tool. The country was one of the architects of the 1973 oil embargo and was among

the most vocal critics of the United States and its allies. Similarly, Iraq, under the leadership of Saddam Hussein, sought to position itself as a leader of the Arab world and a bulwark against Western imperialism. The country's close ties to the Soviet Union and other communist countries reflected its broader geopolitical ambitions. In response to the oil embargo, the United States and other industrialized nations established the International Energy Agency (IEA) in November 1974 (Van de Graaf, 2014). The aim of the IEA was to coordinate energy policies and reduce dependence on OPEC nations. Under the auspices of the IEA, countries developed a range of measures to promote energy conservation and efficiency, including the adoption of fuel efficiency standards and the promotion of renewable energy sources. One example of the IEA's efforts was the establishment of the Emergency Response System (ERS), which was designed to respond to supply disruptions and mitigate the impact of oil price shocks (Van de Graaf, 2014). The ERS required member countries to hold a minimum level of oil stocks, which could be released in the event of a crisis. This measure was intended to reduce the risk of a repeat of the 1973 oil crisis and promote greater energy security. Another key initiative under the IEA was the development of energy conservation policies. The IEA worked to promote the adoption of fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks, which helped to reduce oil consumption and mitigate the impact of oil price shocks. The IEA also supported research and development in renewable energy technologies, such as solar and wind power, which helped to diversify energy sources and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

The impact of the embargo on relations between Europe and OPEC nations was complex. While the embargo led to a significant deterioration in diplomatic ties, particularly between the United States and OPEC nations, Europe sought to maintain a

more neutral stance. Many European countries sought to maintain good relations with OPEC nations while also pursuing policies to reduce their dependence on imported oil. One example of this approach was the establishment of the European Union's Strategic Energy Review in 1974 (Economidou et al., 2020). This initiative aimed to promote energy security and reduce dependence on imported oil by diversifying energy sources and promoting energy conservation measures. The review called for greater investment in domestic energy resources, such as coal and nuclear power, as well as increased research and development in renewable energy technologies. The impact of the embargo on Europe also led to greater cooperation between European countries in the field of energy policy. The European Union developed a range of measures to promote energy efficiency and conservation, such as the adoption of fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks. The Union also sought to develop a common energy policy that would enable countries to pool resources and negotiate with OPEC nations from a position of strength.

The 1973 oil embargo similarly had a profound impact on the relationships between OPEC nations themselves. Prior to the embargo, there were significant differences in the interests and priorities of various OPEC members. The embargo provided a unifying force that enabled OPEC to leverage its collective power to influence global oil markets. One of the key impacts of the embargo on OPEC nations was the establishment of a more unified approach to oil production and pricing as previously explained. The embargo forced OPEC members to collaborate more closely, which led to the establishment of production quotas and coordinated pricing policies. The embargo also highlighted the importance of oil as a strategic resource and led to a greater sense of solidarity among OPEC members. The embargo demonstrated that OPEC could use its collective power to influence global energy

markets and achieve political goals. This realization led to greater cooperation and coordination among OPEC members, which was evident in the establishment of the OPEC Fund for International Development in 1976 (Shihata, 1980). However, the embargo also created tensions and rivalries within OPEC itself. The most notable example of this was the division between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Prior to the embargo, Saudi Arabia had been the dominant force within OPEC, with a production quota that was nearly twice that of Iran. However, the embargo led to a significant increase in oil prices, which benefited Iran and other smaller OPEC members. This created tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which ultimately led to a split within OPEC in 1975 (Moran, 1976).

The 1973 Oil Embargo: A Successful Use of Strategic Resource Policies to Condition International Relations

The 1973 oil embargo imposed by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was a classic example of coercive diplomacy. The embargo was a strategic tool utilized by OPEC nations to achieve political objectives in their standoff with the United States and its allies in support of Israel. The OPEC embargo can be viewed as a case of coercive diplomacy because it was a non-violent means of using strategic resource policies to influence the political behavior of other nations.

During the 1973 oil embargo, OPEC nations utilized their power over the global oil market to put pressure on the United States and its allies to change their stance on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The OPEC embargo demonstrated the strategic importance of oil as a resource and highlighted the potential for resource-rich countries to utilize their economic power as a tool of political influence. The embargo was successful in achieving its political

objectives, as the United States and its allies were forced to negotiate with OPEC nations to end the embargo. The United States and their allies recognized the economic consequences of the embargo and were willing to make concessions in order to end the crisis. One of the key concessions made by the United States and its allies was to support the establishment of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 (Goldberg, 1973). This resolution called for Israel to withdraw from territories occupied during the Six-Day War and recognized the right of all states in the region to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries. The resolution was seen as a significant step towards addressing the political concerns of Arab countries, which had long sought a peaceful resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Another concession made by the United States and its allies was the creation of the Arab-Israeli Disengagement Agreement (Quandt, 1975). This agreement was signed by Israel and Egypt in 1974 and called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Sinai Peninsula and the establishment of a demilitarized zone. The agreement was seen as a significant step towards reducing tensions between Israel and Arab countries and addressing the political concerns of OPEC nations. Additionally, the United States and its allies also made economic concessions in order to resolve the oil embargo. The United States agreed to provide financial aid to oil-producing countries and to invest in the development of their oil industries. This was aimed at increasing their capacity to produce oil and reducing their dependence on the global oil market.

The resolution of the embargo was a significant success for OPEC nations and Arab countries because it demonstrated their ability to use their collective power to achieve their political goals. The embargo highlighted the potential for resource-rich countries to utilize their economic power as a tool of political influence. Furthermore, the resolution of the

embargo led to the formation of the International Energy Agency (IEA) by the United States and other industrialized nations to coordinate energy policies and reduce dependence on OPEC. This further demonstrated the strategic importance of oil as a resource and the need for energy security and thus the adoption of strategic policies.

The 1973 oil embargo is a notable case of the use of strategic resource policies that have continued to shape international relations. It demonstrated the potential for resource-rich countries to leverage their control over a critical resource like oil to achieve political objectives. The oil embargo was a powerful tool of coercive diplomacy that OPEC nations used to push for their political and economic goals. It demonstrated how strategic resource policies could be used to force policy changes from even the most powerful countries in the world and instill change in international relations. The embargo's impact on the global economy highlighted the importance of energy security and energy diversification as crucial components of national security, and thus unequivocally altered the course of history whereas nations prioritized resource management and procurement through the employment of strategic resource policies preemptively, preventively, as well reactionary where necessary.

The oil embargo's legacy continues to shape international relations today. One example is the current situation between Russia and European nations. Russia has been accused of using its control over natural gas pipelines as a tool of political influence. European nations, especially those dependent on Russian natural gas, have been hesitant to take strong action against Russia, fearing the economic fallout that could result from Russia cutting off the gas supply. The threat of cutting off oil and gas pipelines from Russia to European nations that sanctioned its military operations against Ukraine demonstrates

the continued and everlasting power of strategic resource policies when weaponized to make use for political interests.

Lessons from the 1973 Oil Embargo: Conclusions and Projections a Quinquagenary Later

The use of strategic resource policies, whether it be through the restriction of natural resources or digital resources, has become an increasingly important tool in shaping international relations in the modern era. The growing interdependence among nations and the reliance on a steady flow of resources has only amplified the impact of these policies.

In today's world, nations rely on a complex network of global supply chains to sustain their economies and societies. This interdependence creates vulnerabilities that can be exploited through the strategic use of resource policies. Whether it be through the restriction of oil supplies or the manipulation of digital infrastructure, nations can use their control over critical resources to influence the behavior of other nations. This dynamic is particularly pronounced in the realm of digital resources. As societies become increasingly dependent on digital infrastructure, the ability to manipulate or disrupt these systems can have far-reaching consequences. Cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, such as power grids or financial systems, can cripple a nation's economy and disrupt social stability. The use of strategic resource policies is not without consequences, however. In many cases, the restrictive policies employed by nations can harm their own economies as well. For example, the use of oil embargoes can cause economic harm to both the nation implementing the policy and the target nation. Similarly, restrictions on the flow of digital information can stifle innovation and economic growth. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and dependent on critical resources, the use of strategic resource policies

will continue to play a critical role in shaping international relations. The challenge for nations will be to balance their need for strategic control over resources with the desire for economic growth and stability. In this context, a comprehensive and long-term approach to energy policy and digital infrastructure management will be crucial for ensuring the security and stability of the global community and the interests of nations.

With the former in mind, one must note that coercion is not the sole manner in which strategic resource policies can alter international relations and yield room for success in the pursuit of national interests. In fact, mutual benefit – cloaked or genuine – through resource exchange has the potential to foster cooperation and positive diplomatic relations between nations. The exchange of strategic resources can create a platform for diplomacy, trade, and negotiations, leading to a mutual understanding of interests and goals. An example of successful strategic resource policy is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) (Ahmar, 2014). The project is a significant part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, aiming to create a network of infrastructure and trade routes connecting China to the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. Pakistan, on the other hand, is looking to improve its economic development and infrastructure. Through CPEC, China is providing Pakistan with strategic resources such as energy, infrastructure, and technology, while Pakistan is providing China with access to the Arabian Sea and Central Asia. This mutual exchange of strategic resources has led to stronger diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan, with both nations working together to further their mutual interests. Not only has this endeavor affected and conditioned international affairs and the level of bilateral relations between both entities, it holds greater impact on the global system of governance whereas it brings greater influence to China.

Failure in Employing Strategic Resource Policies

The use of strategic resource policies has been a prominent tool in shaping international relations, whether it be for the purpose of exerting influence or gaining leverage over other nations. These policies have historically been employed in the form of trade restrictions, embargoes, and even military action. While there are many examples where the use of strategic resource policies has been successful in achieving the desired outcome, there are also cases where such policies have failed to achieve the intended goals, or even worse, have had a counterproductive impact on international relations.

The failure of strategic resource policies can often be attributed to a variety of factors, such as miscalculations on the part of the employing nation, unforeseen consequences, or even unexpected responses from other nations. In some cases, the use of strategic resource policies can have unintended consequences, leading to further deterioration of relations between nations, rather than achieving the desired outcomes. Despite the potential risks and limitations of using strategic resource policies, many nations continue to employ them in the pursuit of their national interests. It remains an important tool for shaping international relations, particularly as global interdependence and reliance on steady resource flows continue to increase. Therefore, it is important to critically analyze both successful and unsuccessful examples of strategic resource policies to better understand their impact on international relations.

One notable case where strategic resource policies failed to alter the course of international relations, is the United States' attempt to use its dominance in the semiconductor industry to undermine China's rise as a global economic power and attempt

to revert the status quo into one of U.S. hegemony. In 2018, the Trump administration launched a trade war against China, imposing tariffs on billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods and restricting the export of advanced technologies, including semiconductors (Bown & Kolb, 2022). The goal of these policies was to limit China's access to critical technologies and slow its economic growth. Semiconductors have become one of the most critical components of the modern world, playing an indispensable role in the functioning of everything from smartphones to advanced weaponry. Their importance in the current political and economic climate cannot be understated, as they are central to the development of key technologies like artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, and 5G networks. However, these policies ultimately failed to achieve their intended goals. China responded by investing heavily in its domestic semiconductor industry and reducing its reliance on American-made chips (Bown, 2020). Furthermore, the United States' actions prompted other nations to explore alternative sources of semiconductors, leading to the emergence of new global suppliers in countries like Taiwan and South Korea.

The failure of the United States' strategic resource policies in this case highlights the limitations of using resource policies as a tool for shaping international relations. While the control of critical resources can be a powerful lever for influencing the behavior of other nations, it is not always a sustainable or effective approach. In some cases, such policies can provoke a backlash or unintended counterproductive consequences, ultimately undermining the interests of the nation implementing them. In the case of the U.S., the use of strategic resource policies in an attempt to undermine the growth of China backfired and prompted the country to develop its capacities even more and consolidate its presence as a

challenger to the U.S. and as a force to be reckoned with regarding the global balance of power.

In conclusion, the 1973 oil embargo serves as a prime example of how strategic resource policies can have a significant impact on international relations. The embargo demonstrated the capacity of OPEC nations to use their dominance in the oil market to influence political outcomes, highlighting the importance of resources as political tools. Moreover, the embargo illustrated the potential for coercive diplomacy as a means of enforcing policy objectives, and the importance of a coordinated response to mitigate the effects of such actions.

However, the embargo also showed how resource policies can be counterproductive. The embargo led to the formation of the International Energy Agency, which coordinated energy policies and reduced dependence on OPEC, ultimately weakening the cartel's grip on the oil market. Other instances of counterproductive consequences associated with strategic resource policies have been observed over time as well. Additionally, the use of strategic resource policies as a coercive tool can lead to unintended consequences, such as the deterioration of diplomatic relations and economic harm.

Nonetheless, resource policies can be utilized in a non-coercive manner as a means of fostering rapprochement and promoting mutual benefit. For instance, the agreement between China and Pakistan to develop economic cooperation, including joint development of natural resources and investment in infrastructure, demonstrates the

potential for quid pro quo diplomacy to achieve strategic objectives without resorting to coercive measures.

Thus, strategic resource policies are yet another tool that nation-states and entities employ while seeking to achieve political objectives on the global arena. Hence, diplomacy in this arena must be carefully crafted to avoid negative consequences and promote benefits, ideally being mutual, herein acknowledging the fundamental role that resources play in shaping global power dynamics and thus the course of action of international relations. The cases that have been highlighted and assessed in this chapter yield significant insight into the answer to our research question whereas the information presented and the analysis of the different cases. Looking at the case the 1973 oil embargo, or the example of the Sino-American trade war, or the Belt & Road Initiative, it is apparent that the adoption of strategic resource policies primarily lead to increased global competition, whilst secondarily strengthening economic nationalism as strategic resource policies often have global implications as a primary scope and foster competition among nations who aspire to achieve their interests and to condition the international system of governance as per their objectives and needs.

Conclusion

The use of strategic resource policies by nations has become increasingly important in international relations. Nations are recognizing the importance of securing access to vital resources to protect their economic and political security. These policies have been developed with the aim of ensuring that nations have adequate access to key resources while minimizing their dependence on other states. One of the key components of strategic resource policies is the establishment of appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks for the management of resources. These frameworks define the rights and obligations of the government, the private sector, and the local communities in relation to the resources. A well-designed legal framework ensures that resources are managed in a way that is sustainable, equitable, and transparent. This helps to prevent resource exploitation and encourages responsible resource management practices. Adopting strategic policies to minimize dependence on other states can help achieve economic and political security in several ways. Firstly, it reduces the vulnerability of nations to external shocks. By ensuring that they have access to key resources, nations are able to maintain economic stability and protect their citizens from economic hardship caused by price fluctuations or supply disruptions. This helps to ensure that nations are able to maintain their economic sovereignty and minimize the risk of economic crises. Strategic resource policies help to protect the political security of nations. By securing access to key resources, nations are able to maintain their autonomy and avoid becoming overly reliant on other states. This reduces the risk of political interference from external actors, which can undermine a nation's sovereignty and stability. Additionally, by reducing dependence on other states, nations are able to build stronger relationships with their neighbors and other partners,

which can lead to increased political stability and cooperation. Strategic resource policies also help to ensure energy security. Access to energy is critical for economic development and social welfare. By developing policies that encourage the development of domestic sources of energy and reduce dependence on external sources, nations are able to ensure that their energy needs are met even in times of crisis. This can help to prevent the kind of energy shortages that can cause economic and social upheaval.

The current strategic resource landscape in geoeconomics of energy security is characterized by a range of interrelated factors that have significant impacts on global energy markets, geopolitics, and security. Some of the key trends and developments in this area include growing demand for energy, increased focus on renewable energy, geopolitical tensions, technological advancements, and energy transitions. In fact, growing demand for energy has placed increasing pressure on nations to secure their access to vital resources. This has led to an increased focus on renewable energy, which is seen as a key tool for achieving energy security and reducing dependence on non-renewable resources. At the same time, geopolitical tensions have made the security of strategic resources a critical issue for many nations, with some seeking to increase their influence and leverage through the control and manipulation of these resources. Moreover, the geoeconomics of energy security has also contributed to the emergence of new forms of international cooperation, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and OPEC. These organizations have been established to promote international cooperation on energy issues and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information. They have played an important role in shaping the global energy landscape and have helped to promote energy security and stability. Additionally, strategic resource policies have contributed to the

emergence of new technologies and innovations in the energy sector, particularly in the field of renewable energy. These policies have encouraged the development of new technologies and have helped to create a more competitive and dynamic energy market. As a result, there has been a rapid expansion of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, which has helped to reduce dependence on non-renewable resources. Energy security has become a critical factor in shaping international relations, with countries seeking to increase their influence and leverage through the control and manipulation of strategic resources. At the same time, new forms of international cooperation, economic development, and technological innovation have emerged in response to the challenges and opportunities presented by the geoeconomics of energy security.

The importance of strategic resource policies and their impact on international affairs have been observed recurrently throughout history. Nations have long recognized the strategic importance of natural resources and have developed policies to ensure their security and control. These policies have had a significant impact on global energy markets, geopolitical relations, and national security. The case of the 1973 oil embargo by OPEC is a key example with regard to the use of strategic resource policies to condition international relations. This embargo was a response to political tensions between the West and Arab nations and demonstrated the power that resource-rich countries can wield by controlling the supply of vital resources. It had a significant impact on the global economy, leading to inflation, recession, and energy crises in many nations.

Finally, the adoption of strategic resource policies ultimately leads to global competition primarily. It does foster economic nationalism as a byproduct to avert the exposure to resource insecurity and being coerced into complying with the demands and

agendas of other nations. This competition can take many forms, including economic, political, and military. Nations may seek to control resources through direct ownership or by establishing trade agreements and alliances. This competition can lead to tension and conflict between nations, as they seek to assert their influence and protect their interests.

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