

GREAT DECISIONS

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Glossary: Energy Independence

Biofuels: Fuel produced from biological raw materials, such as wheat, corn, and cane sugar and cellulosic fiber. Ethanol is the most known biofuel in the U.S.

Carter Doctrine: Policy proclaimed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter in 1980 that stated the U.S. would use military force if necessary to defend its national interests in the Persian Gulf.

Crude Oil: Naturally occurring mixture of hydrocarbons that after extraction can be processed into petroleum products such as gasoline.

International Oil Companies (IOCs): A term used to describe non-national oil companies that are usually publicly owned. The largest of these oil companies are BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell and Total.

Hans Joachim Morgenthau: German-born American political scientist and one of the leading international affairs analysts during the Cold War. His most famous publication is *Politics Among Nations*, which was published in 1948.

Horizontal drilling: A subset of directional drilling, this system has enabled, in conjunction with fracking the resurgence of the American oil and gas industry by allowing the exploration of previously unrecoverable tight oil and gas resources.

Hydraulic fracturing: Also known as fracking, a process of fracturing localized rock with a pressurized mix of water, sand and chemicals. While pioneered in 1947, the technique has gained prominence as one of the enablers of the recent shale oil and gas revolution in the United States.

Keystone XL: A proposed pipeline running from Canada to the U.S. that has been the center of a contentious battle between its supporters and environmentalists. It is currently undergoing review by the State Department.

National Oil Companies (NOC): An oil company fully or mostly owned by a national government. NOCs account for slightly more than half of global oil production.

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC): A cartel of 12 Asian, African, and South American countries whose purpose is to coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its members in order to secure a steady income to producers and guarantee a steady supply to consumers.

Persian Gulf: A large bay located between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula that is the world's largest single source of crude oil. It was the site of the Iran-Iraq War when both countries targeted each other's oil tankers.

RAND Corporation (Research AND Development): A non-profit global policy think tank financed by the U.S. government and private endowment. It focuses on research and analysis of topics ranging from health and education to national security and international affairs.

Renewable Fuel Standard: A U.S. government program that requires transportation fuel sold in the United States to contain a minimum amount of renewable fuel.

Seven Sisters: A group of seven international oil companies that dominated the global petroleum industry between 1940s and the 1970s.

Shale Oil: Natural gas or low-permeability shale trapped within sedimentary rocks which had hitherto been difficult or uneconomical to extract. The tapping of this resource has allowed the United States to rapidly increase its output over the past few years.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR): Emergency fuel storage of oil maintained by the United States Department of Energy started in 1975. The reserve is located in artificial caverns in the Gulf of Mexico that have a collective capacity of over 700 million barrels.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE): Executive division of U.S. government responsible for administering national energy policy, promoting energy efficiency, and ensuring safe handling of nuclear material.

U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA): Agency of the U.S. Federal Statistical System responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of energy information.