

Energy transition in an age of fundamental geopolitical change. Ports as energy hubs for the future.

Prof. dr. David Criekemans
Associate Professor in International Relations
david.criekemans@uantwerpen.be



UNIVERSITY OF
ANTWERP (BELGIUM)



MIDDELBURG
(THE NETHERLANDS)



GIGS, GENEVA
(SWITZERLAND)

ESPO 2022 Annual Conference, 2 June 2022

Energy transition in geopolitical change.

1. **What is Geopolitics?** What is the Geopolitics of Energy? What is the geo-technical ensemble?
2. What are the **geopolitical implications of the accelerating global shift to renewables and green energies?** What impact for ports as energy hubs of the future?
3. What are the **foreseeable consequences** of global energy transformation on oil and gas rich countries? To what extent does the energy transformation impact **regional and global energy security?**
4. Towards a “**re-globalisation**” from the **bottom-up**? Are **existing institutions and fora** well suited to deal with the geopolitical consequences of the energy transformation?

Energy transition in an age of geopolitical change. Ports as energy hubs of the future.

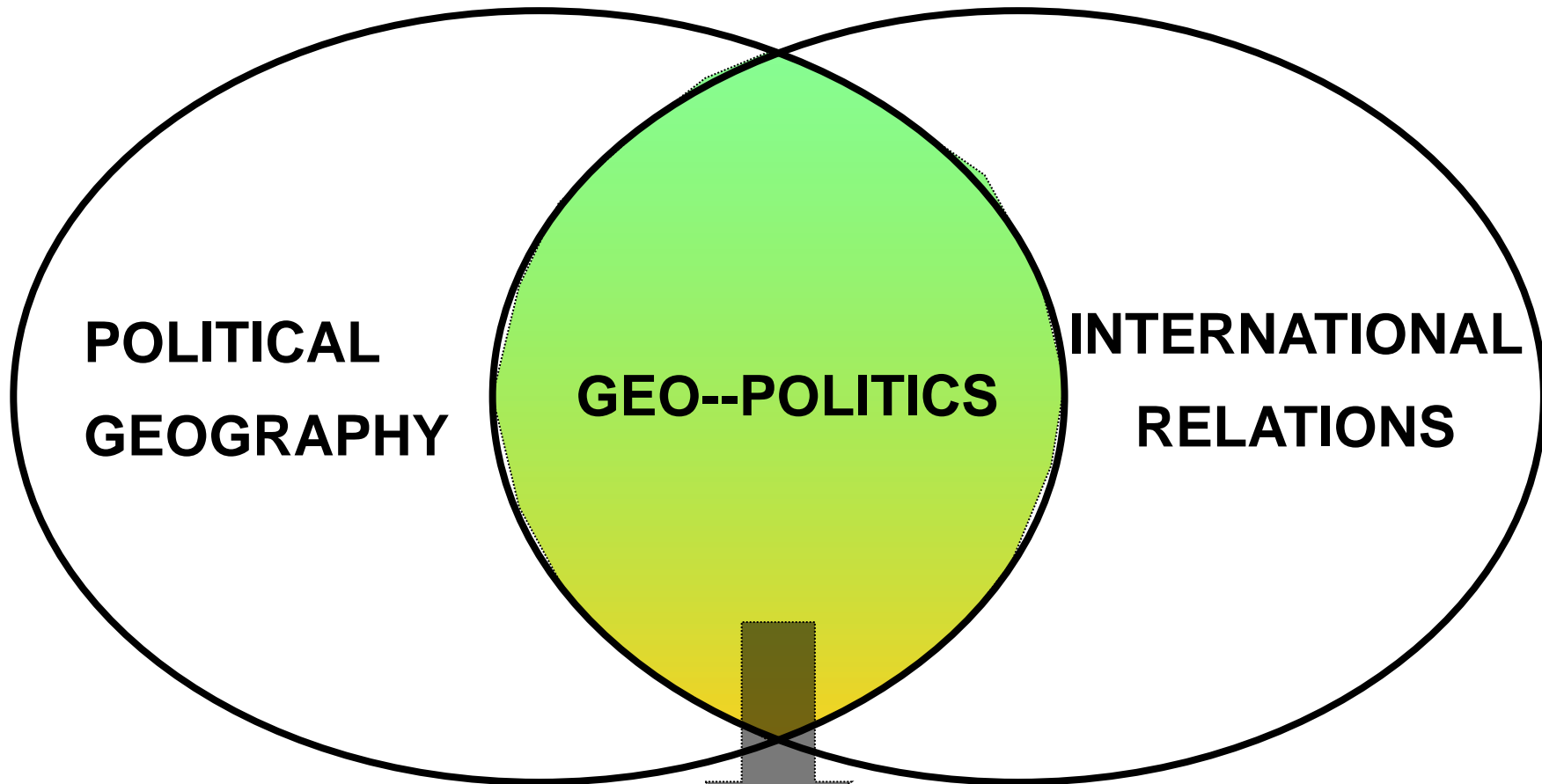
David Criekemans

1.

WHAT IS GEOPOLITICS?

WHAT IS THE GEOPOLITICS OF ENERGY?

WHAT IS THE GEO-TECHNICAL ENSEMBLE?



Territoriality

***Foreign Policy /
International Politics***

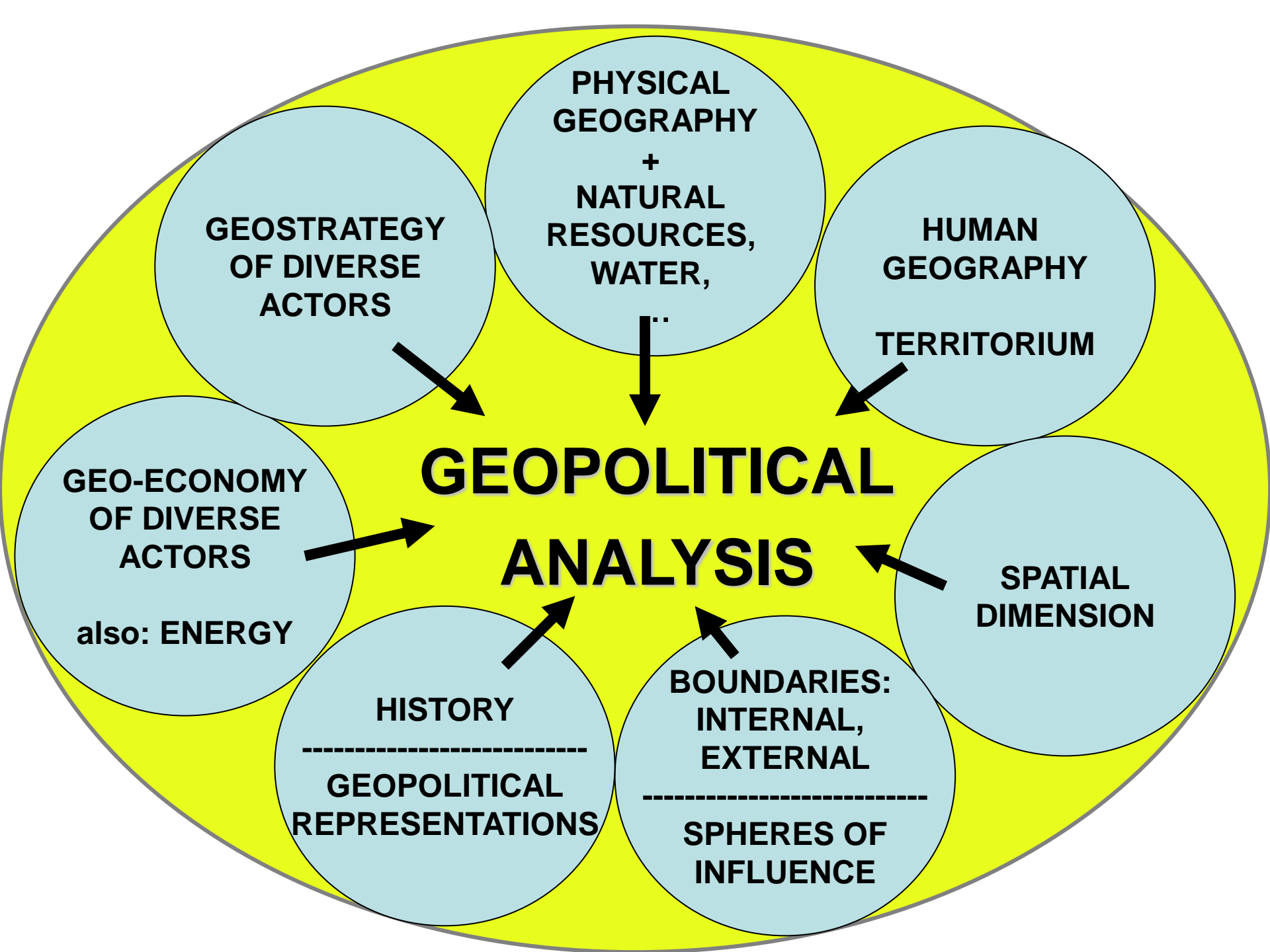


3 dimensions:

- + *physical-geographical*
- + *human-geographical*
- + *spatial*

Criekemans 2008:

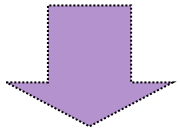
“Geopolitics is the scientific field of study belonging to both Political Geography and International Relations, which investigates the interaction between politically acting (wo)men and their surrounding territoriality (in its three dimensions; physical-geographical, human-geographical and spatial).”



GEO-POLITICS

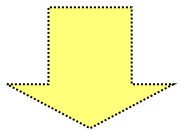


What impact do “geographically embedded factors” have such as climate change, energy(sources), water, ethnicity, religion, but also ‘regional & local instability’, etc.?



+ GEO-TECHNICAL ENSEMBLE:

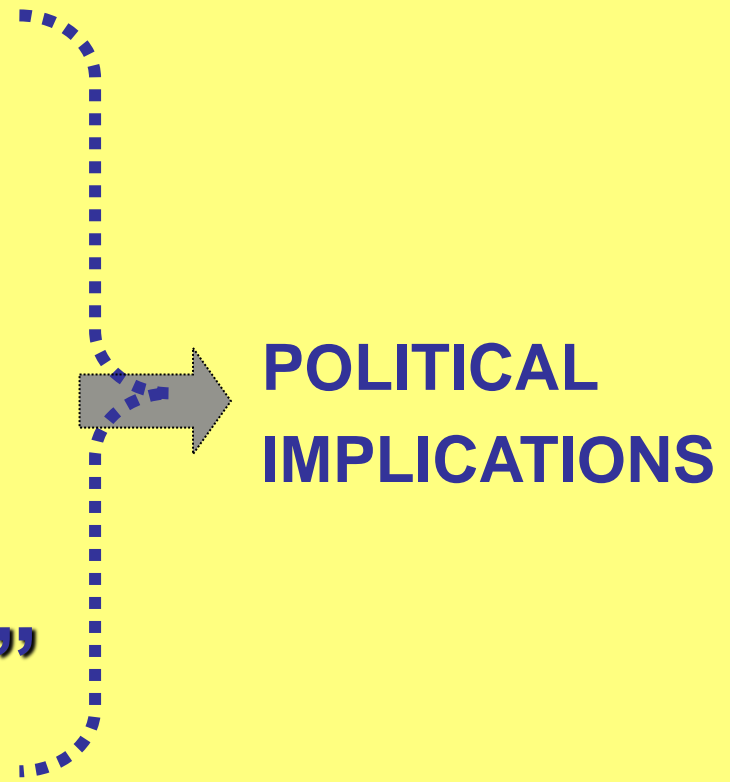
new technologies can change the meaning and role of these factors (e.g. fracking-technology, batteries)



= *an ensemble of “GEO-POLITICAL RISKS”*

ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING AT GEOPOLITICS:

- **Geo-economics**
- **Geo-strategy**
- **Geo-culture**
- **“Geo-information”**



Geopolitical tensions East-West

BLACK SEA



NOVOROSSIYA 2.0

That's New Russia (Novorossiya), to use the terminology of the tsarist Russia: Kharkov, Lugansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Nikolaev and Odessa were not part of Ukraine back then. These territories were given to Ukraine in the 1920s by the Soviet Government. Why? God knows! (Vladimir Putin)

© 2015 Cristian Ionita



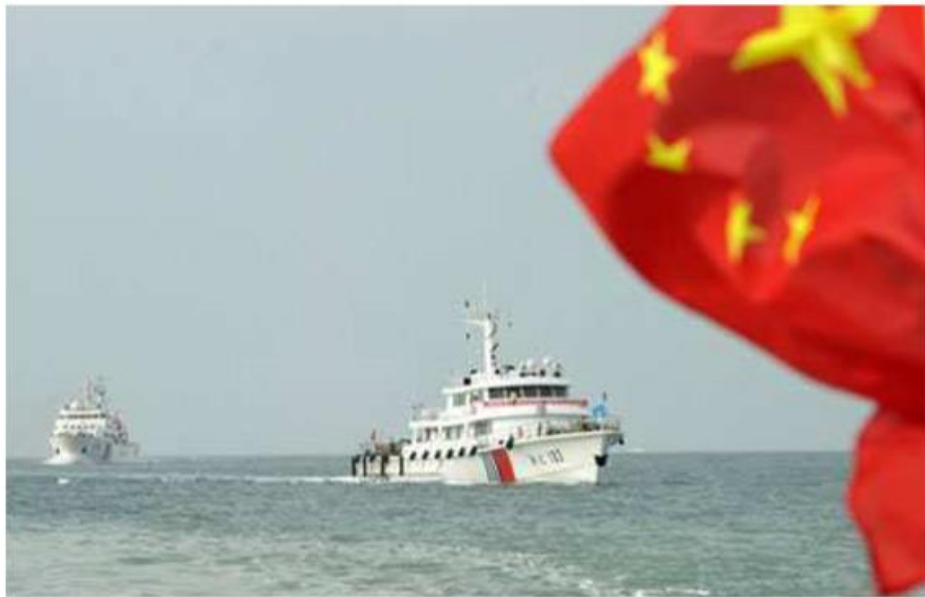
Expanding Reach

China's overseas investments are cultivating a network of potential naval ports

■ 21st Century Maritime Silk Road ⚓ Confirmed Civilian-Military Use ⚓ Possible Civilian-Military Use



Source: Center for a New American Security. This graphic was updated to more precisely plot port locations. Bloomberg



TRADE

5G



AI

MILITARY





Fit for 55

Press release | 18 May 2022

STRATEGIC AUTONOMY
pathways to progressive action

REPowerEU:



European Commission



Energy transition in an age of geopolitical change. Ports as energy hubs of the future.

David Criekemans

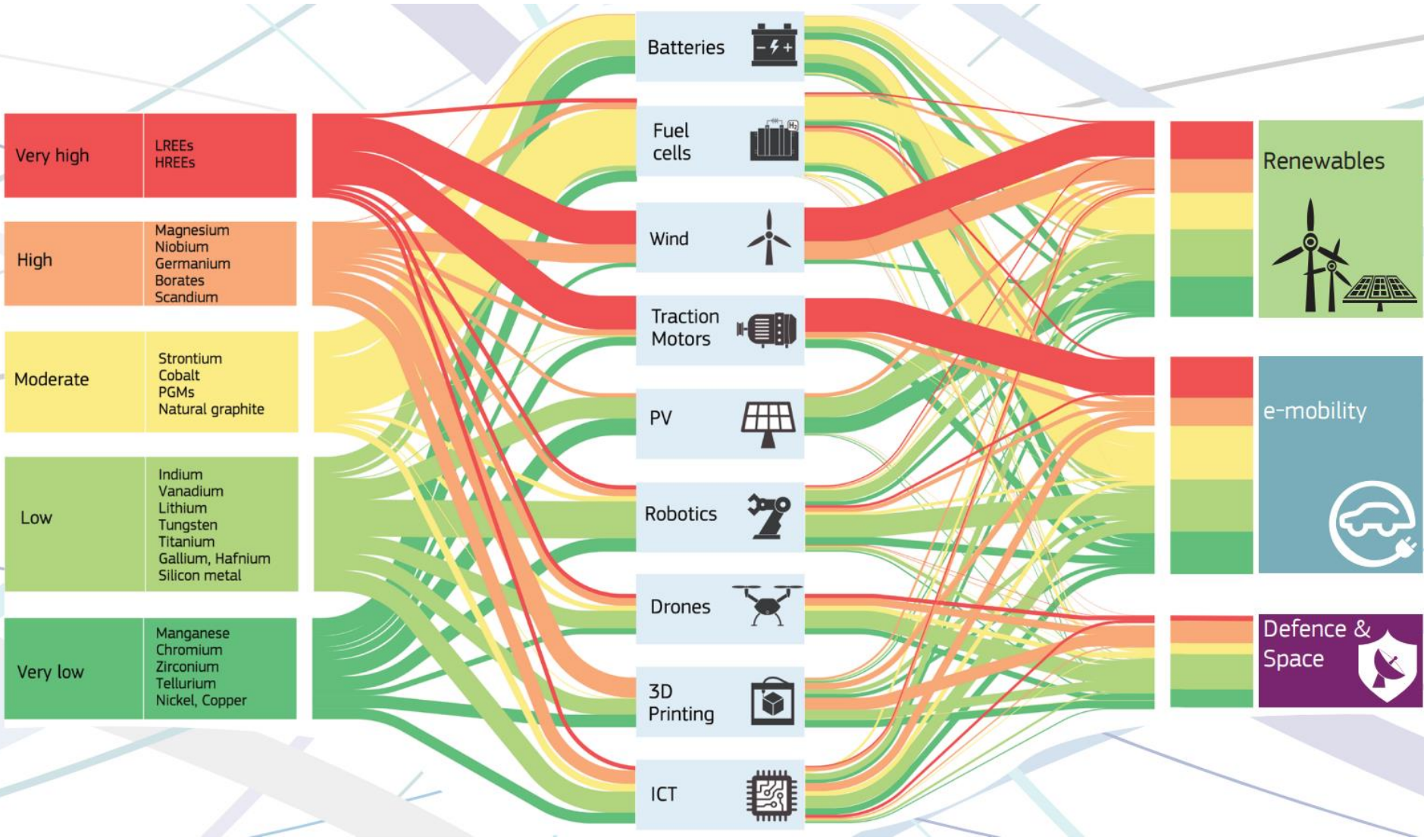
2.

**WHAT ARE THE GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF
THE ACCELERATING SHIFT TO RENEWABLES
AND GREEN ENERGIES?**

**WHAT IMPACT FOR PORTS AS ENERGY HUBS OF
THE FUTURE?**

WHAT ARE THE GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ACCELERATING SHIFT TO RENEWABLES? (1)

- The electrification of transportation in the EU will change Europe's dependencies towards horizon 2030 and beyond. We may start witnessing scarcity and supply problems when it comes to key resources such as nickel, cobalt, copper, silver, scandium, lithium, and rare earth materials.**
- This has led to calls for a European critical materials (CRM) strategy. For the European Commission, critical raw materials have a high economic value and supply risk. Building on the EU's Raw Materials Initiative, the Commission published a report in which the EU 2020 list of critical raw materials is developed.**



Very high
LREEs
HREEs


High
Magnesium
Niobium
Germanium
Borates
Scandium

Moderate
Strontium
Cobalt
PGMs
Natural graphite

Low
Indium
Vanadium
Lithium
Tungsten
Titanium
Gallium, Hafnium
Silicon metal

Very low
Manganese
Chromium
Zirconium
Tellurium
Nickel, Copper

Batteries 

Fuel cells 

Wind 

Traction Motors 


PV 

Robotics 

Drones 

3D Printing 

ICT 

Renewables 

e-mobility 

Defence & Space 

WHAT ARE THE GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ACCELERATING SHIFT TO RENEWABLES? (2)

- In February 2021 U.S. president Joe Biden signed an executive order that addressed critical materials, essential goods, supply chains, and key technologies for the energy sector.**
- Europe could find itself in a world in which the US-China rivalry will affect its own options for developing its continental-wide geopolitical strategy in terms of renewable energy.**
- European countries must avoid a scenario in which US and Chinese led-blocs drive renewable energy technologies and standards and redirect relevant natural resources towards their respective economies.**

US CHALLENGES: DOMESTIC

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Biden Infrastructure Plan – A \$300 Billion Stimulus, A \$3 Trillion Ten Year Initiative, Or Both?



Norman Anderson Contributor @

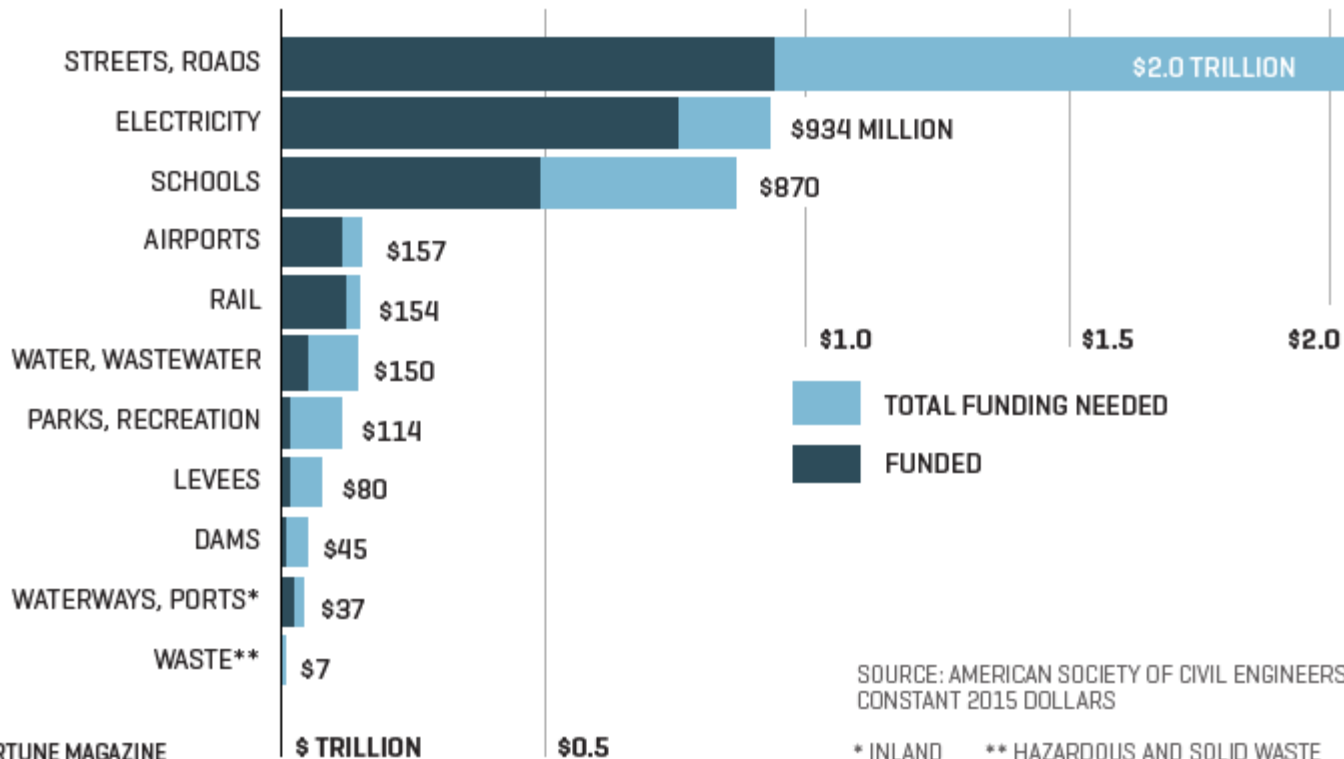
Investing

I write about infrastructure, technology, finance and benefits for all

America's infrastructure is decaying — here's a look at how terrible things have gotten

Cadie Thompson, Mark Matousek

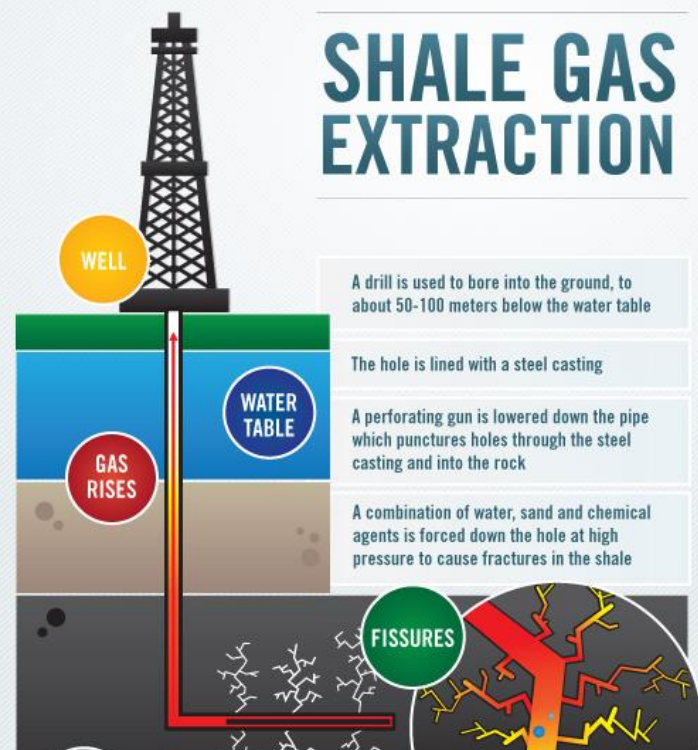
U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS



US CHALLENGES: DOMESTIC

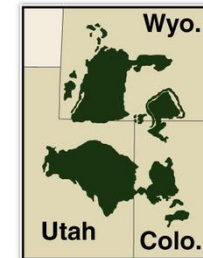
SHALE OIL & -GAS:

an option for EU to diversify away from Russia, but are there enough LNG ships?



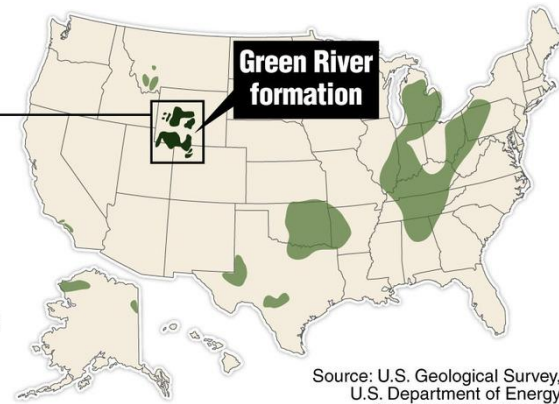
Oil shale resources

The U.S. holds more than half of the world's oil shale resources, but extracting the oil requires huge amounts of energy.



Major U.S. oil shale deposits

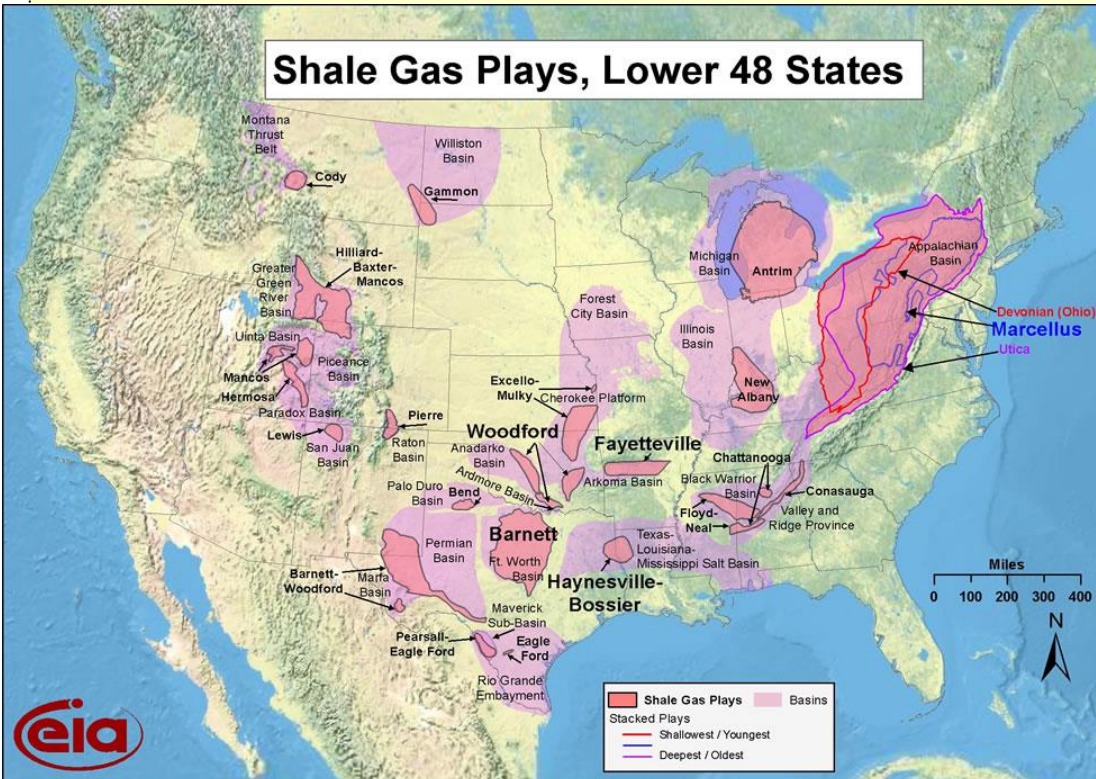
- Richest, most concentrated
- Less concentrated



Green River formation

- 16,000 sq. mi. (41,400 sq. km)
- Largest known deposits of oil shale
- Estimated to contain 1.5-1.8 trillion barrels of oil

Shale Gas Plays, Lower 48 States



US CHALLENGES: DOMESTIC

ENERGY TRANSITION:

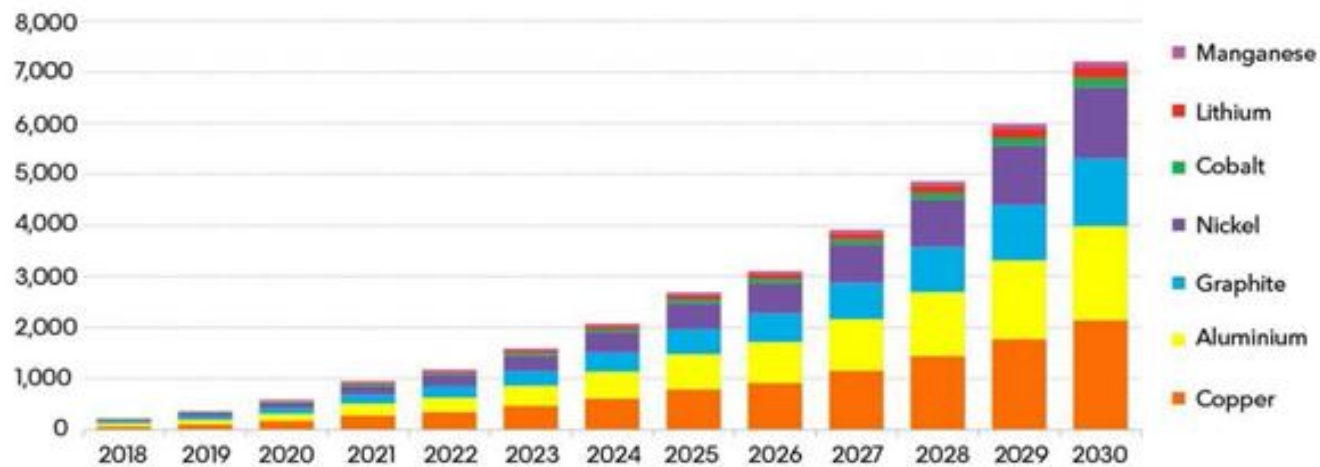
Potential competition US – EU?



Text UNITED to 30330
BUILD BACK BETTER

Metals and materials demand from lithium-ion battery packs in passenger EVs

Thousand metric tons



Source: Electric Vehicle Outlook 2018, Bloomberg New Energy Finance. Note: Copper includes copper current collectors and pack wiring. Aluminium includes aluminium current collectors, cell and pack materials and aluminium in cathode active materials.

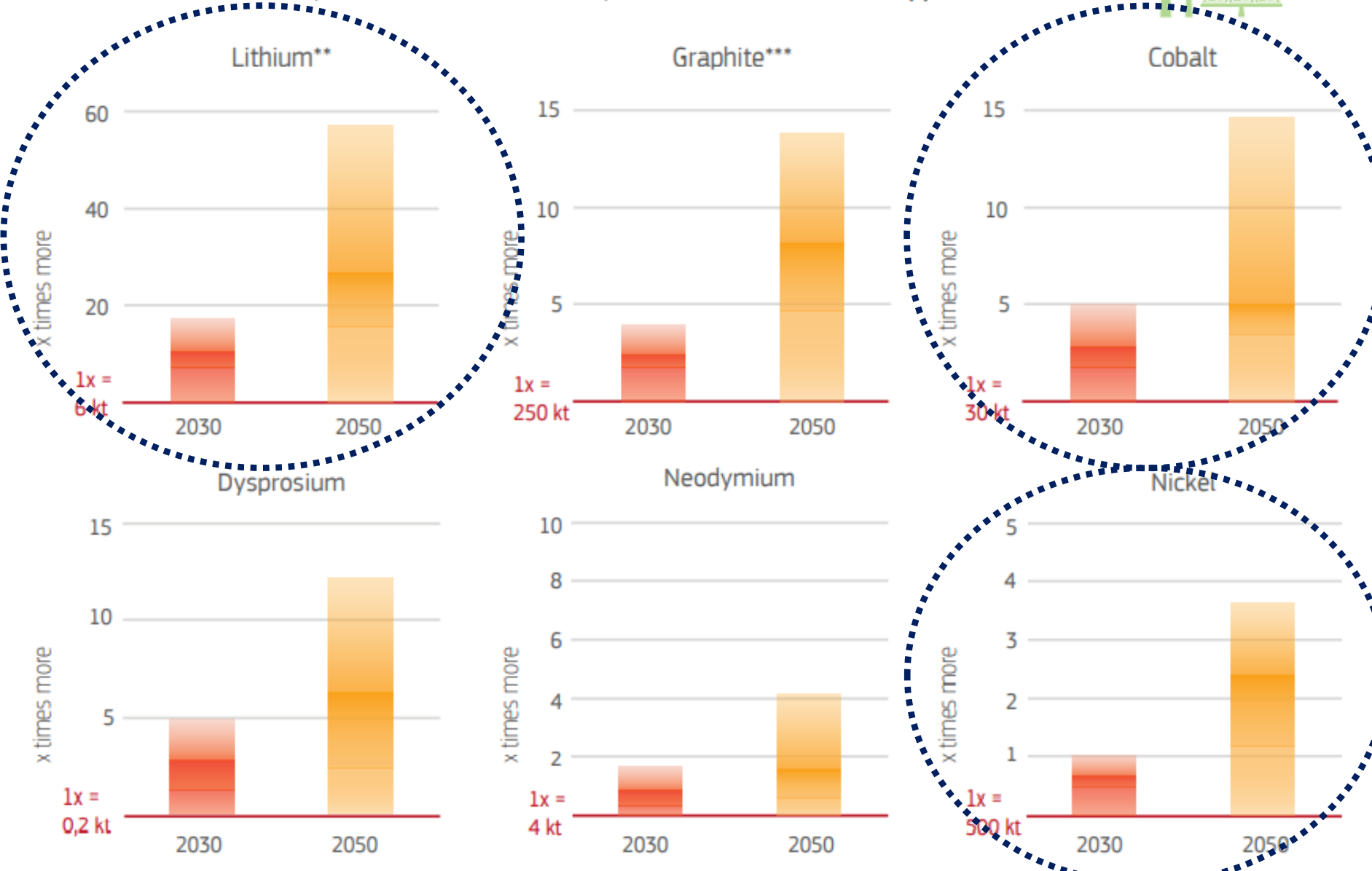




**Economic transformation
requires more attention for
basic commodities;
nickel, cobalt,
copper, silver,
Rare earth materials**

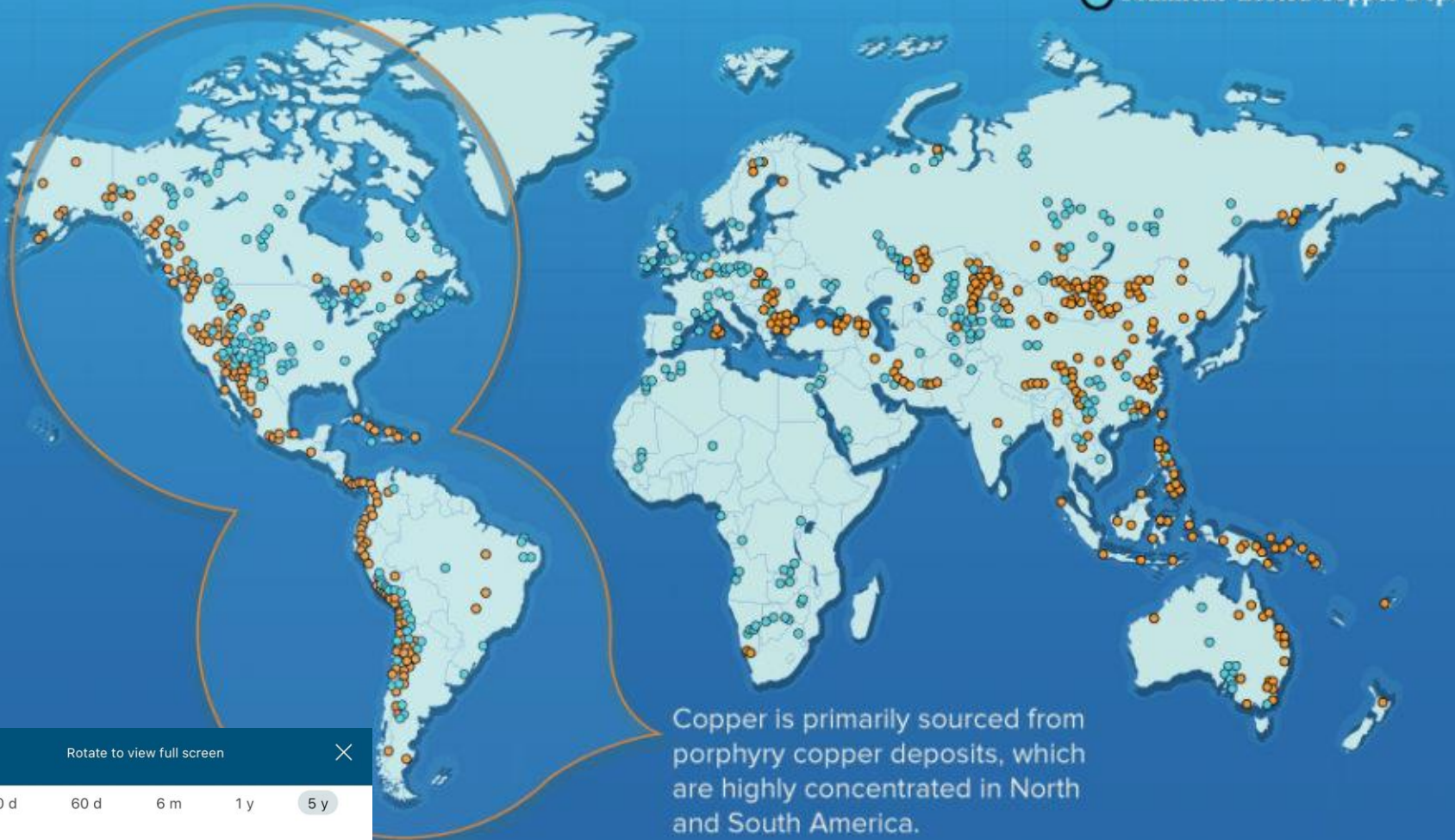
Figure 1. Combined critical raw materials use in different technologies in the EU in 2030 and 2050

Additional material consumption batteries, fuel cells, wind turbines and photovoltaics in **renewables and e-mobility only** in 2030/2050 compared to current EU consumption* of the material in **all applications**



COPPER DEPOSITS AROUND THE WORLD

- Porphyry Copper Deposits
- Sediment-hosted Copper Deposits



Copper is primarily sourced from porphyry copper deposits, which are highly concentrated in North and South America.



COPPER



15-8993-1

Nickel Rotate to view full screen X

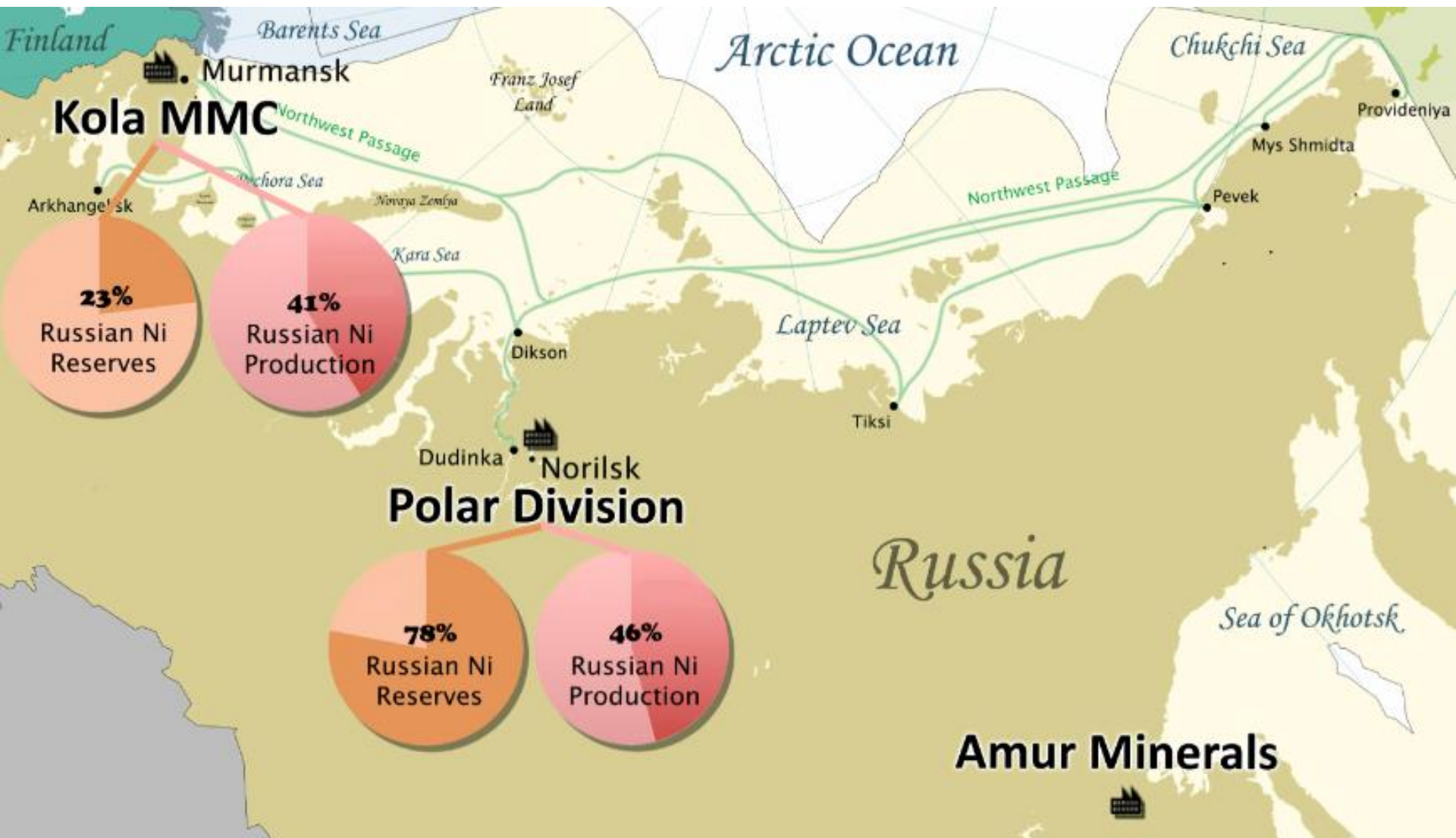
24 h 30 d 60 d 6 m 1 y 5 y



- Nickel sulphide deposit
(Global resources of nickel metal)
- > 10 000 000 t
 - 1 000 000–10 000 000 t
 - < 1 000 000 t
 - Associated platinum-group element deposits
 - △ Nickel laterite deposit

NICKEL

Nickel production Russia





Sustainable mining efforts in Canada:

FPX Nickel looks to achieve production from Baptiste project with lowest carbon footprint in nickel industry

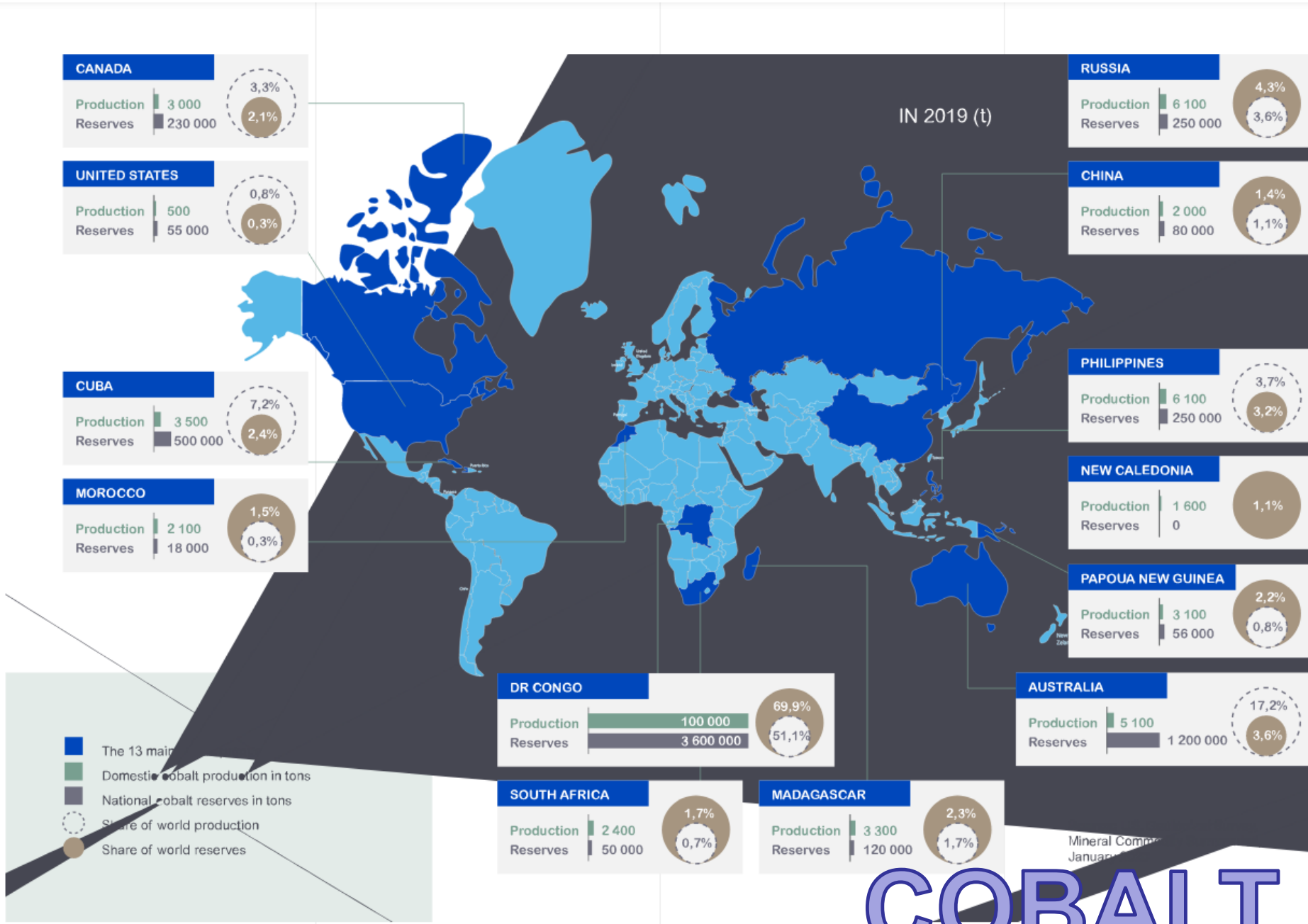
Posted by Paul Moore on 12th January 2021



Strategic Partnership EU-Canada?

FPX Nickel Corp has highlighted the potential for its Baptiste project in central British Columbia to produce refined nickel with a significantly lower carbon footprint than other sources of production in the global nickel industry. These findings are based on the project's recent Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA), which outlined the development of a conventional processing facility powered by low-carbon hydro-electric power for the production of a refined, high-grade (63% nickel) product capable of bypassing smelting and being sold directly to end users.

IN 2019 (t)

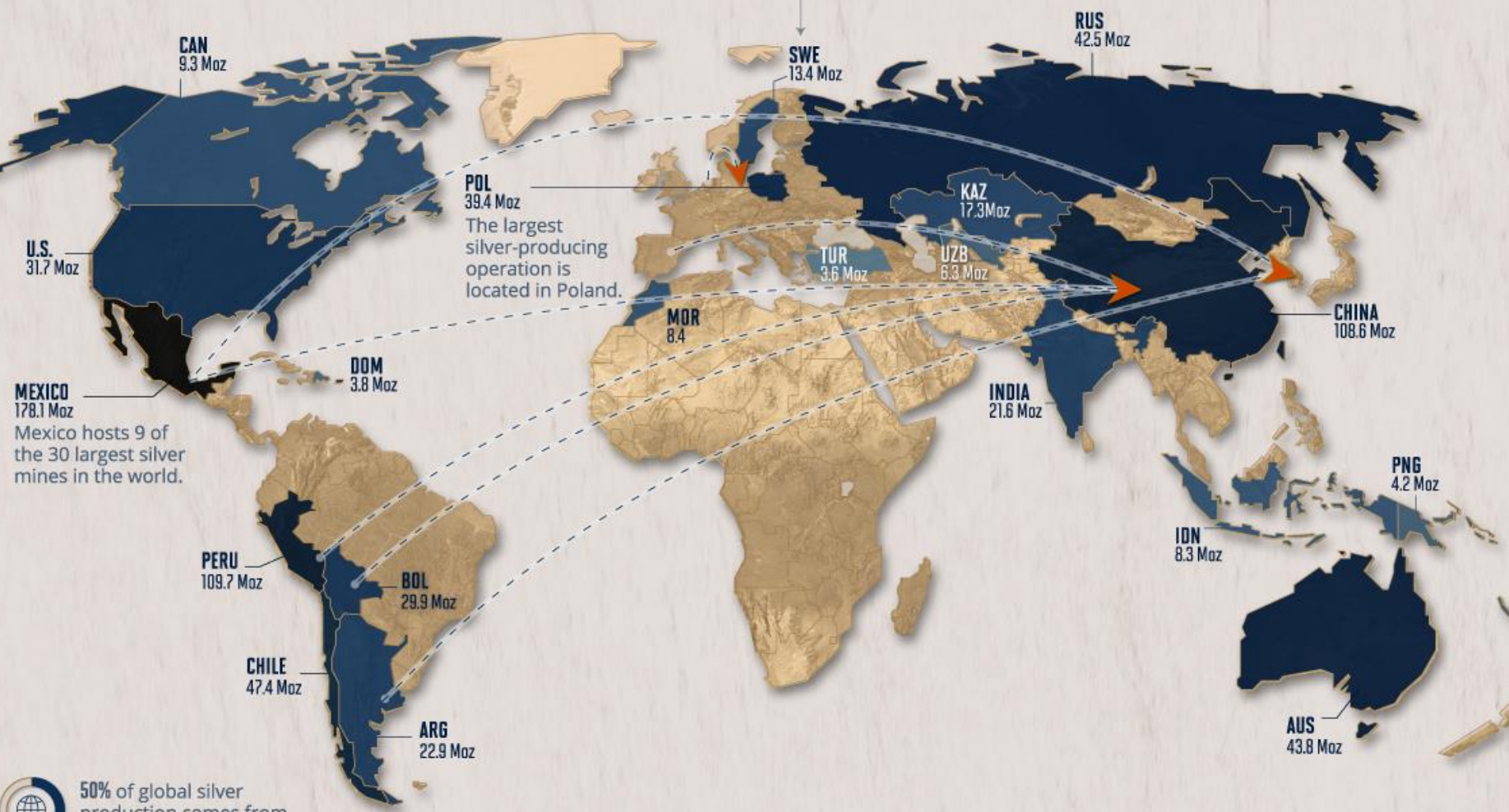


COBALT

Mineral Commodity
January 2020

Major trade flows of silver ores and concentrates (2019)

Origin ———> Destination



Source: World Silver Survey, 2021, Resourcetrade.earth

Silver's supply chain spans all four hemispheres.

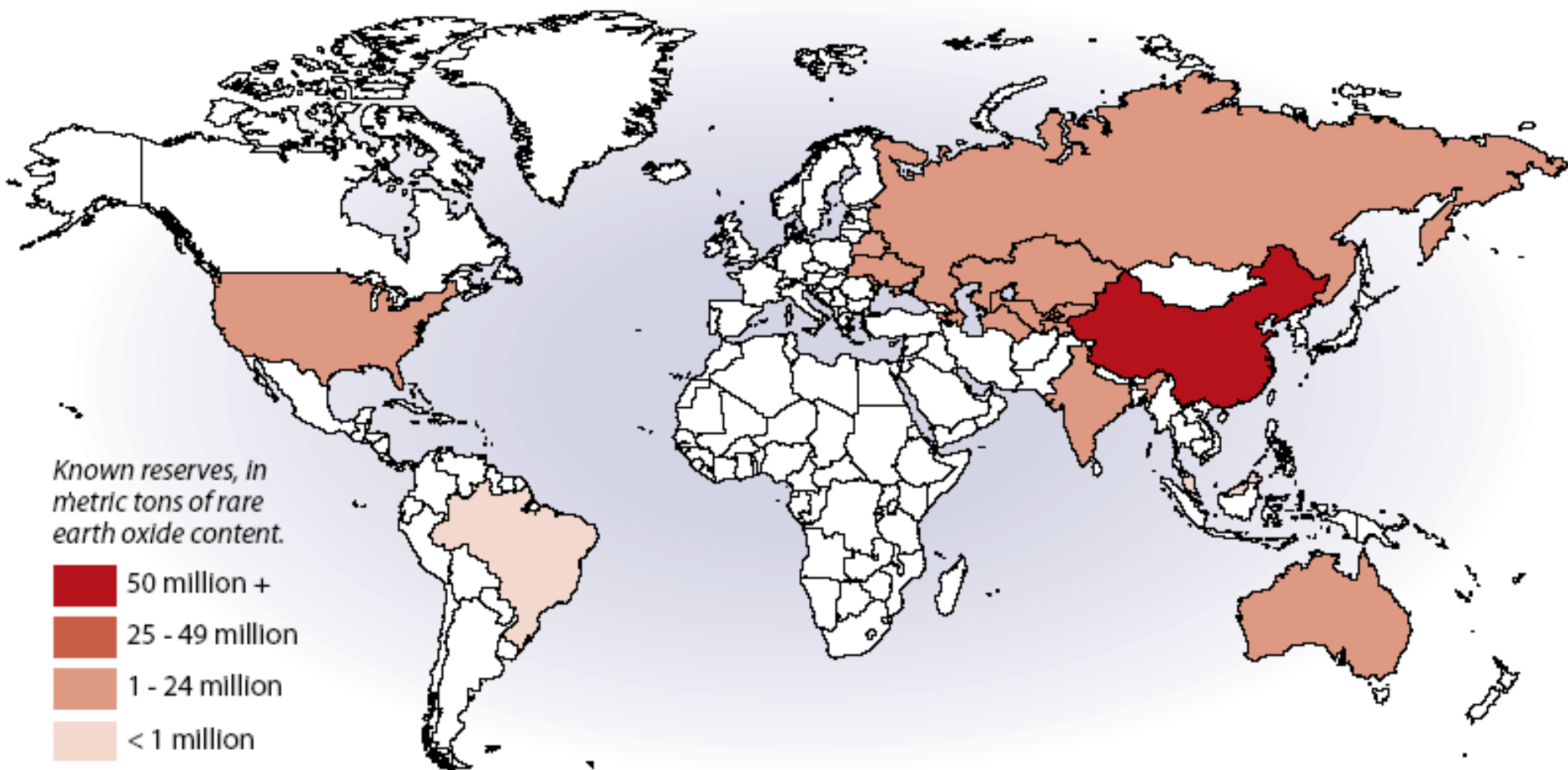
SILVER



Map of silver-producing countries: The map above shows the top ten silver-producing countries in the world for calendar year 2013. Data from the USGS Mineral Commodity Summary.

SILVER

KNOWN RESERVES OF RARE EARTH MINERALS



Source: USGS Mineral Commodity Summary 2011

Known reserves worldwide totaled 110 million metric tons as of January 2011. The Commonwealth of Independent States combined hold 19 million metric tons. Additionally, other countries hold a combined 22 million in known reserves.

RARE EARTHS

IMPORT SOURCES OF RARE EARTH MINERALS



Source: USGS Mineral Commodity Summary 2011

Other countries produced 2 percent of supplies to the United States.

RARE EARTHS

ELECTRIC CARS, BATTERIES AND LITHIUM SUPPLIES: GEOPOLITICS!

The World's Lithium Supply

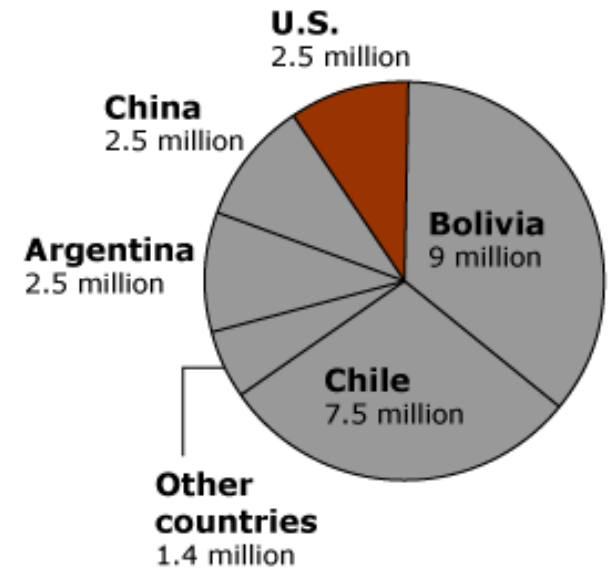
- Major producers of lithium
- Major producers of lithium ore concentrates
- Countries where new lithium claims have been leased or staked



SOURCE: U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
GRAPHIC CREDIT: SOLAR HOME & BUSINESS JOURNAL

Identified Lithium Resources

In metric tons, out of a total of 25.5 million metric tons of world resources currently identified. Recent discoveries in Afghanistan have not been detailed.



SOURCE: U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
GRAPHIC CREDIT: SOLAR HOME & BUSINESS JOURNAL

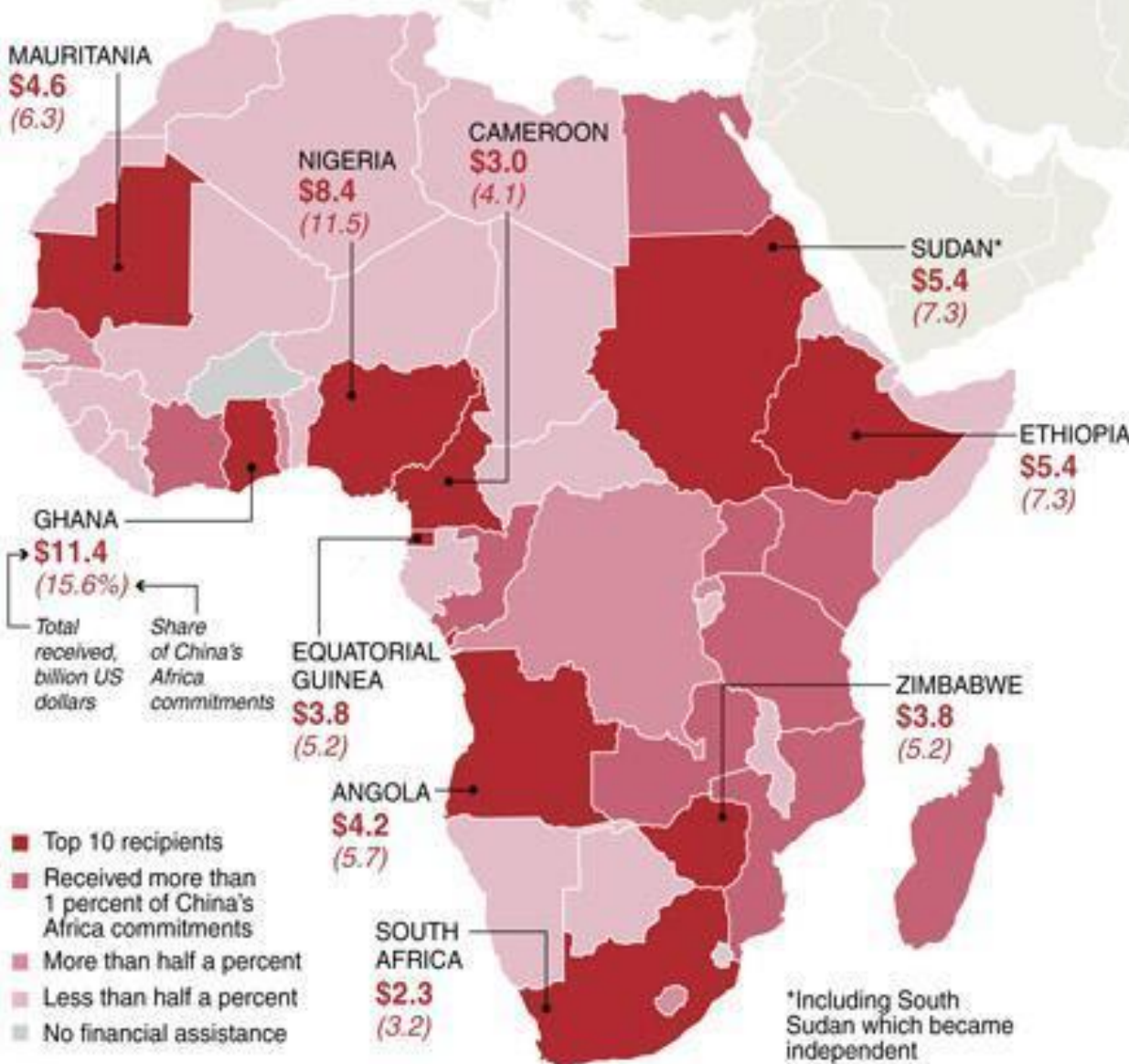
LITHIUM

China assistance to Africa

During the last decade, China has been investing heavily in African natural resources, developing mines, oil wells and running related construction companies

Top recipients of Chinese finance to Africa 2000-2011

Survey of media reports on 1,673 Chinese-backed projects



Billion-dollar projects

Ghana, 2010

Concessionary loan
\$5.49 billion

Nigeria, 2006

Infrastructure in exchange for preferential oil right bidding
5.38

Mauritania, 2006

Oil exploration, sewage systems, iron mine, road
4.04

Ghana, 2009

Loan for oil and road projects
3.0

Equatorial Guinea, 2006

Oil-backed loan
2.69

Ethiopia, 2009

Loan for dam construction
2.25

South Africa, 2011

Financial cooperation agreement
2.25

Angola, 2004

National Rehabilitation Project
1.51

Madagascar, 2008

Hydroelectric construction
1.42

Sudan, 2007

Railway construction
1.38

Angola, 2009

Agriculture development
1.20

Zimbabwe, 2004

Powerplant construction
1.01

*Including South Sudan which became independent in July 2011



umicore

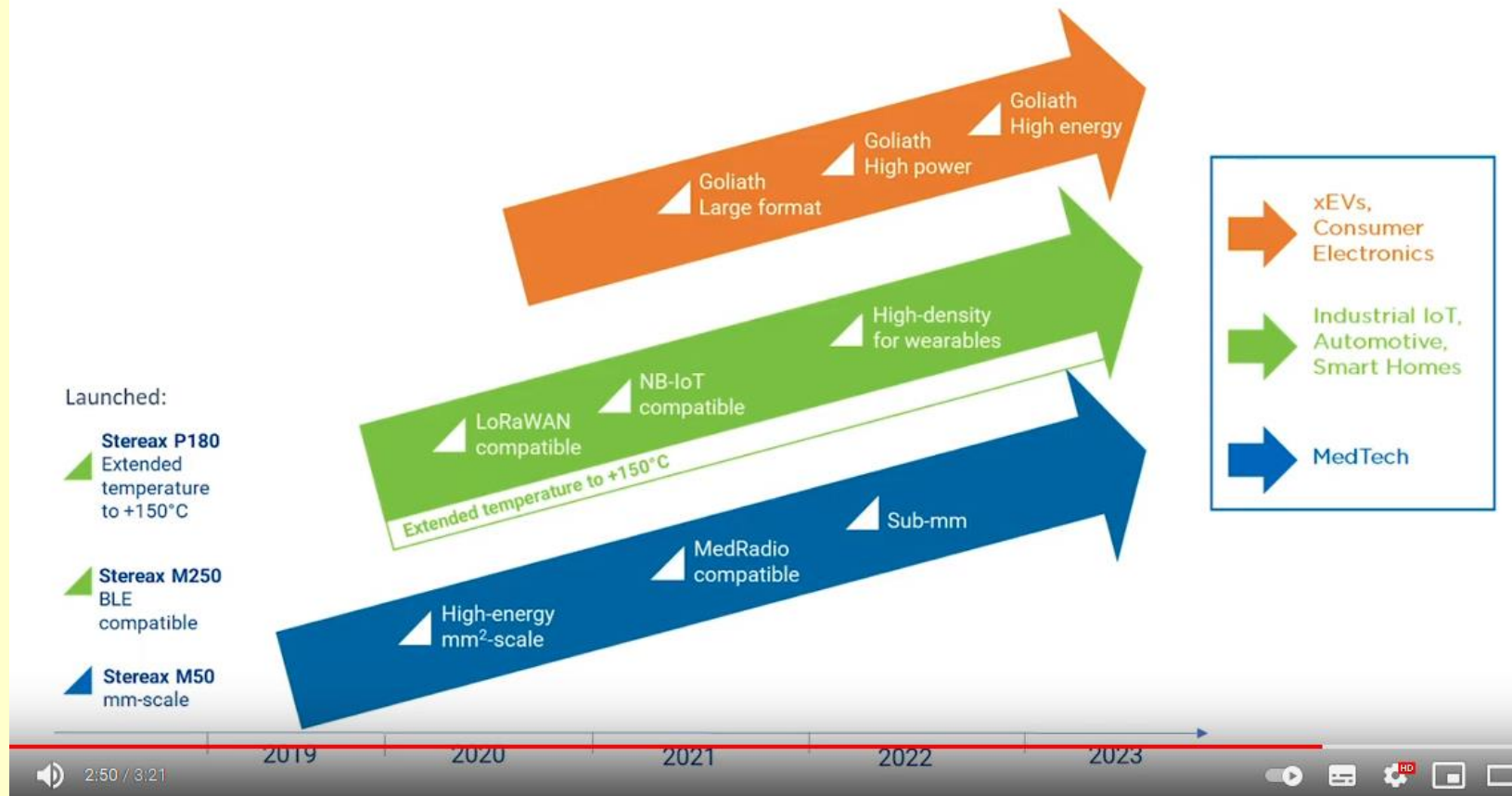
materials for a better life

Umicore at a glance

Co Cobalt	Ni Nickel	Cu Copper	Zn Zinc	Ga Gallium	Ge Germanium				
As Arsenic	Se Selenium	S Sulfur	Ru Ruthenium	Rh Rhodium	Pd Palladium	Ag Silver	In Indium	Sn Tin	Sb Antimony
Te Tellurium	Ir Iridium	Pt Platinum	Au Gold	Pb Lead	Bi Bismuth	La Lanthanum	Ce Cerium	Pr Praseodymium	Nd Neodymium

Example UK: ilika solid state batteries

Ilika Solid State Battery Road Map



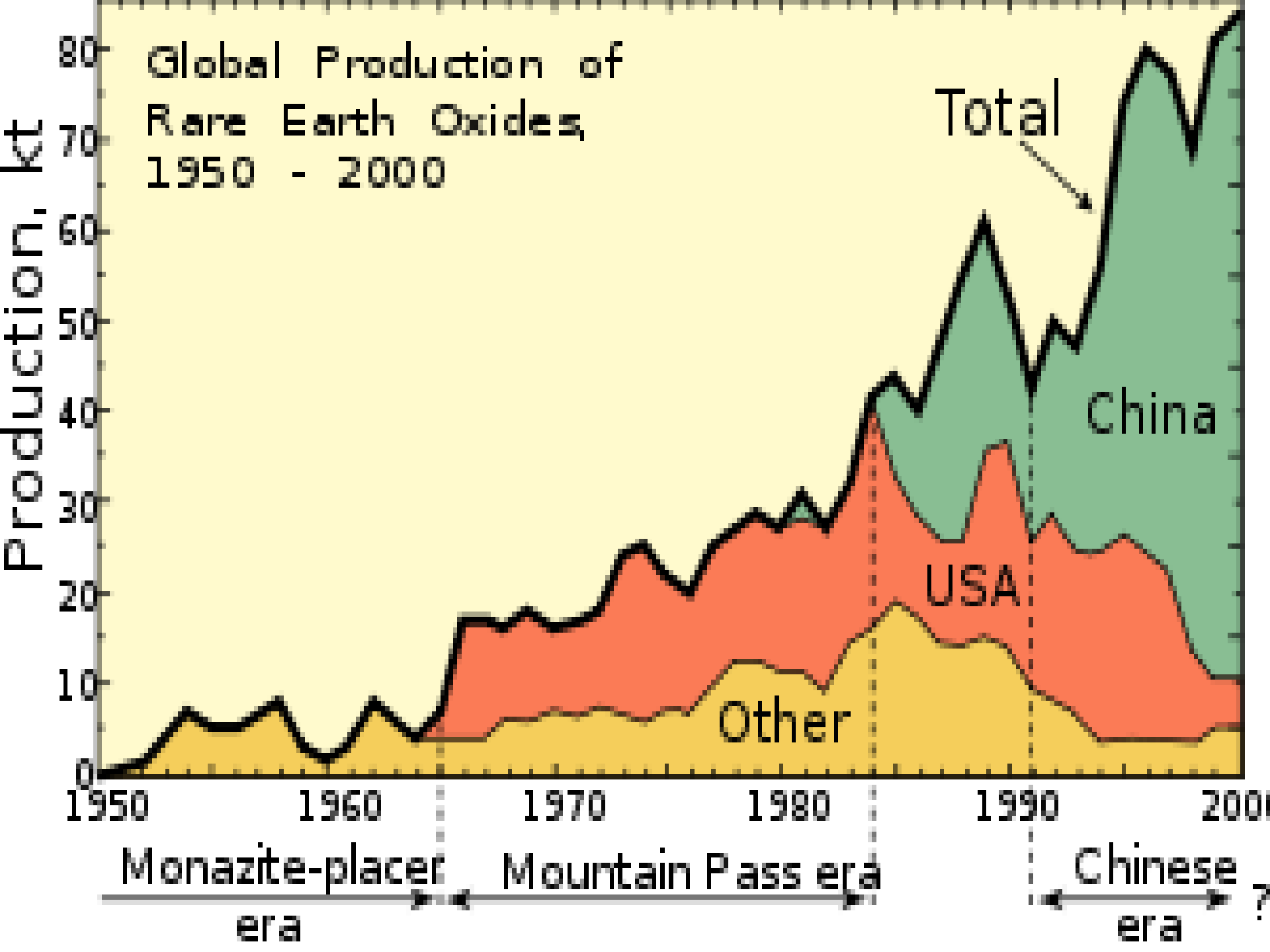
Example Canada: Electra Battery RG



Cobalt, ON

Tesla plant

- Honda Alliston plant
- GMC Oshawa plant
- Chrysler Brampton plant
- Ford Oakville plant
- Toyota Cambridge plant
- GMC Ingersoll plant
- Chrysler Oakville plant
- Ford plant
- GMC plant





Hot Rocks

Prices for select rare-earth elements at the end of last year and earlier this week.

*Average annual price in China for a standard 99% purity of each element.

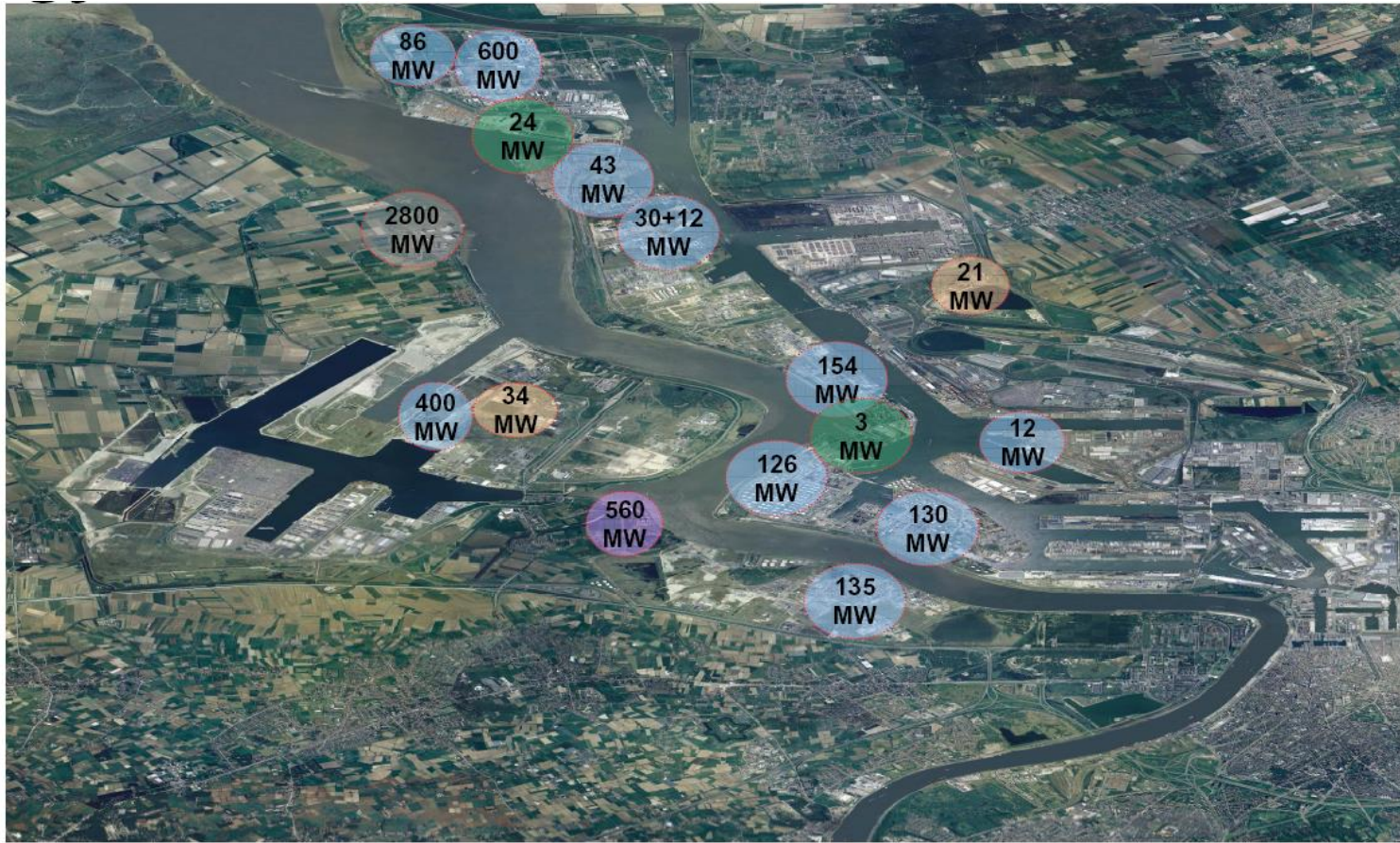


Sources: Lynas; Agence France-Presse/Getty Images (photo)



As China's own consumption of rare earths grows, and the world remains dependent, will China not advance its own interests?

HARBOURS AS ENERGY HUBS IN ENERGY TRANSITION



All data in MW electrical output



**Port of
Antwerp**

Centralised units

Nuclear

Fuel

Decentralised units

Gas

Waste

Wind

+PV

CHP or STAG

Active EU energy diversification strategies will be needed

HARBOURS AS KEY PLACES FOR INNOVATION



Port of Valencia:
using hydrogen technologies to reduce the
environmental impact of its terminal machinery operations

HARBOURS AS NODES IN SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



HARBOURS AND PORT SECURITY IN A COMPLEX WORLD

- Physical security
- Cyber protection
- Critical infrastructure
- Screening foreign direct investment



Geopolitics
becomes more
central

HARBOURS AND SANCTIONS IN A WORLD OF STRUGGLE



Challenges in a complex geopolitical environment



HARBOURS:

- Long term planning
- Regulatory stability
- Keep options open
- Flexibility

POLICY-MAKERS:

- Reaction to changes
- Regulatory adaptation
- Making policy choices
- Decision-making slow

Energy transition in an age of geopolitical change. Ports as energy hubs of the future.

David Criekemans

3.

**WHAT FORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES OF GLOBAL
ENERGY TRANSITION ON OIL AND GAS
PRODUCERS?**

+

IMPACT ON REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY

WHAT FORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES OF GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS? (1)

- **Crises in the business models of traditional oil producers such as in the Middle East, which could produce domestic societal instability.**
- **Countries like Saudi Arabia are already trying to diversify their respective business models.**
- **Decarbonization may put the social contract in particular oil regimes under pressure.**

WHAT FORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES OF GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS? (2)

- **Several geopolitical theatres around Europe may reconfigure as a result of decarbonisation and energy transition.**
- **As a consequence, some such as Leonard et al., propose to help neighbouring oil and gas-exporting countries manage the repercussions of the European Green Deal. In their opinion, the EU should engage with these countries in order to encourage their economic diversification, including into renewable energy and green hydrogen that could in the future be exported to Europe.**



WHAT FORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES OF GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS? (3)

- **Natural gas will grow in relative importance as a ‘bridge fuel’ towards a renewable energy future.**
- **On the demand side, a growing number of countries are hence opting for an increased share of natural gas in their national energy mixes.**
- **Important changes are also taking place on the supply side. Thanks to innovative exploration techniques, novel supplies of natural gas are being discovered. This is prompting new shifts in geopolitical relations, potentially weakening Russia’s position because of added supply and competition.**

WHAT FORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES OF GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS? (4)

- **Natural gas will grow in relative importance as a ‘bridge fuel’ towards a renewable energy future.**
- **On the demand side, a growing number of countries are hence opting for an increased share of natural gas in their national energy mixes.**
- **Important changes are also taking place on the supply side. Thanks to innovative exploration techniques, novel supplies of natural gas are being discovered. This is prompting new shifts in geopolitical relations, potentially weakening Russia’s position because of added supply and competition.**

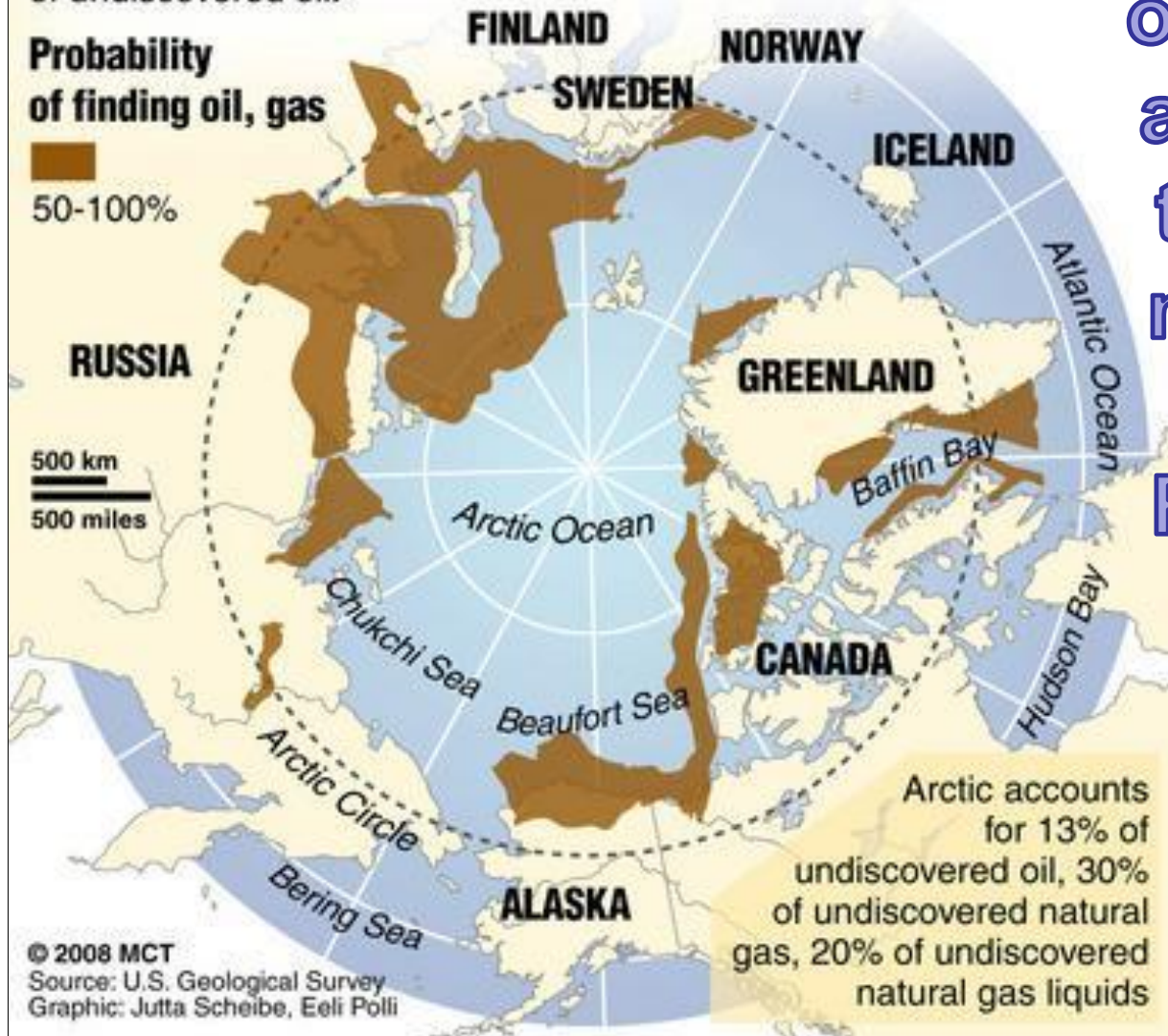
Oil and gas in the Arctic

Area north of the Arctic Circle has an estimated 90 billion barrels of undiscovered oil.

Probability of finding oil, gas



50-100%

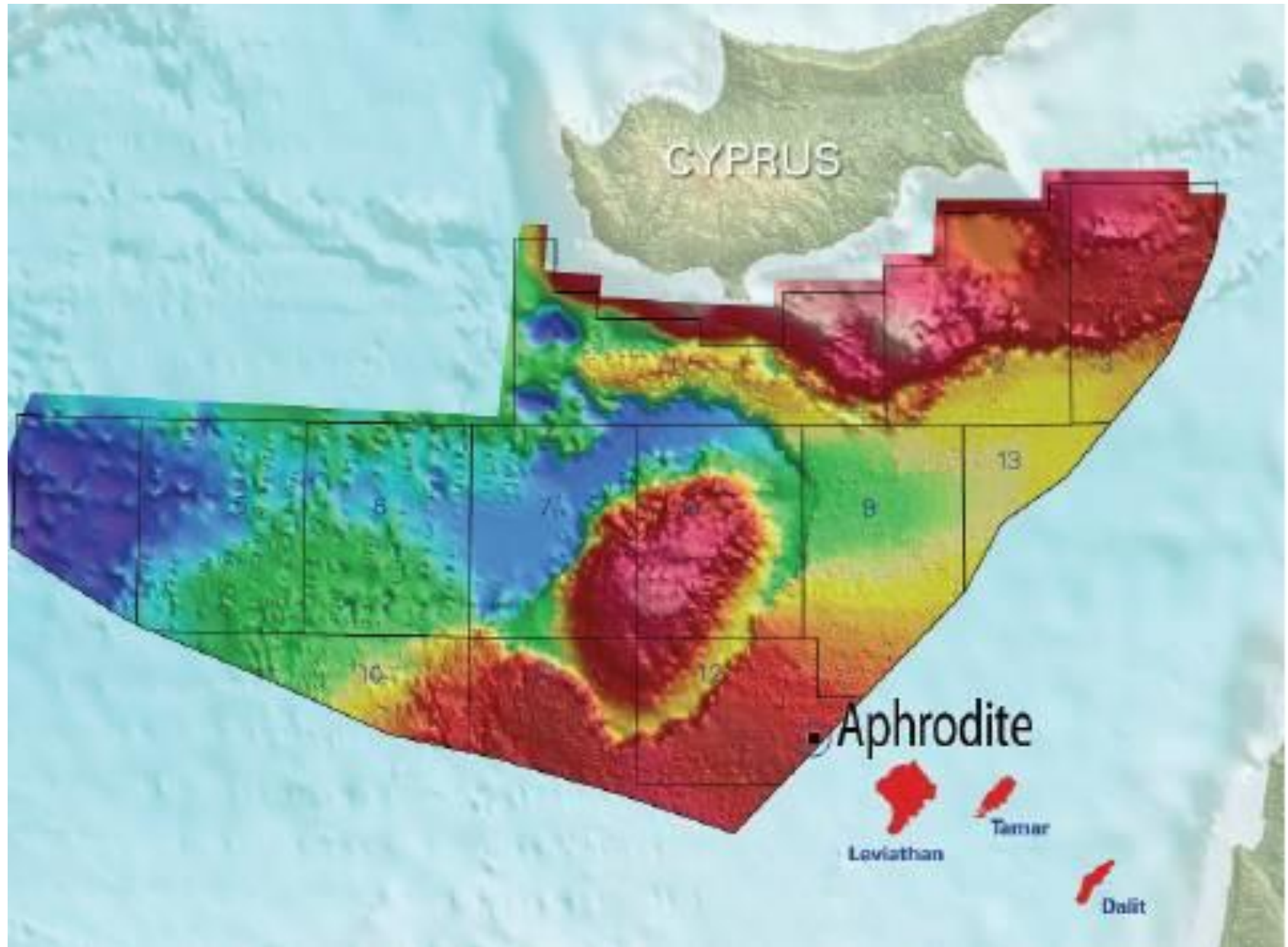


© 2008 MCT
Source: U.S. Geological Survey
Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, Eeli Polli

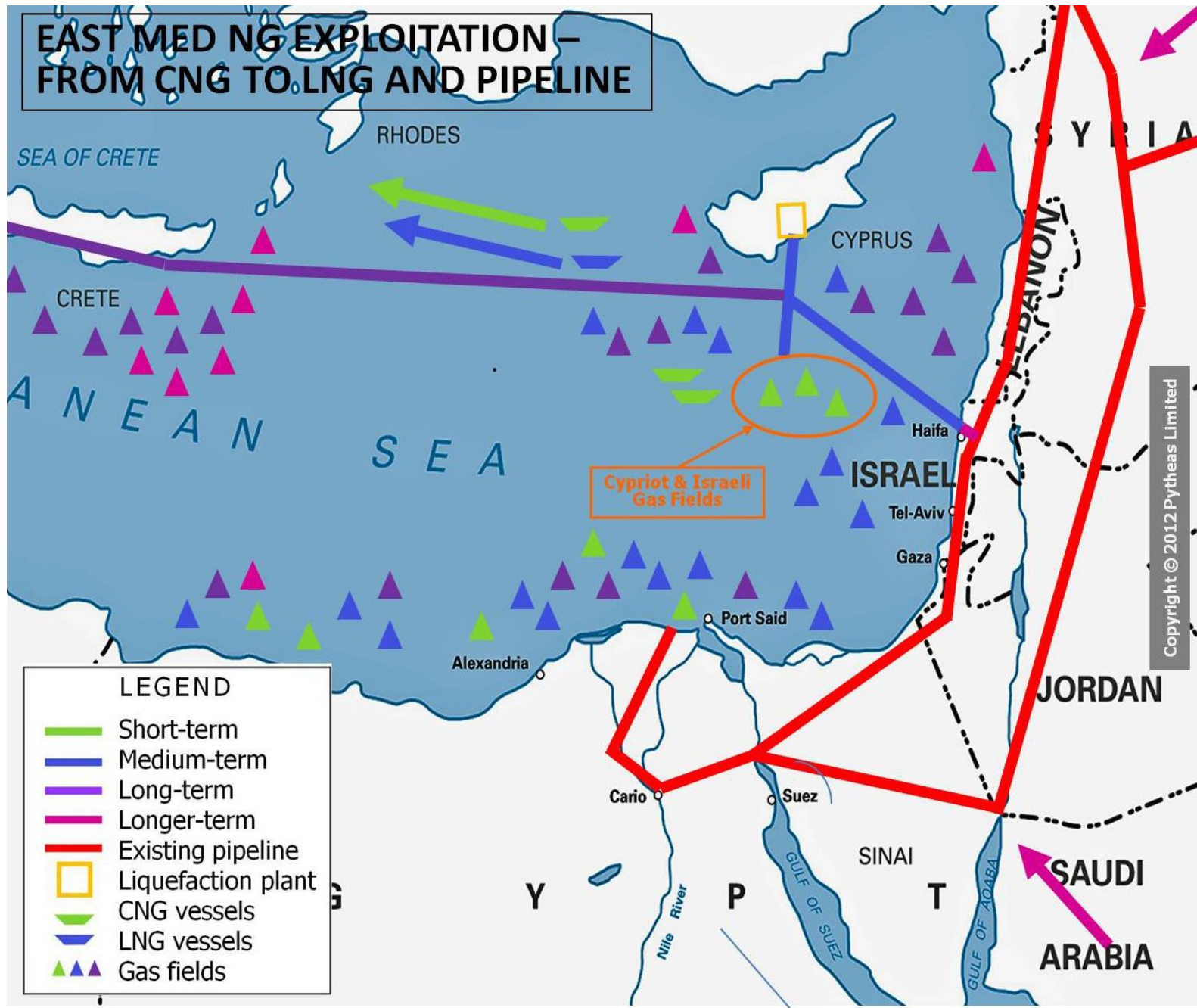
The thawing of the North Pole also is expected to open up new maritime routes to Asia along Russian shores

North Eastern Passage

Natural gas: bridge fuel & the East-Med







Israël, Leviathan, Gazprom & LNG



Europe's Gas Grid: more LNG terminals needed?

pipelines/LNG receiving terminals

	existing	
	planned or under construction	



SOURCE:
Mark H. Hayes & David G. Victor - Stanford University

Geopolitics of Natural Gas
A joint study from Stanford PESD & the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy of Rice University

Gas Transmission Europe (2003)

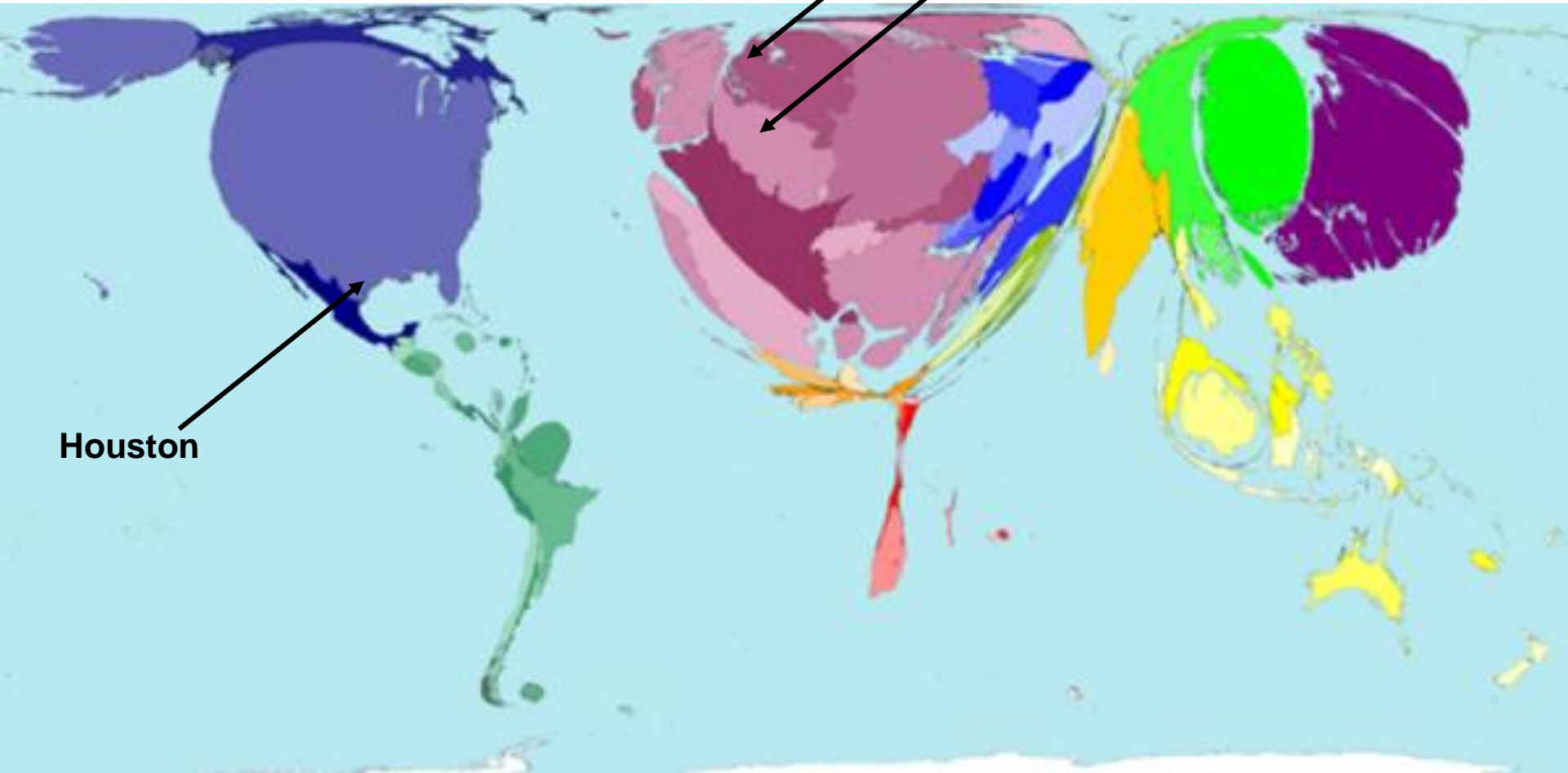
WHAT FORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES OF GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS? (5)

- Innovative exploration techniques have uncovered several substantial natural gas fields off the coast of Israel, Cyprus, and Egypt. There are signs of more to come. This has led to geopolitical tensions between Turkey and Greece over their competing claims to natural gas deposits in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- Similarly, often forgotten is that we will completely have to rethink the petro-based chemical industry towards a biobased industry. We may thus currently underestimate the importance of (sustainable) biomass.

GLOBAL OIL TRADE: world map adjusted

harbours of Rotterdam and Antwerp

Houston



SOURCE : http://www.danablankenhorn.com/images/world_fuel_imports_2002_worldmapper.png

Antwerp (BE):

Europe's
Largest
Petrochemical
Cluster

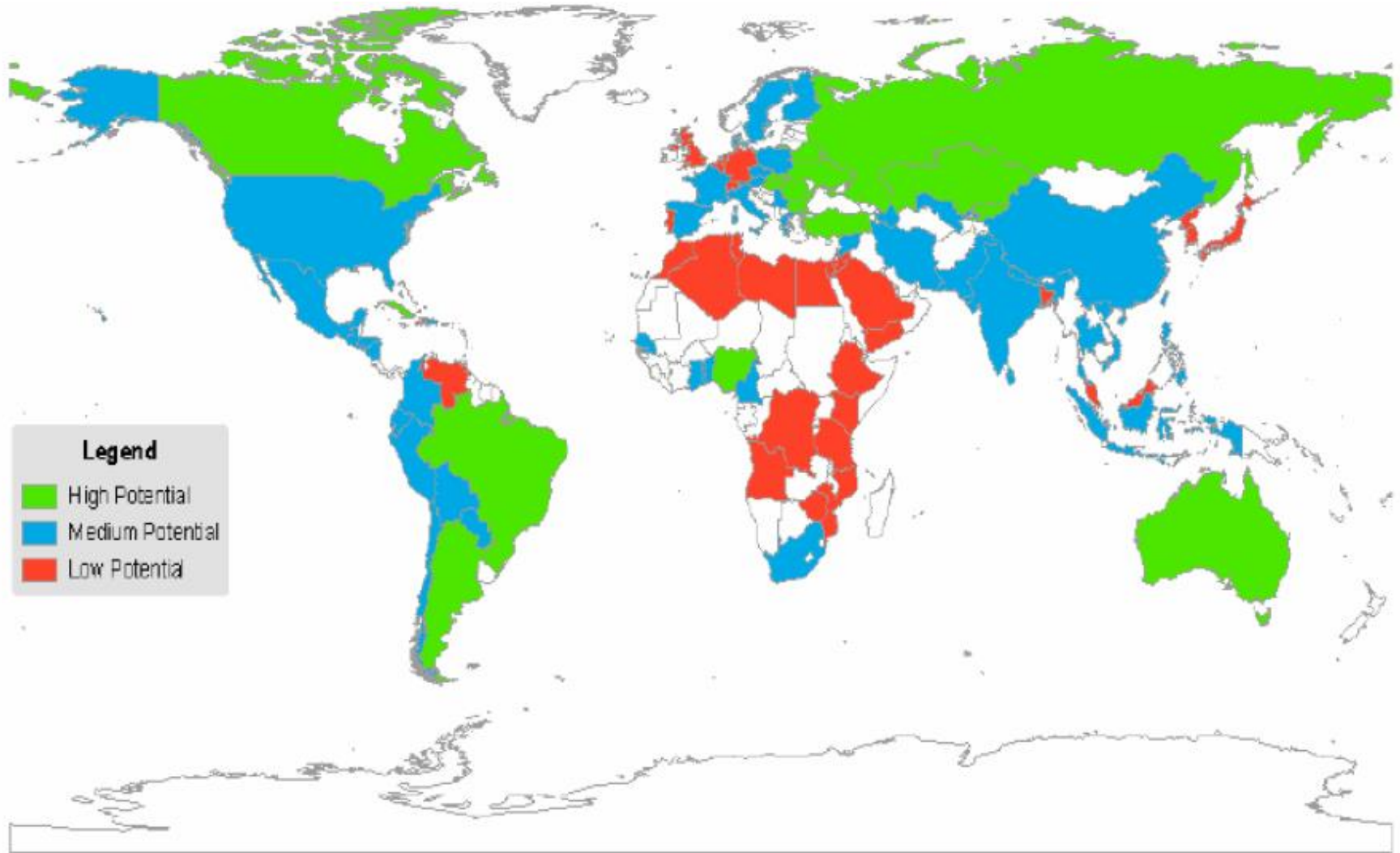


Houston (USA):

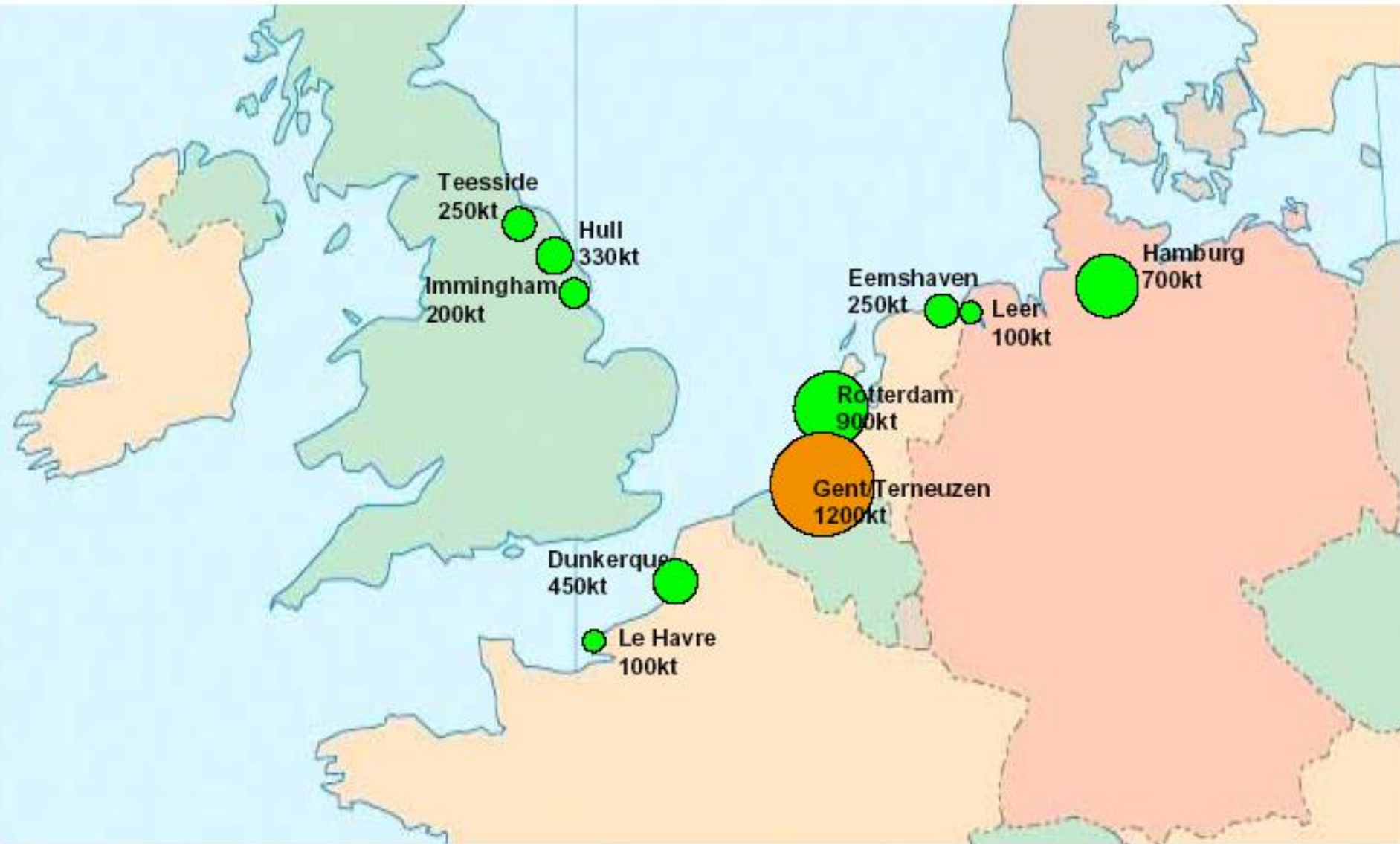
World's
Largest
Petrochemical
Cluster

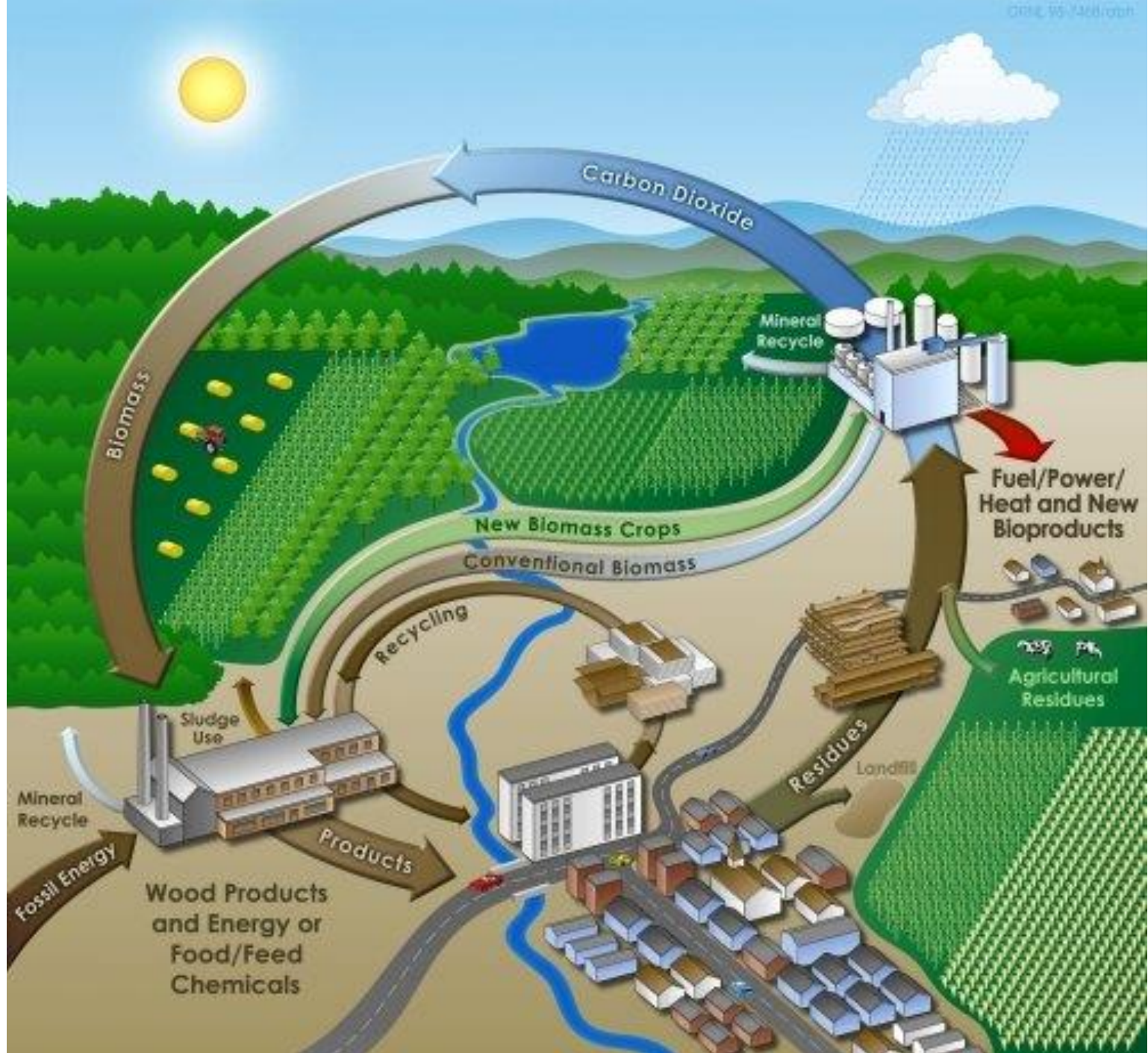
Geopolitics of Renewable Energy

BIOFUELS AND ITS (GEOPOLITICAL) POTENTIAL



BIOFUEL CLUSTERS IN EUROPE





Energy transition in an age of geopolitical change. Ports as energy hubs of the future.

David Criekemans

4.

TOWARDS A RE-GLOBALISATION

FROM THE BOTTOM-UP?

+

EXISTING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

TOWARDS A RE-GLOBALISATION FROM THE BOTTOM-UP? (1)

- **Cf. debate on “strategic autonomy”**: in a bottom-up globalisation, the production of essential goods would no longer be carried out exclusively on the basis of cost criteria. Other, more qualitative elements would also be taken into account. A critical materials strategy= needed.
- **Sustainability criteria would become more central, and policymakers would aim to strengthen multiplier effects and innovation in their own economies. This, in turn, can also improve the competitive position of our companies.**
- **National security also becomes more central in the design of production and distribution chains, without taking away the benefits of economic globalisation.**

TOWARDS A RE-GLOBALISATION FROM THE BOTTOM-UP? (2)

- In time, this could also lead to a political reevaluation of local societies. These are now often unable to compete with global production and distribution chains that are primarily organised around marginal costs and economies of scale, resulting in the passing on of ecological costs. Taxation may offer a counterbalance here.**
- Renewables can “empower” local populations, but at the same time there are forces at work that may limit the potential of “power to the people”. The political question remains; who governs and controls the much needed (power) networks in decentralized renewable energy?**

TOWARDS A RE-GLOBALISATION FROM THE BOTTOM-UP? (3)

- **Globalisation from the bottom up makes security in its various dimensions and manifestations much more central. In addition, supply chains may ‘regionalize’ anew**
- **In the form of health to avoid a new pandemic through more proactive multilateral cooperation, but also by making societies more resilient in dealing with other similar (climate) crises that threaten human existence.**
- **To achieve more sustainable globalisation economically and ecologically.**
- **And to achieve socially and societally less inequality within and between countries, and to avert the ongoing race to the bottom.**

TOWARDS A RE-GLOBALISATION FROM THE BOTTOM-UP? (4)

- The neoliberal model, for lack of a better word, cannot or did not provide fundamental answers in times of crisis. Just as the banks had to be rescued very quickly by the nation states during the 2008 banking crisis, so too will only the states and not the market intervene at an unprecedented rate. One of the political consequences is that the relationship between the state and the market may have to be rethought.
- This is also true in the energy domain.
- The already existing geopolitical trends will probably be accelerated; the further *de-Westernisation of the global order* will also raise questions about the place of European countries in this new world full of global risks.

EXISTING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS (5)

- More investments are needed to strengthen both regional and global institutions and frameworks of cooperation, so as to create common solutions and mutual trust.**
- Decarbonization and the energy transition means much more than adapting the EU's energy mix to meet climate challenges. It requires a fundamental rethinking of Europe's geo-economic needs and developing a geopolitical strategy for the longer term. It involves essentially changing our energy dependencies. It entails systematic and coordinated efforts to jointly develop renewable energy technologies. It is a process which needs to be structured and consolidated through a standardization of renewable technologies.**

CONCLUSION

Whilst the demise of the 'old energy regime' will create geopolitical fallout, the rise of a new energy regime will need to be guided into a more favourable configuration for Europe's immediate geo-economic needs and longer-term geopolitical interests.

European harbours can and will play an important role in these processes.

GEOPOLITICS AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Grounding World Politics Anew

Edited by
David Criekemans



**Geopolitics and
International Relations**

**Grounding World Politics
Anew**

Series:

**Geopolitics and
International Relations,
Volume: 1**

**Volume Editor: David
Criekemans**

<https://brill.com/view/title/57602>