

Petrol Addiction to Petro-Politics: An Analytical Analysis

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Abstract: Oil rich nations are wealthy and it has become curse for the world. Fuel Producing Countries are generally Islam oriented and wealth with charities promoting weapon and other terror activities to nurture religion rigidity. To counter this tendency, world must adopt other form of energies. It will against to same environment too. Main focus of this research paper is to identify the impact of wealth on world generated by oil rich nations. Therefore, statistical review has been adopted as a methodology. To understand religious aspects of Islam, analytic approach has also been used.

Key Words: Addiction, global, global warming, Islam, oil revenue, renewable energy.

1. INTRODUCTION:

September 11 inadvertently brought to light a whole set of trends of our oil addiction. Our love for oil has ensured our tolerance for fundamentalistic views propagated by Saudi-Arabia. Increase in national earning is leading us back to the time the of Berlin Wall & communism. Oil prices have kept us busy in buying rather than rationalizing. Also it brought in its wake bad partnerships like Russia-Syria, or China with murderous African dictatorship in Sudan. Energy purchases are a double-edged weapon funding conservative governments which share their wealth with charities promoting conservatism and contradictorily counter them with armies funded with Government revenues. Minimising supply and making up the difference by buying as much as we can from people who hate us the most. Reduction in Petrol addiction and conversion to petrol consumption is imperative. Addiction to petrol has multi-pronged after effects. We are through invisible channels funding fundamentalism, causing excessive pollution and harming the environment. The economy is caught in dilemma with the inhabit a world with erroneous policies. On one hand? We on the other are maximising demand, rich getting richer and poverty escalating. The purpose of democracy is defeated and global warming on the rise.

2. OIL VS. GULF VS. ISLAM?

“World has 1.5 billion Muslims with only 1% residing in Saudi Arabia, which is adorned with two of the holiest Mosques in Mecca & Medina for the legitimacy?”¹ Saudis have set out to disseminate the tenets of Islam through funding (which it generated through Zakat & high oil price) to build up mosques & colleges promoting Wahabi thoughts. Censorship of Music, art, literature & intellectual life is rampant. Paranoia & fanaticism prevail, giving rise to closed & fearful minds. Anti-globalisation, anti-westernization has added fuel to the fire. “Everyone in 1 out of 4 of an average age of 25 is unemployed. Roughly 60% of a total population is not employed.”²

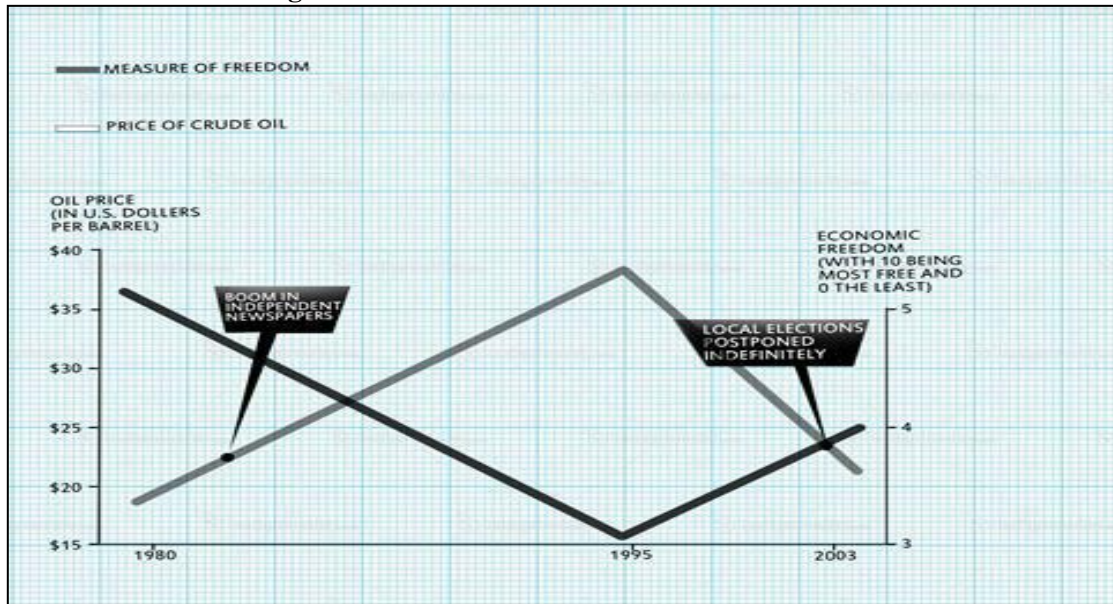
“A radical belief of the Shia and the Wahabi School of thought is going exponentially as opposed to their status 50 years ago. Ridgeway wrote “Islamicization” which is the spread of radical Shia & Wahabi beliefs as now a day is more prevalent as compared to 50 years back. When the oil prices were low as compared to today women were freer & could move around without the compulsion of a burqa or niqaab.”³ “Henry Ford’s black has imposed itself over all colours. Oil meant Saudis could change the World to clone them. Oil funded versions of Islam has diminished smiles. The body which laughed at old Arab comedians is stoned to death now. Kuwait, Qatar, UAE are joining the big brother.”³ The relationship between men & women is sensitive. Co-education is prohibited. Egypt is also following suit. Abir Sabri who used to star in Egyptian TV shows & movies is a live example. She can be seen chanting verses from Quran with her face covered. This Saudization of culture is making petro dollar contracts with artists from Morocco, Iraq and Egypt & reshaping the industry to radicalization. “An estimated \$1.4 million inventory of booze being flushed down the drains at Grand Hyatt is Saudization. Saudis are financing around 90% of film industry in these countries”⁴. Even showing an empty bed is prohibited thus making freedom of expression culpable and liable to imprisonment.

“*Three cups of tea* mention a mountain climber turned educator, who founded the Central Asia Institute & has established more than fifty schools in so many years. As compared to this many Islamist outfits have built more than 1100 mosques, schools & Islamic centres propagating only traditional ‘Islamic Education’.”⁵ In Pakistan dysfunctional education system has re-established Madarsa system, some of them existing only to propagate militancy. As Islam moved from the Mediterranean area of Beirut Istanbul etc to the desert area of crude oil sources, it became more frightened, inward looking & xenophobic. The Saudi ruling family was not worried about violent jihadists as long as

their militancy was directed abroad. But now the tables are turning. “The kingdom has retained 40,000 prayer leaders is an effort to counter militancy in Islam. Saudi Arabia & Libya are the sources of about 60% of foreign fighters who are in Iraq. Saudis are exporting their terrorist working both ways (one to get rid of them & second that they are killing (in Iraq) people who hate Saudis)?”⁶

Are petrodollars making favourable trends by bringing massive influx of wealth? (Fig. 1). Petro politics is simply fuelling terror. Many charities are working for a good cause, but other are merely financing terrorist outfits or laundering the money. *Hawala system* is embedded in the financial veins of the Arab Culture that it acts as blood. “Saudi’s oil revenue makes as hard as 90-95% of its total export or around 70-80% of state revenue. Saudi Arabia fuels finance for its *salafi* Islam, whereas Iran does it for Shiite Islam. Both of them being OPEC 1st & 2nd are largest oil producers.”⁷

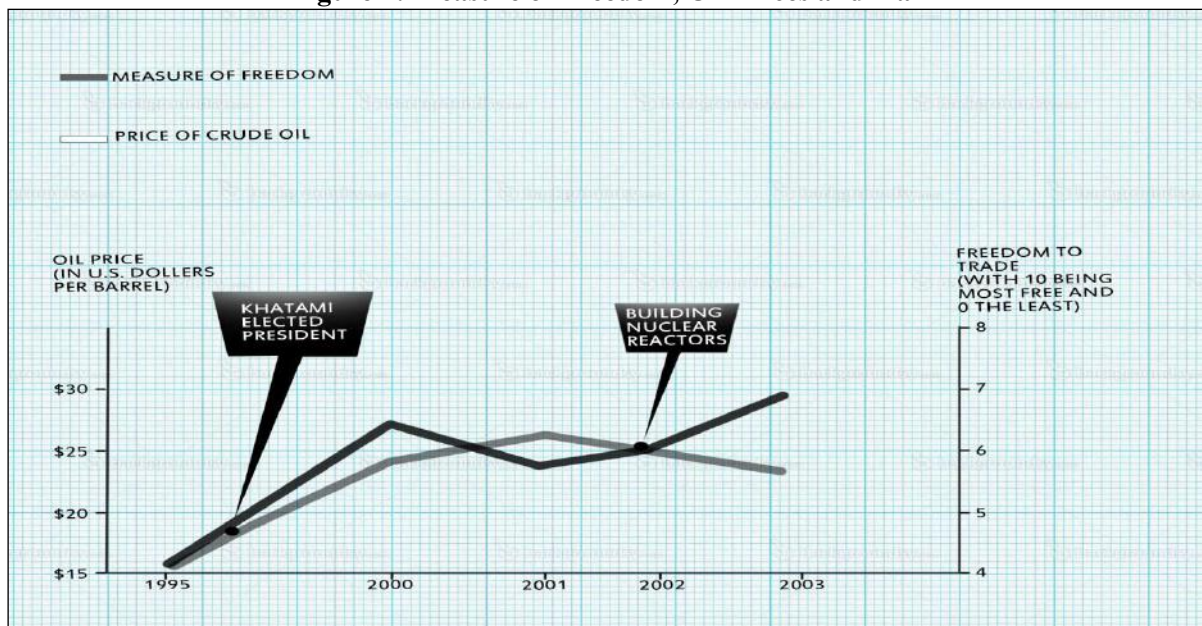
Figure 1: Oil Prices Versus Measure of Freedom



Source: Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2005 and IEA; and Fraser Institute “Economic Freedom of the World Report.”

When Hezbollah’s leader was using Lebanon for war against Israeli, he pumped money for building houses in Lebanon since they were being destroyed in war financed through Iraq. So, rockets & butter are both being manufactured through this Petro addiction. This fact is being seen under given graphs (Fig 2).

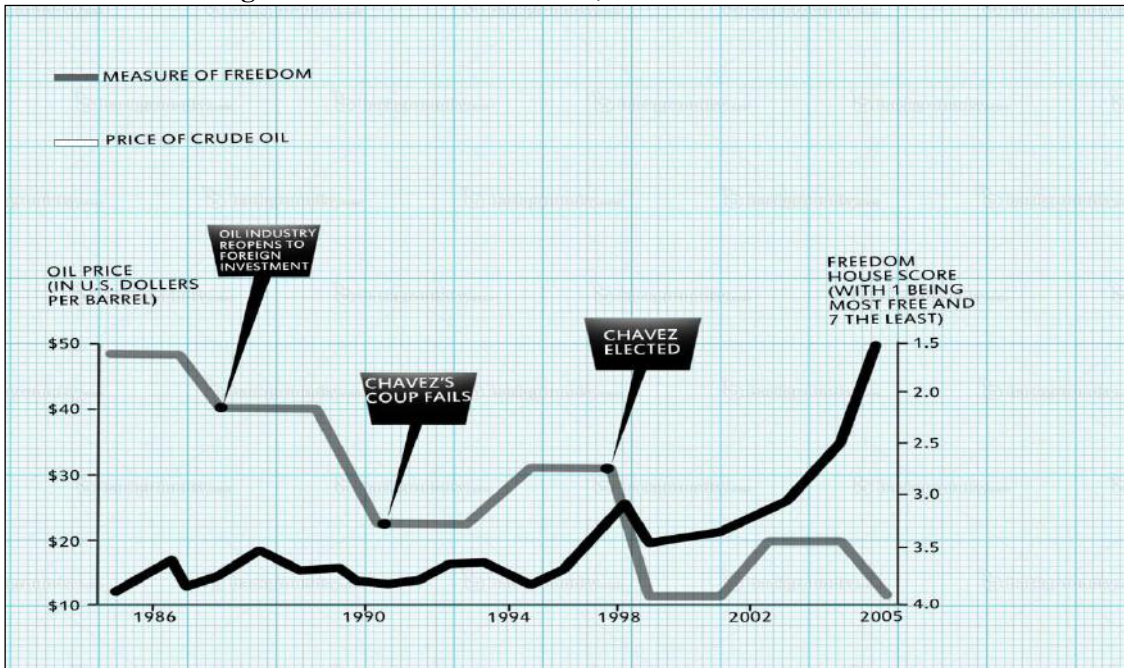
Figure 2: Measure of Freedom, Oil Prices and Iran



Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2005 and IEA; and Fraser Institute “Economic Freedom of the World Report.”

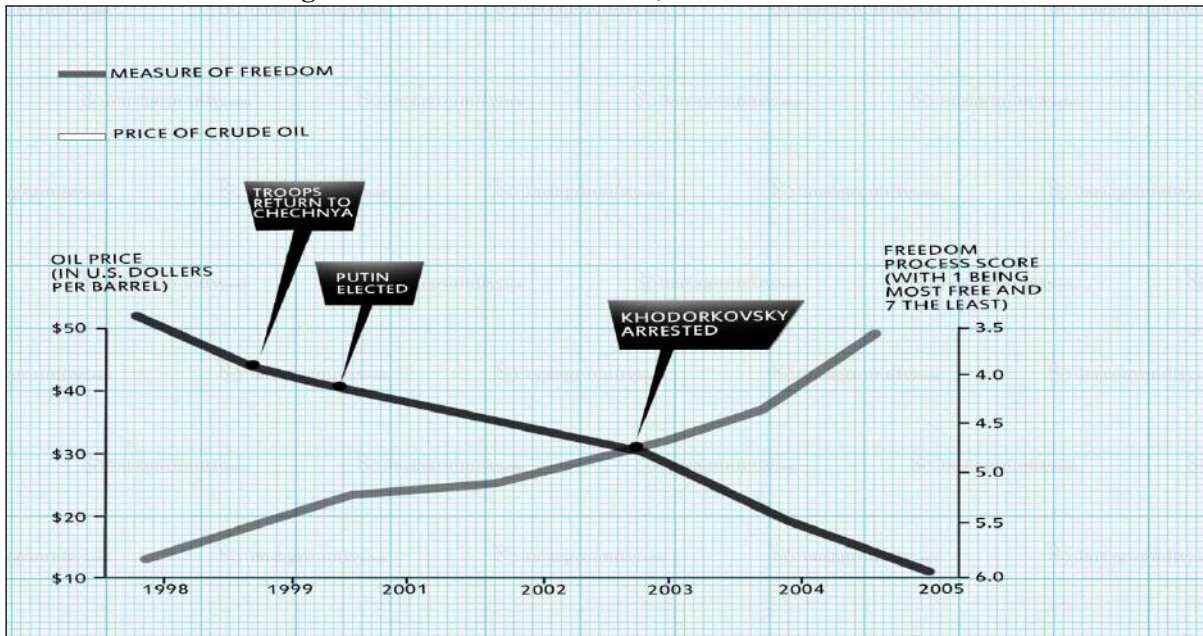
Similarly, price of petrol has directly linked with elected government. Graph given below (Fig. 3) depict this very well.

Figure 3: Measure of Freedom, Oil Prices and Venezuela



Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2005 and IEA; and Freedom House “Freedom in the World 2005”

Figure 4: Measure of Freedom, Oil Prices and Russia



Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2005 and IEA; and Freedom House “Nation in Transit”

“In ‘*Spirit of Democracy*’ Larry Diamonds has written that the world is facing a ‘democratic recession’ as explained by 23 Nations in the world that derive a clear majority of their export income from oil & gas, none of them being a democracy. Condoleezza also says that the politics of Energy holds the World democracy in a death clasp. China geopolitics with Sudan is another example. Russia’s attempt to usurp the oil-rich Arctic (Fig 4), BAE controversy involving Prince of Saudi Arabia & UK is another example.”⁸ Helping survive Great Recession is another money tap with which huge stakes were purchased in Citi group, Porsche etc.

3. CONCLUSION:

More and more dependence on renewable energy can reduce the global demand of oil where oil-rich countries will have to innovate to ensure revenue generation. These countries were treated as big gas-stations, until Osama revealed the true nature of the Iraq invasion. It was primarily for another gas-station. But it went bad. Low oil prices will stimulate transparency, democracy, education, justice, politicisation, modernization. People have to change themselves

to bring back balance to the fulcrum. USSR is a good case in point of oil price sensitivity. High oil prices decrease dependence on policy. One can trace the fall of USSR to 13th September 1985 when the Minister of oil in Saudi Arabia declared that monarchy had decided to alter the price of oil radically. With an oil-dependent economy USSR started losing USD 20 billion per year. Rest is history. The same happened in Iraq in 1973-74 & 1979. So mismanaged was the Iranian economy that in USA\$ 140 A barrel, they were importing gasoline because of lack of innovation & technology. \$ 90 a barrel for Iran & 6 a barrel for Algeria, \$49 for Saudi, \$ 33 for Qatar, \$23 for UAE were break even prices for oil. They all were & are in a fix. Time is ripe for Iran to avoid a “Ayatollah Gorbochev” incident. The only reprieve is the launch of a green revolution to facilitate national security. We all have to be energy saving environment evangelists.

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