

Energizing Policy: America and the Middle East in an Era of Plentiful Oil

by [Patrick Clawson \(/experts/patrick-clawson\)](#), [Simon Henderson \(/experts/simon-henderson\)](#)

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(http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/pubs/PolicyFocus146_ClawsonHenderson.pdf) Thanks to technical innovation, and despite oil price fluctuations,

(http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/pubs/PolicyFocus146_ClawsonHenderson.pdf) the United States is producing more of its own oil and using

(http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/pubs/PolicyFocus146_ClawsonHenderson.pdf) relatively less. With this decreased dependence on imported

energy, the grave danger is that perceived U.S. indifference to Middle East developments could worry allies and embolden hostile forces. In *Energizing Policy: America and the Middle East in an Era of Plentiful Oil*, Patrick Clawson and Simon Henderson

contend that many reasons besides energy argue for a strong U.S. role in the region, not least its instability, which has repeatedly affected the United States, often violently.

Explaining how the radically changed nature of oil markets grants Washington new freedom to maneuver, the authors suggest ways to maximize opportunities and minimize disadvantages for U.S. interests arising from the new energy scenario. In addition, they warn that since the evolution of the energy scene is entirely unclear, U.S. policy should be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the long-term possibilities: U.S. oil imports remaining at much the same proportion as now or the United States becoming a significant oil exporter.

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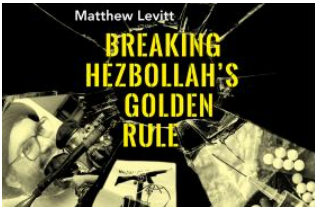
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