



St John's energy independence

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: "We were energy independent one year ago."

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1865 In The Coal Question, British economist William Stanley Jevons warns that Britain is in danger of running out of coal, threatening the country's strategic and economic preeminence; a matter, he writes, of "almost religious importance."

1912 Winston Churchill, then first lord of the admiralty, begins converting Britain's Royal Navy; the world's largest-from coal to oil, exchanging energy independence for power and speed. Over the next several years, Britain wrestles the oil fields of the Persian Gulf away from a crumbling Ottoman Empire.

1960 Oil exporters Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela form the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).



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After taking power in a military coup, Muammar al-Qaddafi starts nationalizing Libya's oil fields; then the source of 30 percent of Europe's oil imports; thus beginning Western oil companies' expulsion from the Arab world.

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