





# **Geopolitics and Oil Prices**

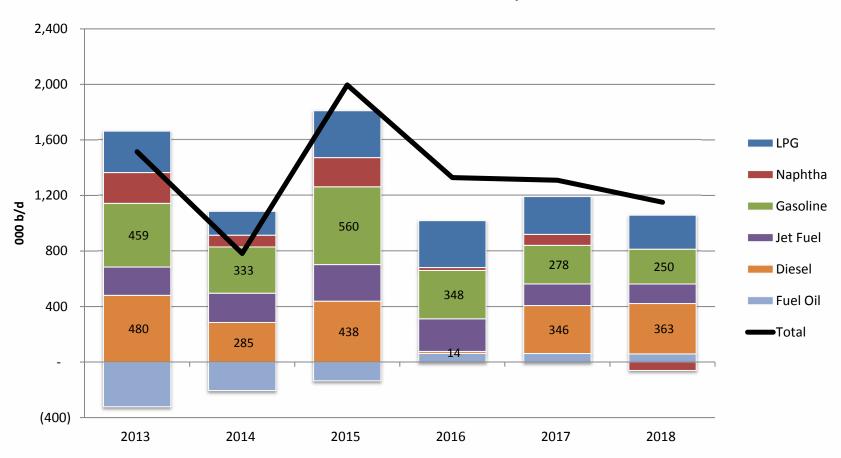
Sarah Emerson
ESAI Energy, LLC
semerson@esai.com
781-245-2036

EIA Workshop on Physical and Financial Oil Market Linkages September 28, 2016



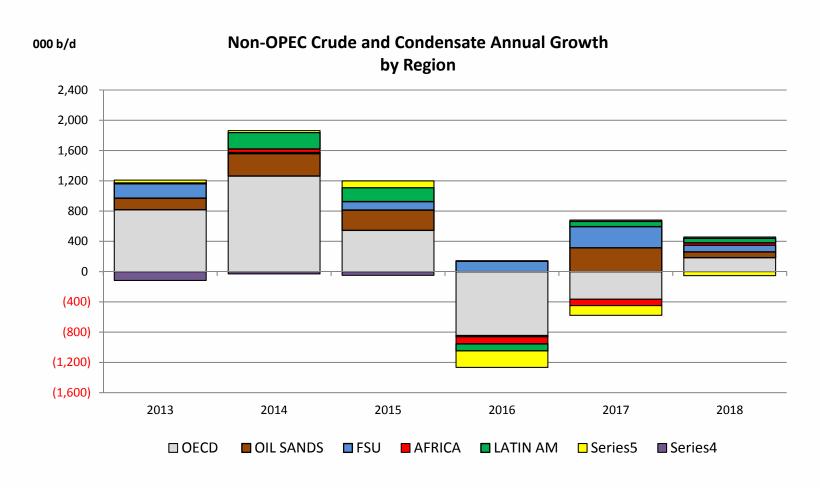
### Not Much Oil Demand

#### **Global Oil Demand Growth By Main Product**



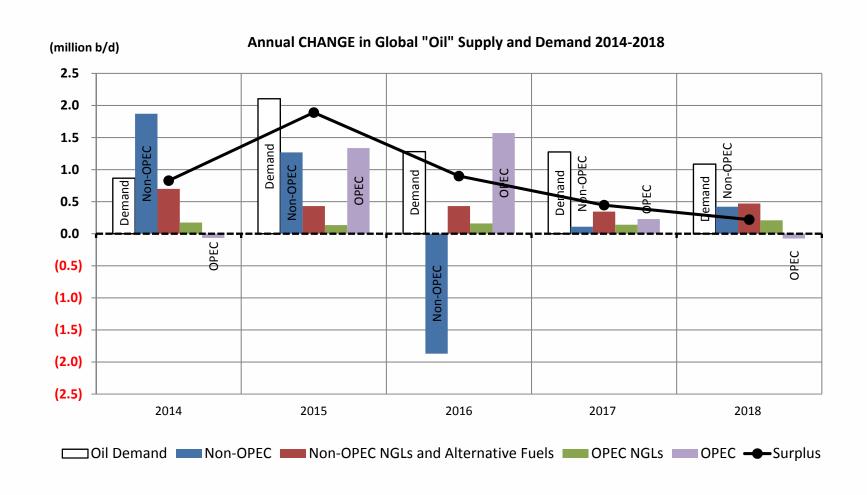


# Still Some Supply





# Surplus Persists Absent Significant Supply Adjustment



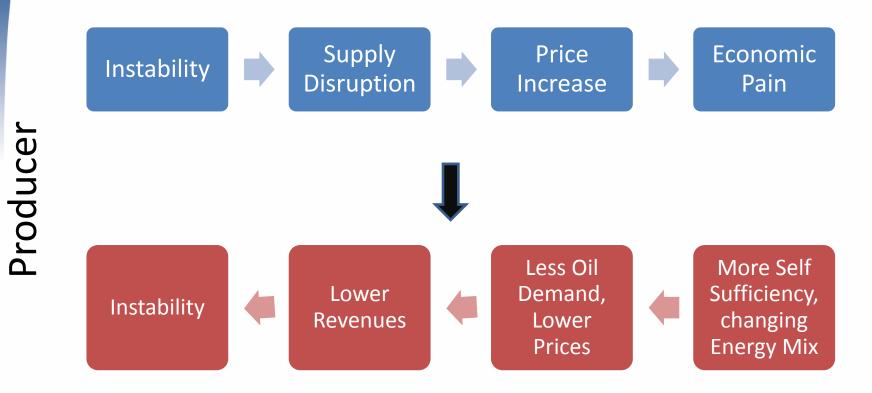


### Structural (Not Cyclical) Change in Geopolitics related to Oil

- Iraq no Longer occupied, Iran no longer under sanctions
- Shiite Crescent is greater threat to Sunni power
- Russia renewed interest in the AG region
- China renewed interest in the AG region
- Rise of transnational threats: Al Qaeda, ISIS
- Rise of transnational groups: Kurds, refugees
- Tension between inter-national solutions and transnational threats
- Multi-Party civil war in Syria
- U.S. foreign policy shift towards Asia Pacific
- Current and Potential failed states: Libya, Yemen, Syria, Venezuela, Nigeria, Ecuador, Algeria
- Low crude oil prices
- Shale and Oil Sands potential
- North America, Europe shifting demand to natural gas and renewables, vehicle fuel economy gains



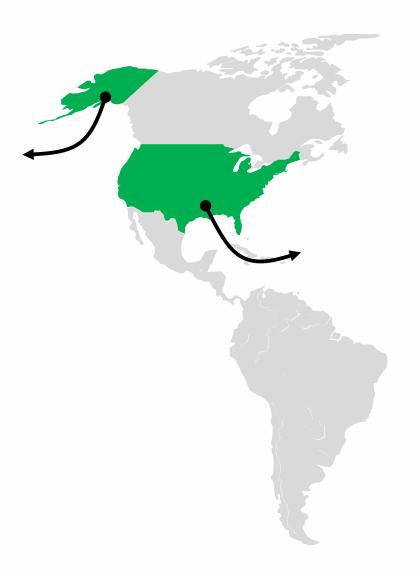
# Geopolitics of Oil and Producer-Consumer Relations





# U.S. Goals: Further Integration (?) with the Global Markets Defeat Islamic State

- Supporting Shale Development
- Reducing foreign oil dependence
- Exporting Crude Oil and LNG
- Quality oil balancing (export light, import heavy)
- Opposing IS
- Competition with Arab Gulf Producers
- Bias towards free trade
- Naval Superiority





#### Russian Goals: Russia as a Great Power

- Played Georgia, Ukraine cards effectively against NATO expansion in Europe
- Prevent regime change in Syria and open door to closer collaboration with Iran and Iraq
- More leverage in the region versus U.S.
- Sell arms to region
- Counter radical Islamist Groups that threaten Russia
- Burnish Putin legacy even as Russia struggles with low oil prices





# Chinese Goals: Use Spare Industrial Capacity to Grow Markets for Chinese goods

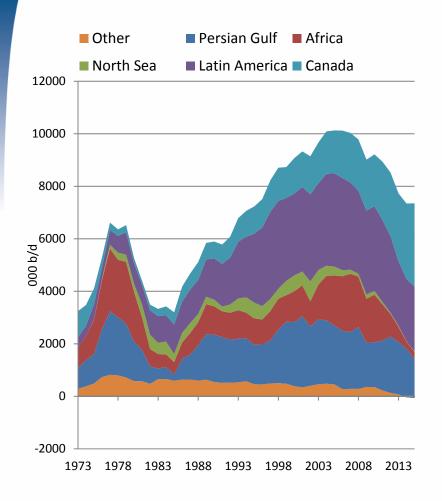
- China's Belt and Road Initiative
- New Railway to Iran
- Trade talks with Pakistan India and Myanmar
- Turkey as gateway to Europe
- Focus on South China Sea is both economic and military

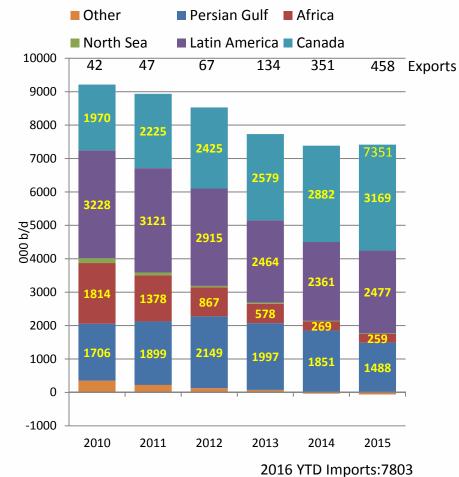




#### Meanwhile the Situation at Home

(U.S. Crude Imports by Source)





Source: EIA

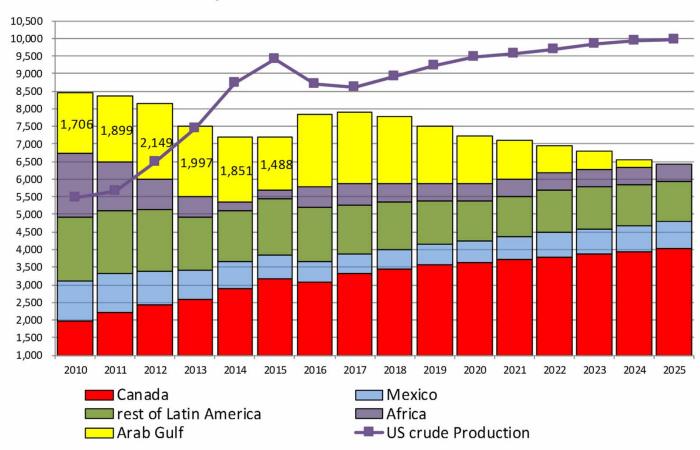
2016 YTD Exports: 481



## We Can End Arab Gulf Imports – If We Want



#### Expected Sources of Crude Oil for the U.S.





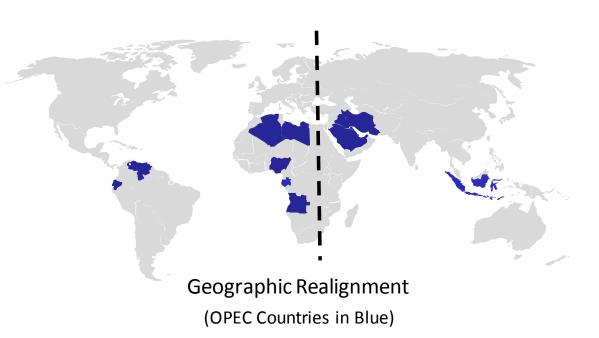
# **Geographic Realignment** of Market?

Accelerated economic integration East of Suez

Declining oil demand in the West

Latent Nationalism and Dissatisfaction with Globalization

Frustration with inter-national solutions addressing transnational threats like IS





## **Final Thoughts**

- Fundamentally weak market (struggling to return to \$60) for years absent a supply disruption/reduction
- Geopolitics driven by consuming countries policies and producing country events
- U.S. China, Russia's interests complicate geopolitics of oil
  - Russia -great power behavior
  - ➤ China -grow markets
  - U.S. -free trade, integration with global markets
    - but, less dependence on imports
    - -limited military engagement
    - -defeat IS
- Geopolitics and Oil Price
  - Geopolitical Pressure on Producers rather than Consumers
  - ➤ At least 1.0 million b/d disruption to impact market (maybe more depending on Libya)
  - Prices have limited upside given potential production
  - > Investment shortfall is overestimated
  - Drop in costs offsets drop in investment to a degree
  - Demand continues to be modest