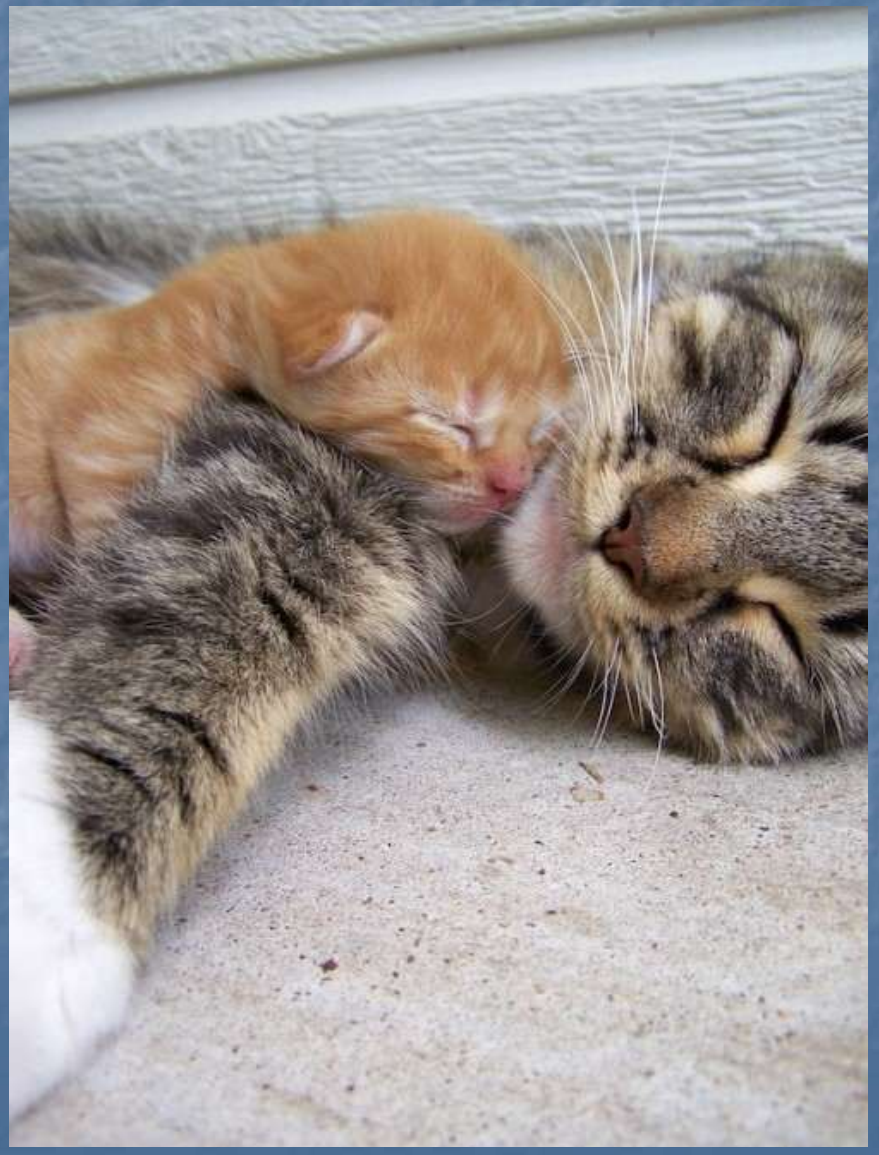
Security Theory
And
Peak Oil Theory

Security Theory

What is security theory?

Currently there are 5 overlapping approaches:



Security Theory

1. National Security

A perspective on security issues that looks out from a nation's capital. The primary concern is the survival and well-being of the state…

Security Theory

The threat or use of military power is viewed as the principle instrument used to ensure its survival.

Security Theory

2. International Security

A perspective on security issues which recognizes that the security of one state is interconnected with that of others.

Security Theory

It views the *collective* use of military power as an important instrument of policy.

Security Theory

3. Regional Security

Takes the same perspective of international security, but focuses on other regions of the world, such as Latin America, Africa, or Asia.

Security Theory

4. Transstate Security

A new concept within security studies which asserts that, in the post-Cold War world, *substate* and *transstate* actors will constitute important sources of instability.

Security Theory

These actors include ethno-national movements, religious extremists, criminal organizations, terrorists, and insurgents.

Security Theory

5. Global Security

As a conceptual category it seeks to broaden the security agenda beyond the military and politico-military matters to include....

Security Theory

…human rights, environmental protection, economic prosperity, and social development.

Security Theory

...it often carries the normative objective of replacing coercion, conflict, and war with cooperation, bargaining, and peaceful change.

Security Theory

International and Global Security in the Post-Cold War Era

Security Theory

Students of international politics deal with some of the most profound questions it is possible to consider. Amongst the most important of these is whether international *security* is possible to achieve in the kind of world in which we live. For much of the intellectual history of the subject a debate has raged about the causes of war.

Security Theory

The following are considered KEY POINTS related to security…

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1. Security is a "contested concept"

Security Theory

2. The meaning of security has been broadened to include political, economic, societal, and environmental as well as military, aspects.

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3. Differing arguments exist about the tension between national and international security.

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4. Different views have emerged about the significance of 9/11 for the future of international security.

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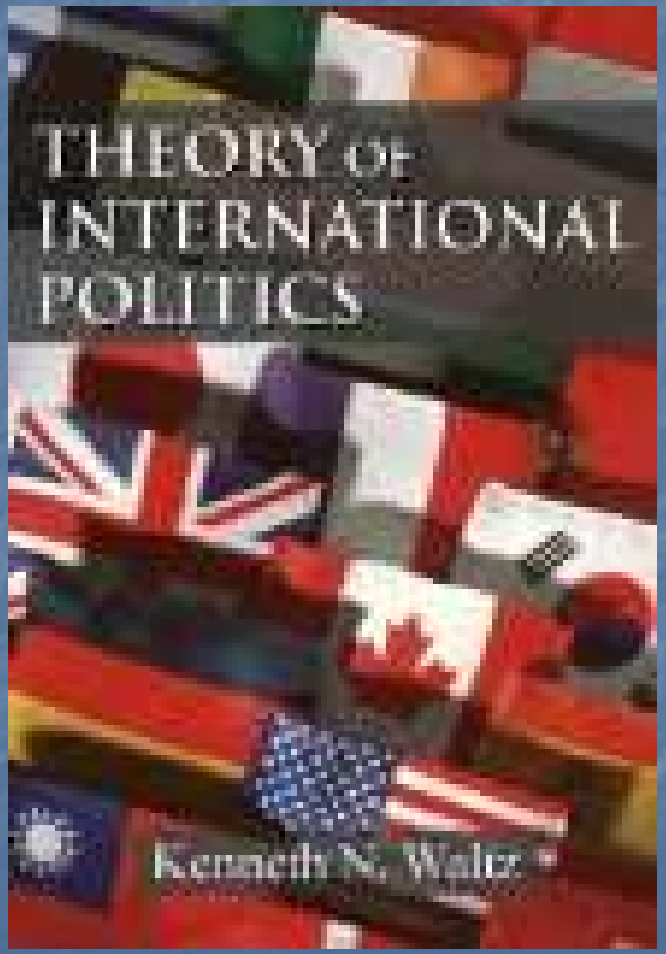

5. **Debates about security have traditionally focused on the role of the state in IR. Realists emphasize the perennial problem of insecurity.**

Security Theory

6. Realists point out the problem of "relative gains" whereby states compare their gains with those of other states when making decisions about security.

Security Theory

7. Neo-realists reject the significance of international institutions in helping many to achieve peace and security, while liberal institutionalists argue that institutions can provide a framework for cooperation which can help overcome the dangers of security competition between states.

Security Theory

8. Democratic peace theory emerged in the 1980s. The main argument was that the spread of democracy would lead to greater international security.

Security Theory

9. Democratic peace theory is based on Kantian logic emphasizing 3 elements:

    a. democratic representation

    b. commitment to human rights

    c. transnational interdependence

Immanuel Kant

Security Theory

10. Wars between democracies are seen as being rare and they are believed to settle mutual conflicts of interest without the threat or use of force more often than non-democratic states.

Security Theory

11. *Collective security* is based on 3 main conditions:

    a. states must renounce the use of military force to alter the status quo.

    b. they must broaden their view of national interest to take in the interests of the international community.

    c. states must overcome their fear and learn to trust each other.

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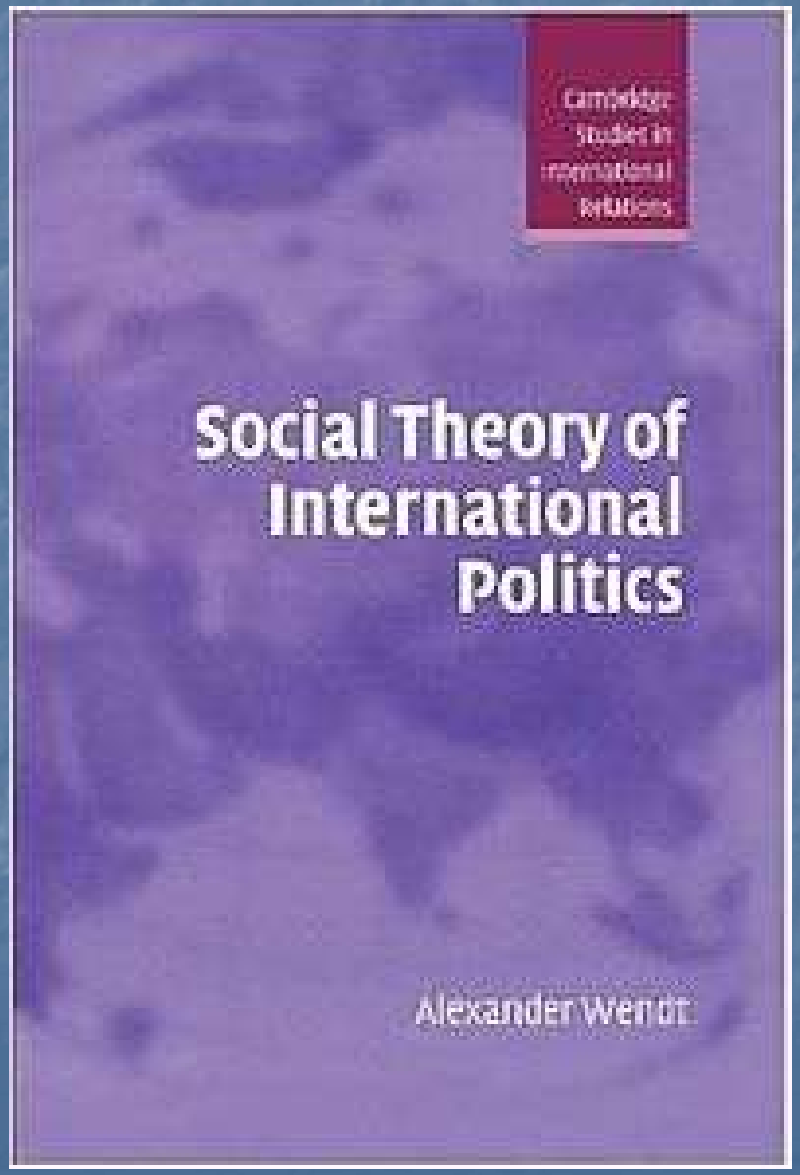
12. Social constructivist thinkers base their ideas on two main assumptions…



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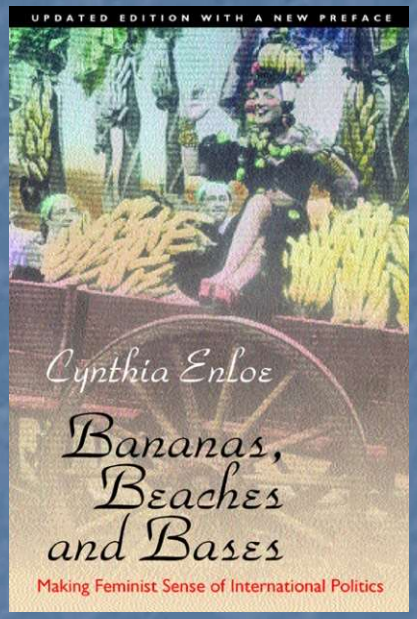
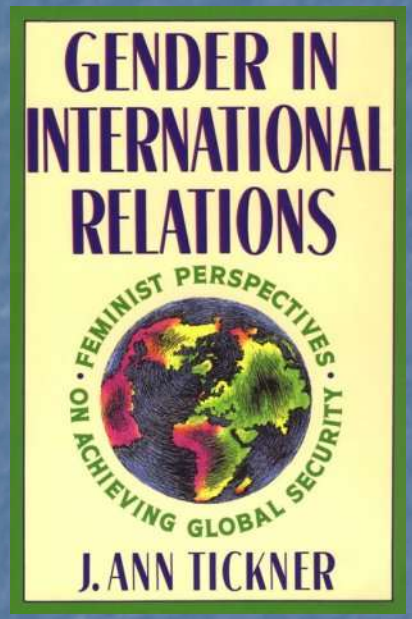
…that the fundamental structures of international politics are socially constructed, and…

…that changing the way we think about international relations can help to bring about greater international security.

Security Theory





13. **Feminist writers argue that:**

a. gender tends to be left out of the literature on international security, despite the impact of war on women.

b. bringing gender issues back in will result in a reconceptualization of the study of international security.

Security Theory

14. **Post-modernists:**

a. aim to replace "realist discourse" with "communitarian discourse."

b. emphasize the importance of ideas and discourse in thinking about international security.

c. try to reconceptualize the debate about global security by looking at questions which have been ignored by traditional approaches.

Security Theory

15. There are disputes about whether *globalization* will contribute to the weakening of the state or simply its transformation, and over whether a global society can be created which will usher in a new period of peace and security. Globalization itself appears to have an ambivalent impact on international security.

Security Theory

16. Different theorists have contrasting views about whether global security has changed fundamentally since September 11, 2001.

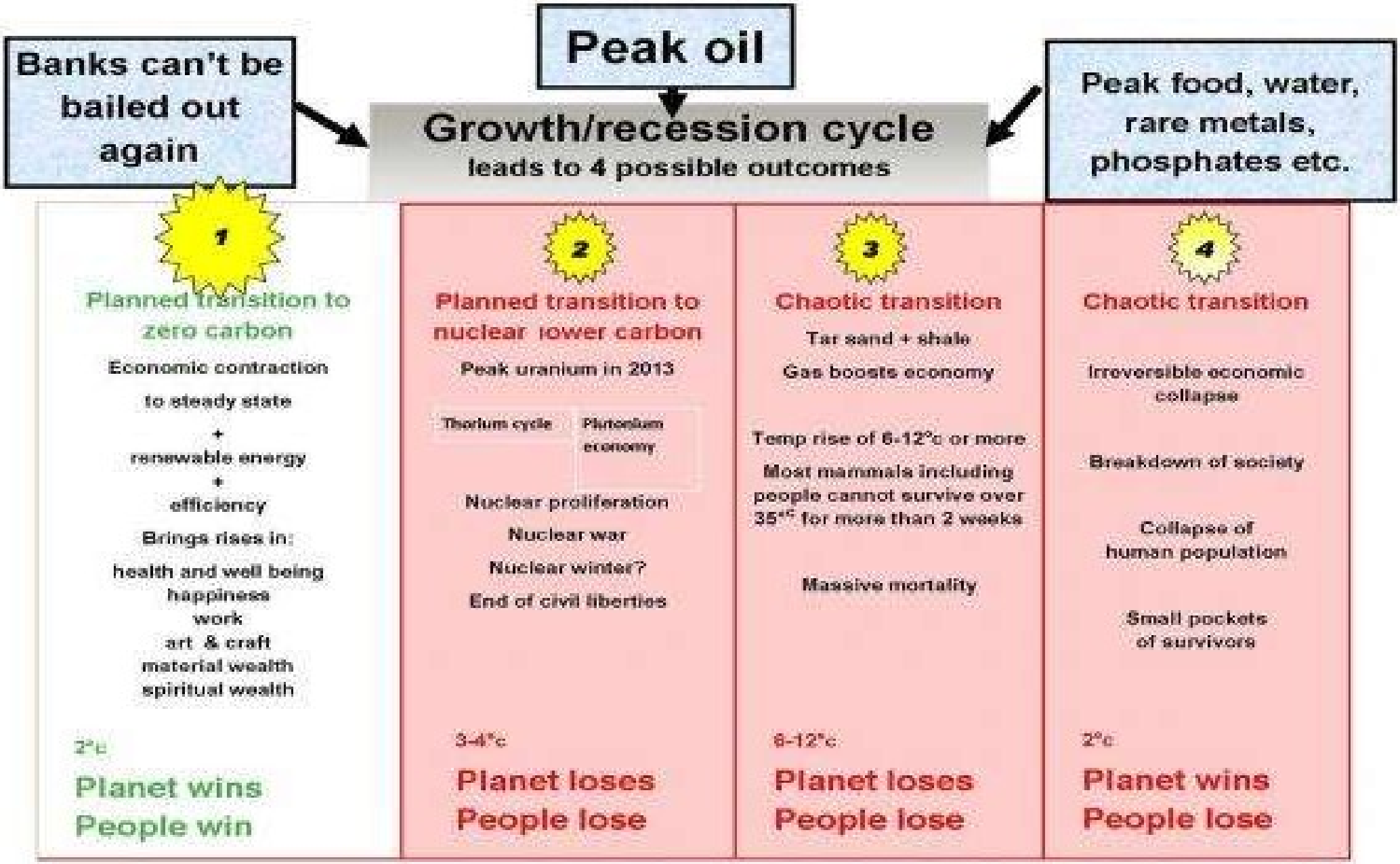
Peak Oil and Climate Change Two sides of the same coin?

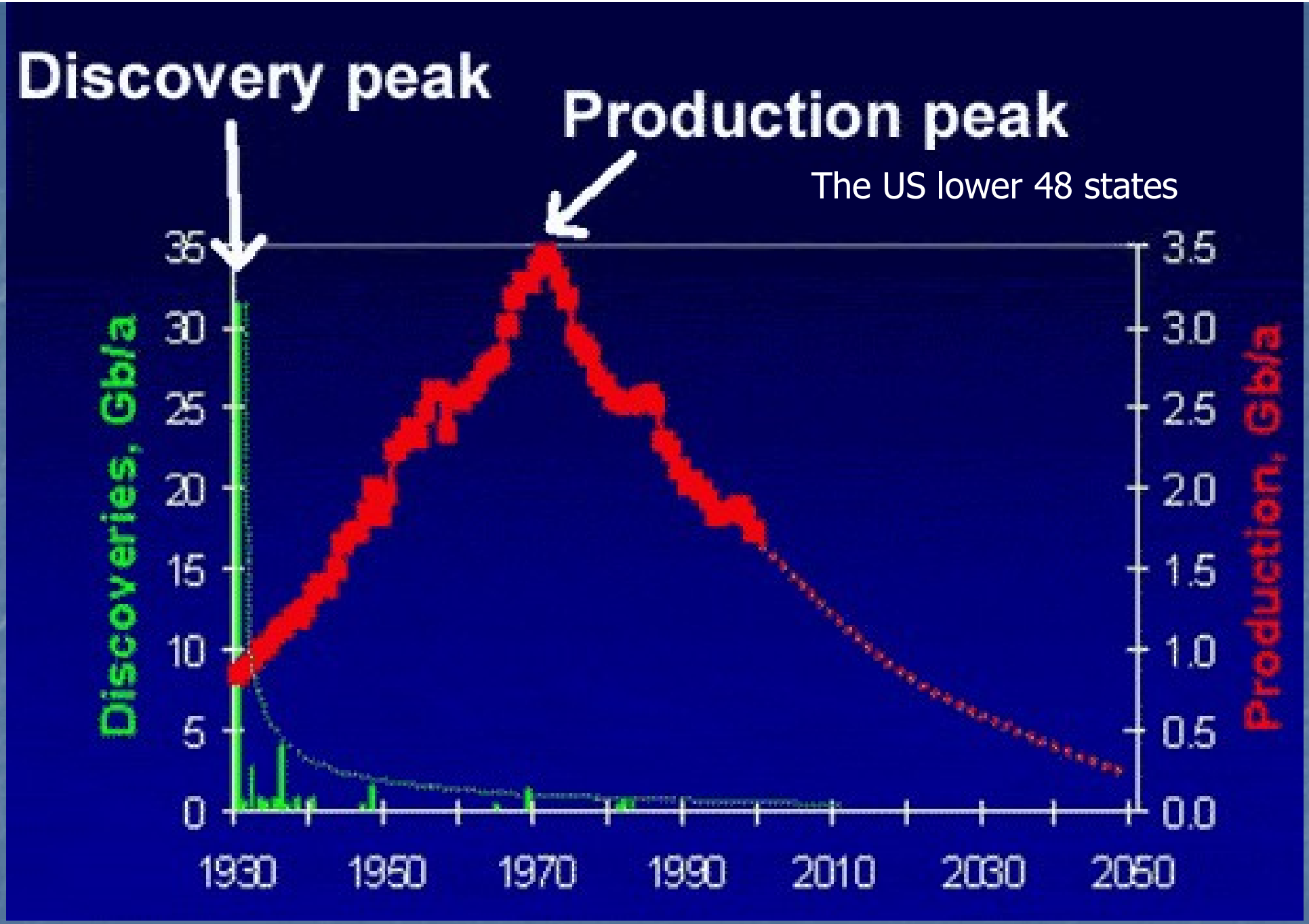
David Knight

Winchester Action on Climate Change

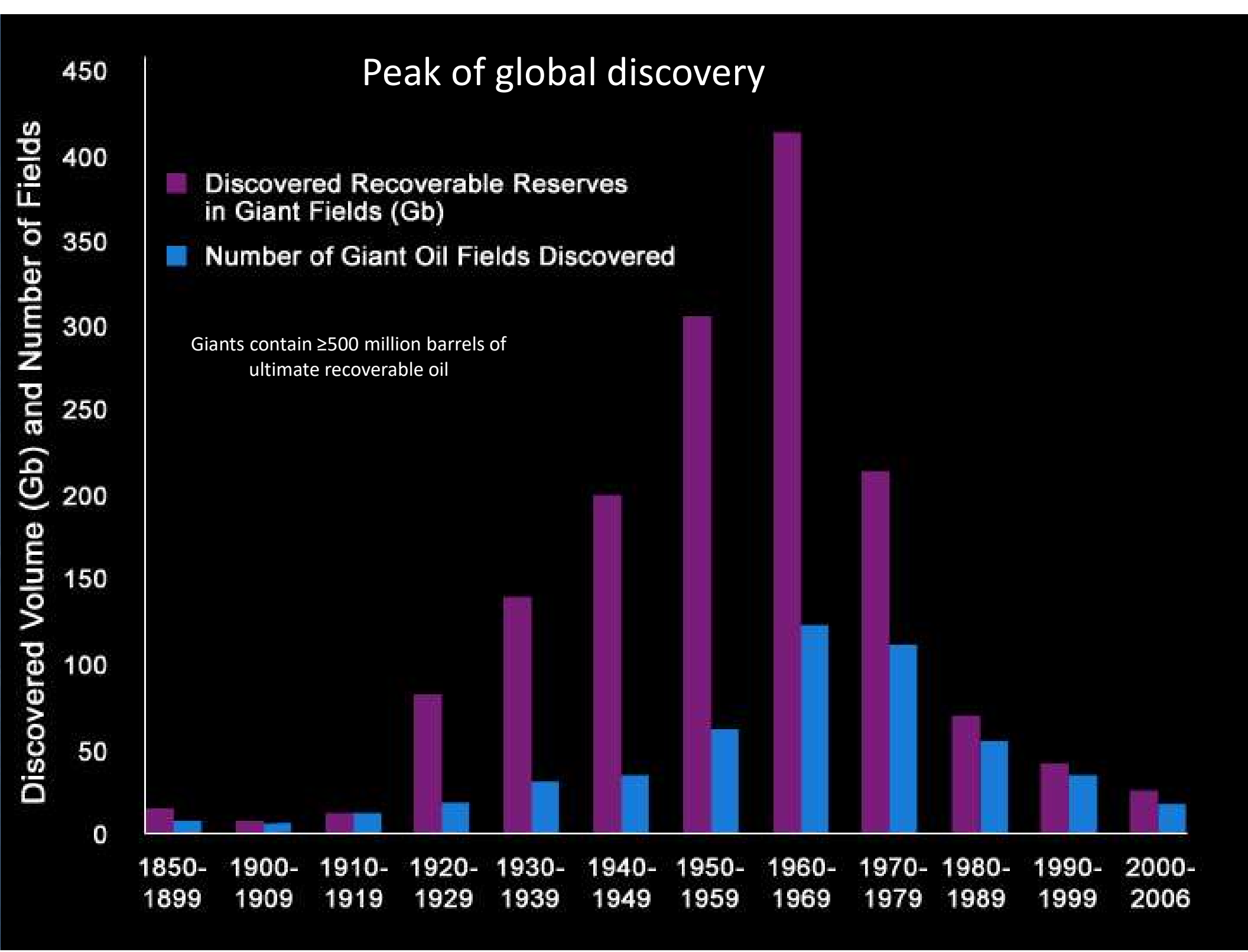
&

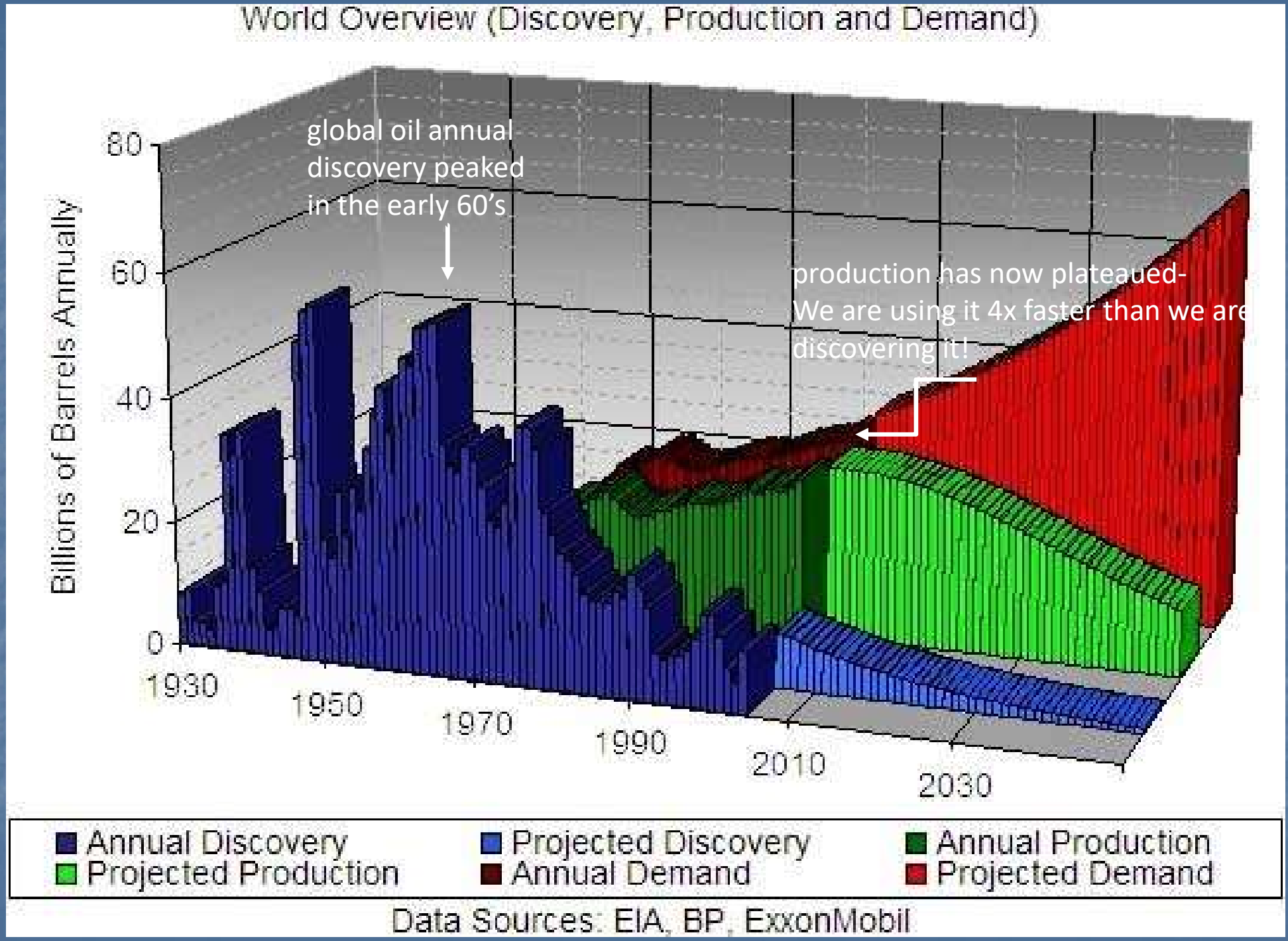
Foundation for the economics of sustainability


Peak oil
Banks can't be bailed out again
Peak food, water, rare metals, phosphates etc.
Growth/recession cycle
leads to 4 possible outcomes
1
Planned transition to zero carbon
Economic contraction
to steady state
+
renewable energy
+
efficiency
Brings rises in:
health and well being
happiness
work
art & craft
material wealth
spiritual wealth
2°c
Planet wins
People win
2
Planned transition to nuclear lower carbon
Peak uranium in 2013
Thorium cycle
Plutonium economy
Nuclear proliferation
Nuclear war
Nuclear winter?
End of civil liberties
3-4°c
Planet loses
People lose
3
Chaotic transition
Tar sand + shale
Gas boosts economy
Temp rise of 6-12°c or more
Most mammals including people cannot survive over 35°c for more than 2 weeks
Massive mortality
6-12°c
Planet loses
People lose
4
Chaotic transition
Irreversible economic collapse
Breakdown of society
Collapse of human population
Small pockets of survivors
2°c
Planet wins
People lose



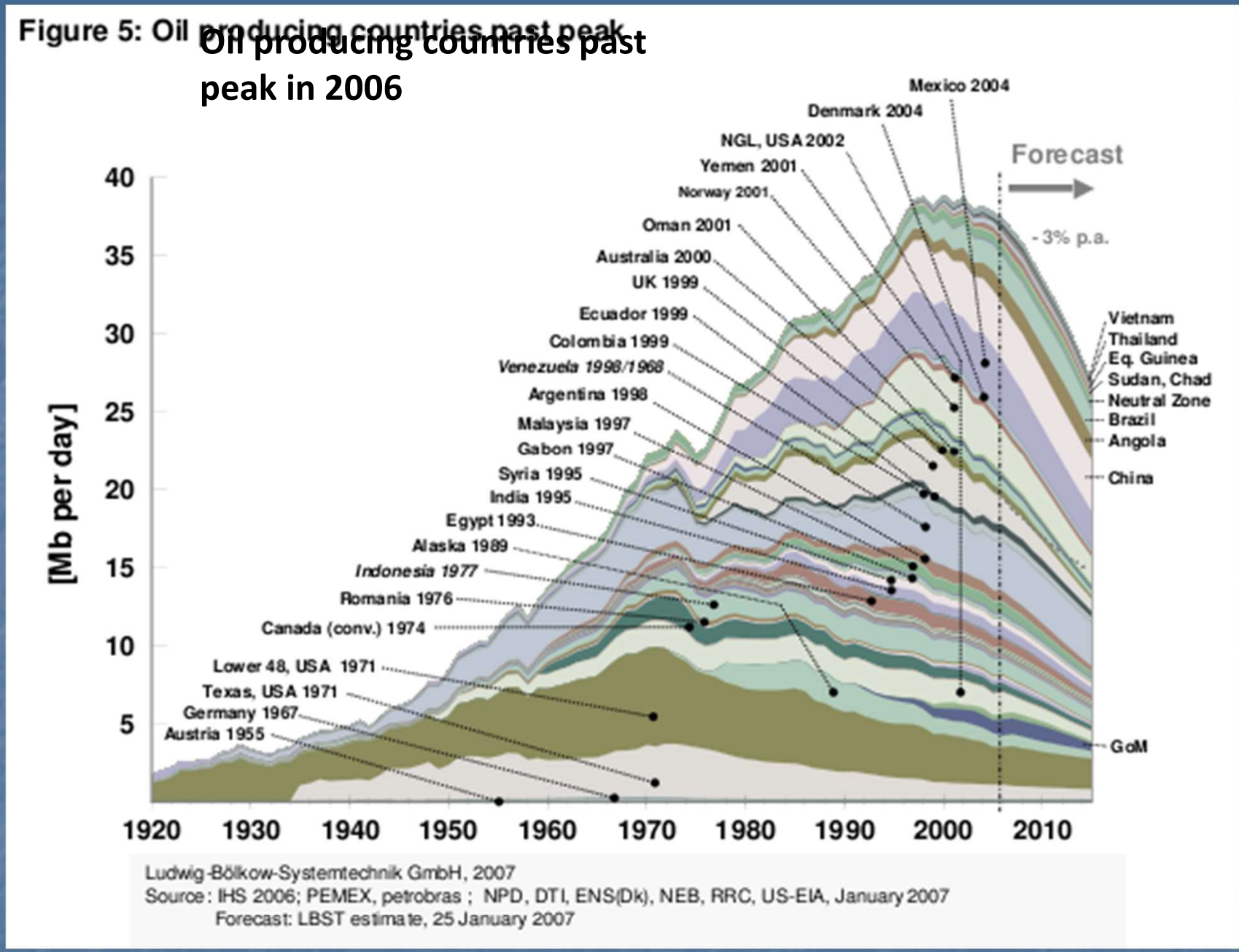
Adapted from Collin Campbell, University of Clausthal Conference, Dec 2000


Peak of global discovery
Discovered Volume (Gb) and Number of Fields
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
Discovered Recoverable Reserves in Giant Fields (Gb)
Number of Giant Oil Fields Discovered
Giants contain ≥500 million barrels of ultimate recoverable oil
1850-1899
1900-1909
1910-1919
1920-1929
1930-1939
1940-1949
1950-1959
1960-1969
1970-1979
1980-1989
1990-1999
2000-2006



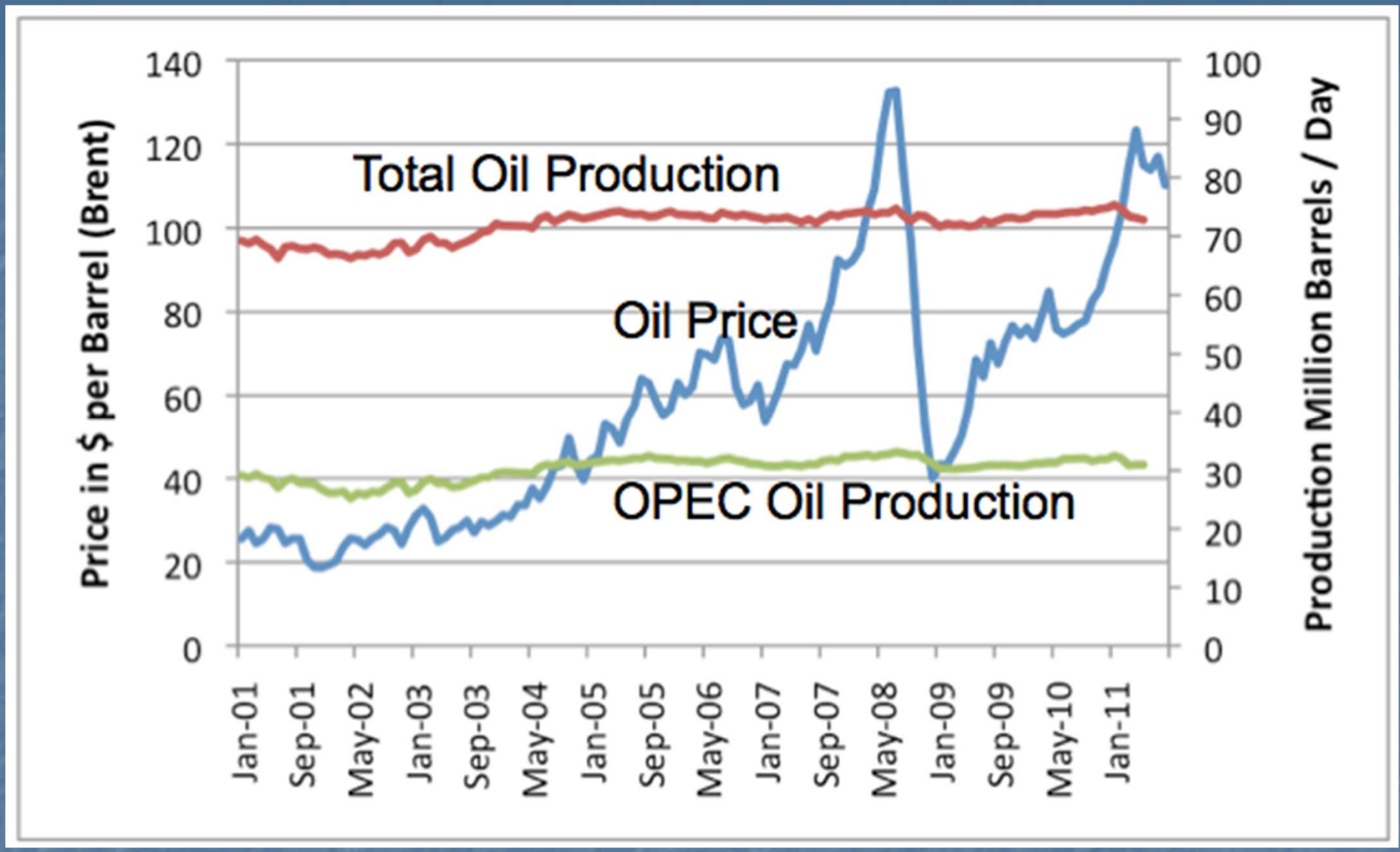
Peak Oil becomes a problem for the economy when demand for oil exceeds supply

Oil producing countries past peak in 2006



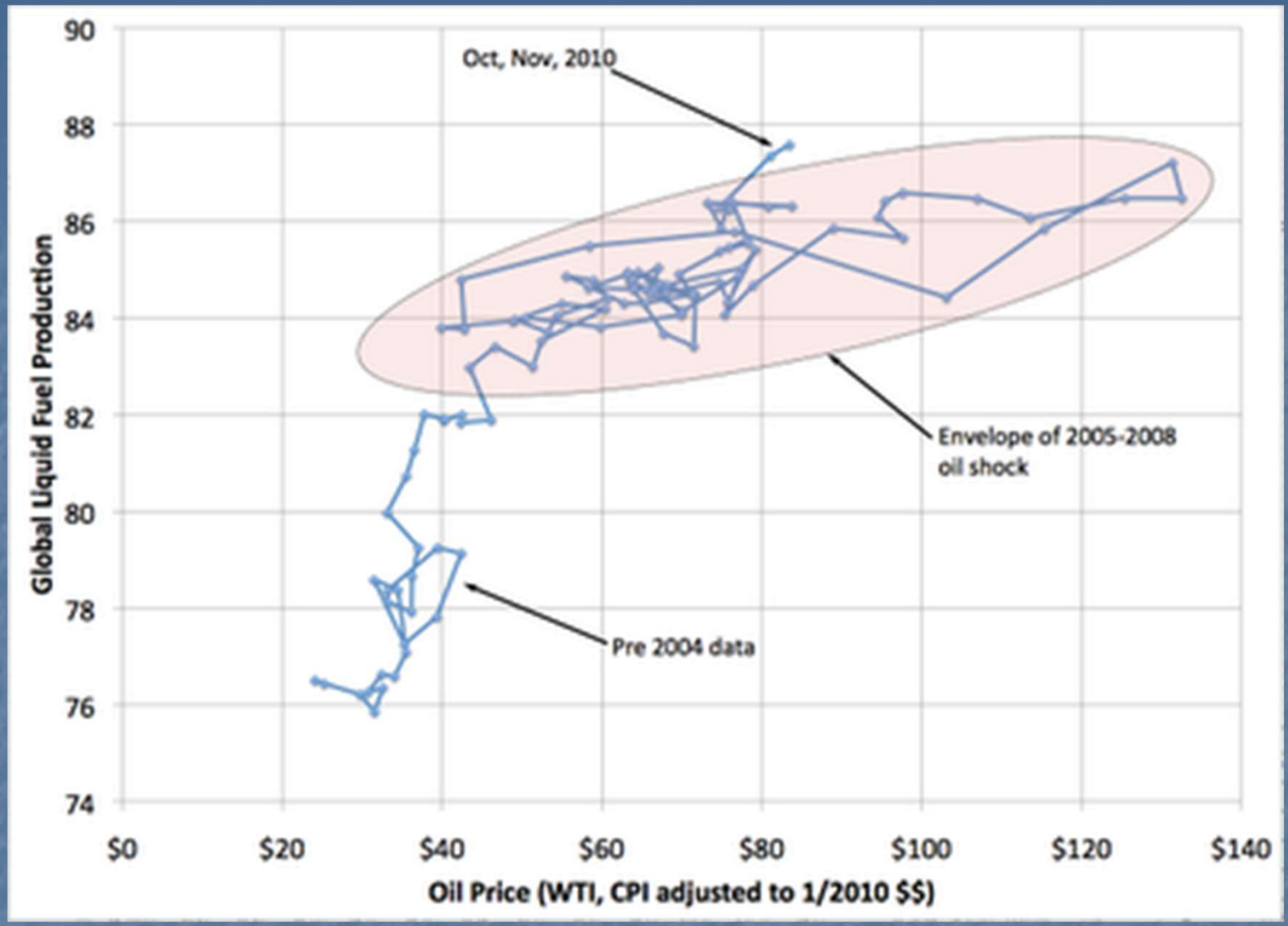
Oil production has already peaked in many countries and the descent in many of these has been faster than the ascent

Brent crude prices rose sharply in the run up to the 2008 triggering or contributing to the "Credit Crunch". Oil prices recovered after the recession and have remained high to date June 29 2012 despite a slow down in the world economy and triggering the current global economic slow down.



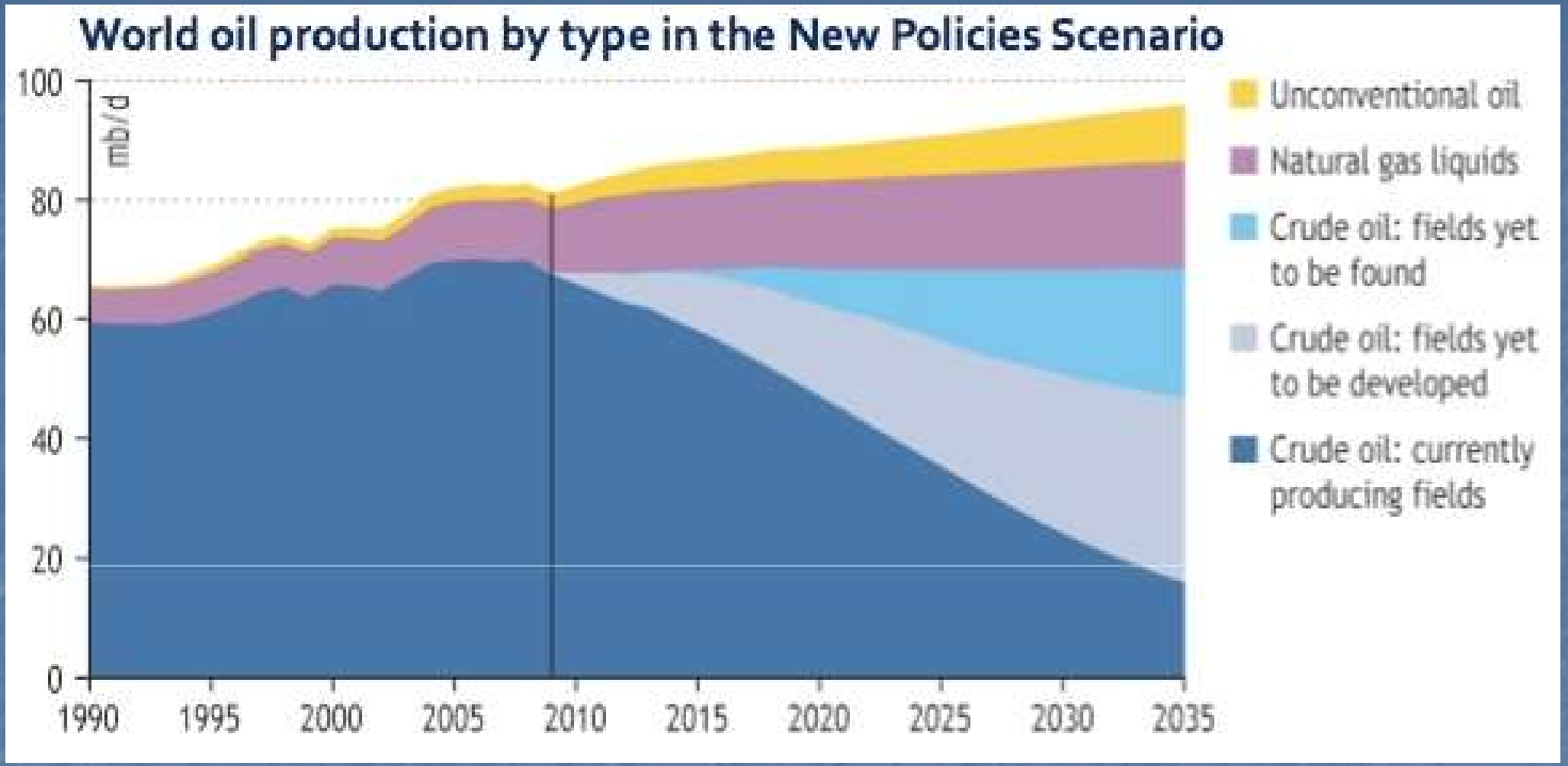
Production practically flat-lines despite huge increases in oil prices

Source: US FED data http://jerrykhachoyan.com/you-cant-blame-the-fed-for-rising-gold-oil-prices/

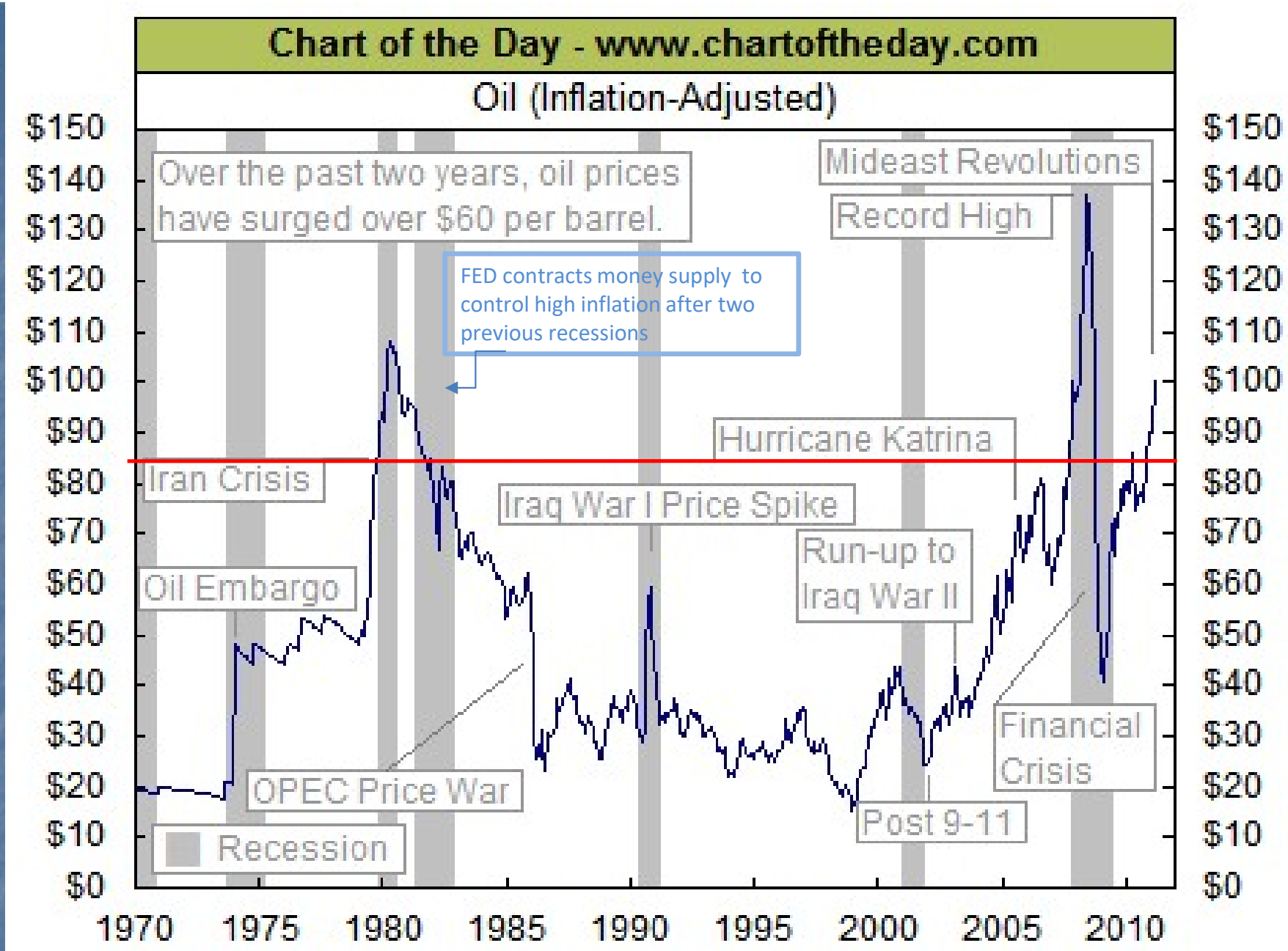


Up to end of 2004 modest price rises produced sharp increases in production. Thereafter large price increases produced only a small increase indicating production now limited by depletion and a supply ceiling a little way above

Production average of EIA, IEA and OPEC estimates.
Source http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_D9JNTtRKgs/TSRxK38F_kI/AAAAAAAABeg/0ey_YhJTQW8/s400/Screen+shot+2011-01-05+at+8.21.38+AM.png and many other places on the web.



[i] International Energy Agency "World Energy Outlook 2010. Executive Summary" http://www.iea.org/Textbase/npsum/weo2010sum.pdf

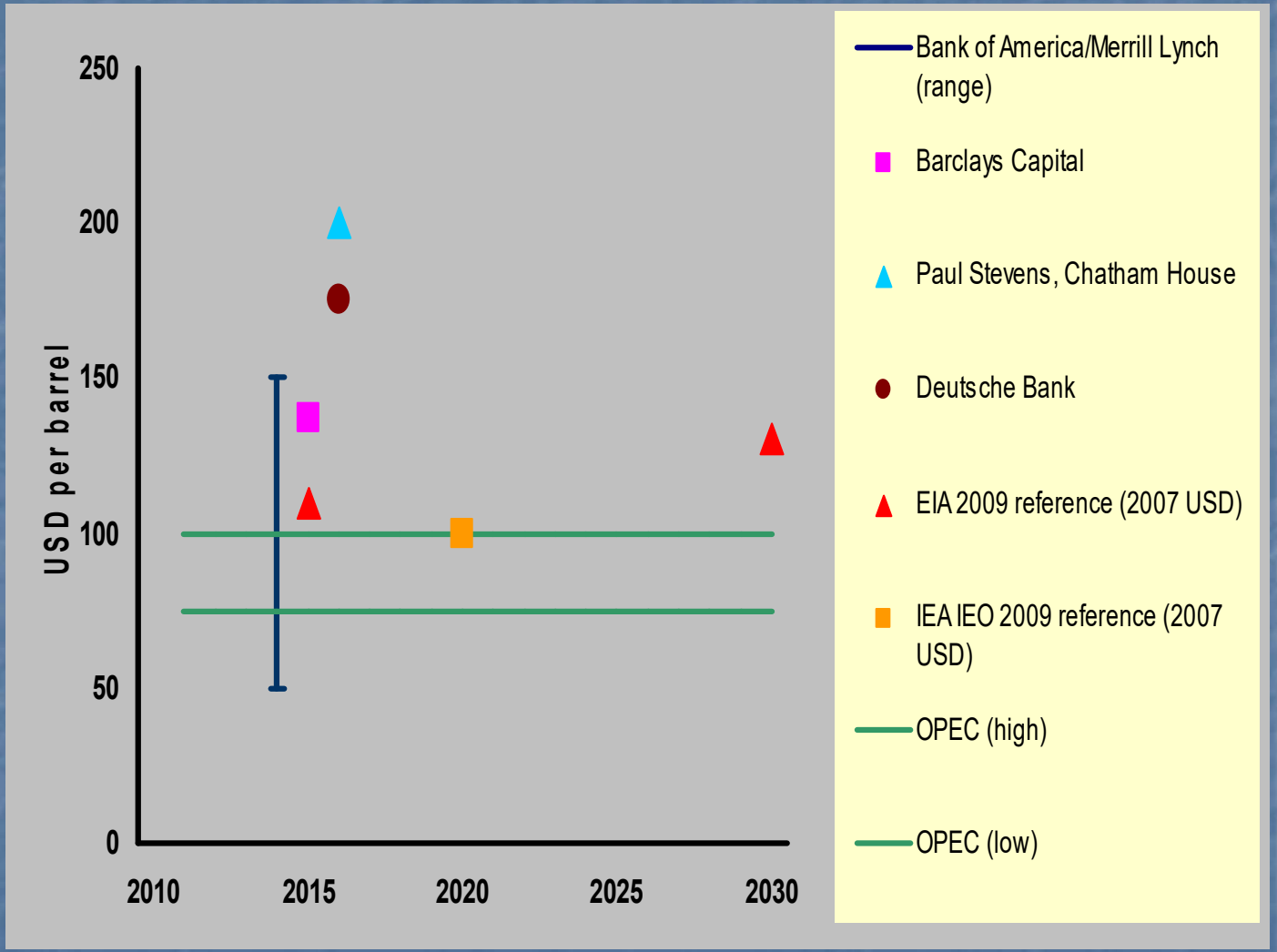


In the US, rapid increase in crude oil prices has been followed by a recession in 7 out of 8 cases.In several cases rapid declines in oil price in recessions result from falling demand for oil. Hamilton takes it back further and says 10 out of 11.The US economy is very vulnerable to inflation adjusted oil prices over $80 .

Future oil prices?

A summary collected by Antony Froggatt in Summer 2010

- Growth in demand and slowing production post peak result in 'price spikes' which trigger recession
- Recession reduces demand and prices fall resulting.
- 'yo-yoing' oil prices



Source: Chatham House

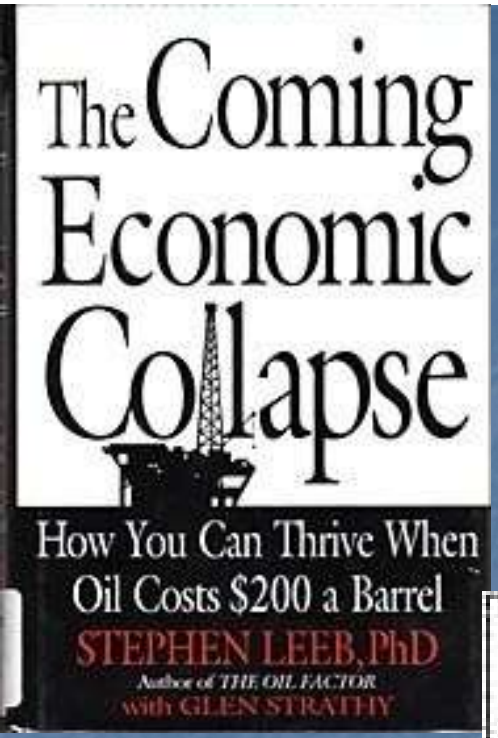
"We're in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime set of economic conditions. [This] is ***not*** [temporary] ***recession***. Rather, ***the economy is resetting to a lower level of business and consumer spending*** ..."

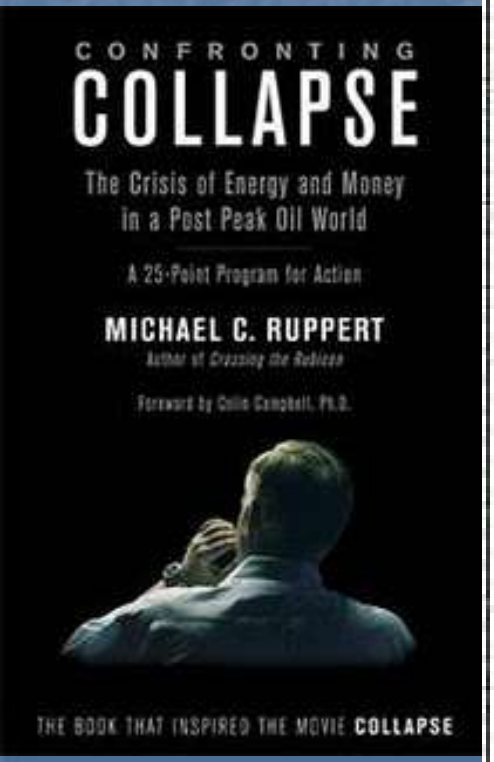
Steven Ballmer

Chairman, Microsoft Corp.

Robert Hirsch was the lead author of a US Department of Energy report on peak oil in 2005. Hirsch was told never to talk about the report. This is what he has said recently:

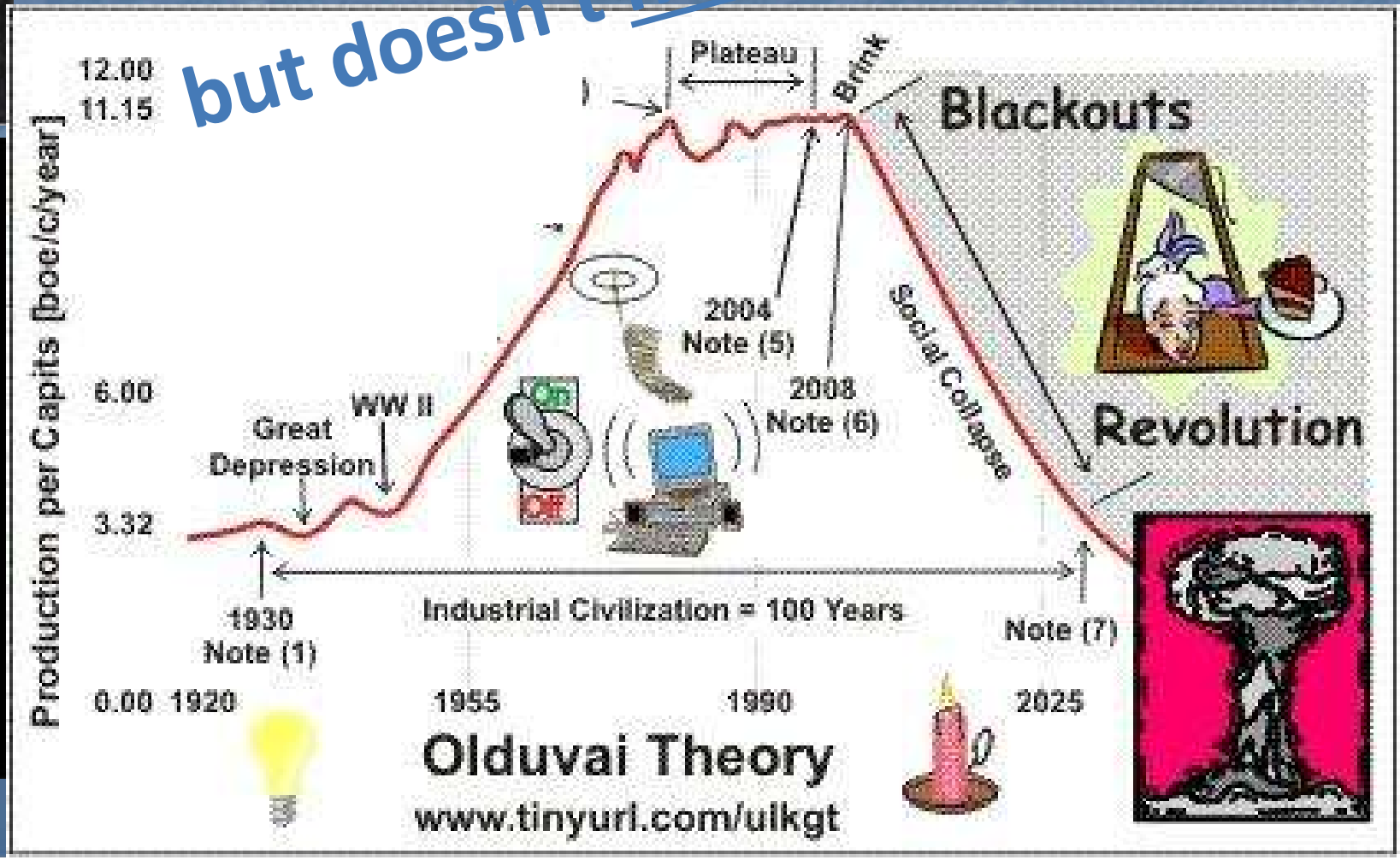
"…if you spend some time looking at peak oil, if you're a reasonably intelligent person, you see that catastrophic things are going to happen to the world. We're talking about major damage, major change in our civilization. Chaos, economic disaster, wars, all kinds of things …really bad things."





[Richard C. Duncan](#) The Olduvai Theory: Sliding Towards a Post-Industrial Stone Age

very worrying but doesn't have to happen



What needs to be done by governments? 1.

Introduce Cap & Share.

Progressively cap fossil fuel use at point of entry to the economy (rather than CO2 emissions at multiple exit points). Controlled to give stable, high fossil fuel prices.

Energy input permits to be given to all adults.

Setting up an Exchange to sell these to energy importers or producers thus sharing scarcity rent with adult population and partially compensating for rising prices.

Tax on permit purchase provides funds for mitigation and adaptation etc.

What needs to be done by governments to mitigate PO and CC?

Legislation and fiscal policy to:

- Stop fossil fuel subsidies
- Introduce Cap&Share to cap fossil fuel use and share some of the scarcity rent with the general population
- discourage the second dash for gas
- decarbonise electricity production
- Pursue growth of the green sector by stimulating investment in renewables & energy efficiency / conservation
- reduce material use in construction, manufacture , packing etc.
- Redistribute wealth to mitigate against social unrest.
- Set tighter carbon budgets.
- Require LA's to set and publish GHG emission budgets and descent plans and report on compliance with these.
- Tackle non CO2 GHG emissions.
- Protect and improve carbon sinks (woodland and pasture etc.)
- Facilitate transition to a steady state economy operating within ecological limits.
- Encourage decentralisation and local resilience

What can we do?

- Raise awareness
- Act together
- Work for change locally and nationally
- Walk the talk

Final summary

- In the runaway climate change scenario, peak oil and economic decline is delayed by burning substantially all oil , gas and coal reserves without CCS, global mean temp could increase by as much as 15°C. The likely consequences are horrendous

Final summary

- The PO catastrophe scenario could limit climate change by precipitating chaotic irreversible economic collapse. If this happened quickly and drastically it would be beneficial for biodiversity but could be unspeakably dreadful for civilisation. Controlled economic descent is needed instead.