



Jew – What can you do? – A Futurist “Fable” of Jewish Policy

The latest outbreak of hostilities between Israel and the Hezbollah, the unearthing of a major terrorist plot in the UK and the constant “background music” of the Iranian nuclear threat has left many Jews with an enormous sense of frustration and fear. A very close American Jewish friend of mine sent me an email in the middle of the Lebanese incursion. Referring to the apparent haplessness of Israeli policy confronting these threats, he asked: “is there anything we American Jews can do?” The short answer is yes, there is much that can and must be done (and in regards to the Iranian threat - must be done soon). The readiness of American and European Jewry to “do their part” is unquestioned. The question is what and how? Where should we be directing our energies? The following is a response to my friends query. It is based on two chapters in my forthcoming book:

A History of the Jewish Future

An optimistic view of the role of the Jews in 21st century

(ZivGroup Press, 2006)

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THE JEWISH ENERGY PROJECT

Energy is a Jewish problem!

The greatest threats to the security of the Jewish People are Iran’s nuclear bomb program, increased anti-Semitism and the growing radicalism of world Islam as well as the large and increasingly hostile populations of Moslems in Europe and North America. Financing all these threats are Persian Gulf petrodollars.

Iran could not finance its nuclear program if it did not have the revenues of three and a half million barrels of oil a day. Saudi Arabia could not spend billions of dollars a year in distributing anti-Semitic literature worldwide or financing Taliban type school systems throughout the Moslem world if it did not have the revenues of eight million barrels of oil a day. Hezbollah and Hamas could not have achieved such organizational vigor without the support of Iran or Wahabi clerics and wealthy laymen from Saudi Arabia. The radicalization of growing segments of European and American Moslems is also being supported by Persian Gulf petrodollars.



This dictates that we Jews formulate a coherent **Jewish Energy Policy** aimed at creating political alliances and economic instruments dedicated to downgrading oil as the dominant international commodity. Oil must once again become a commodity on a par with coffee, sugar and tea (when was the last time the world was held hostage by the price of tea?).

Worldwide consumption of crude oil is projected to grow by 40 percent by the year 2020 if the consumption growth rate of the past several decades is sustained. Most of this supply increase will come from Persian Gulf countries. They have the largest proven reserves and these reserves are cheaper to develop than known and potential reserves elsewhere. Even if the real price of oil does not increase or even declines slightly, these militant anti-Jewish countries will benefit from a stupendous increase in financial and hence political and military power. As a consequence, we may expect increasing support for terrorist organizations, anti-Semitic propaganda, and a heightened rate of development of non-conventional weapons of mass destruction.

In addressing these challenges a **Jewish Energy Project** would also provide Diaspora Jews with numerous opportunities to develop alliances with a wide assortment of pressure groups and economic entities thus widening the peripheries of Jewish influence. It would also give currently uninvolved Jews who are already interested in alternative energy and the environment an excellent opportunity to become more involved with their Jewish communities.

Individual Jews, Jewish organizations and AIPAC should become active supporters of the **Set America Free Coalition** www.setamericafree.org. This organization brings together prominent individuals and non-profit organizations concerned about the security and economic implications of America's growing dependence on foreign oil. It is organized by the **Institute for the Analysis of Global Security** ([lags](http://lags.org)), and promotes a program which spells out practical ways by which real progress toward energy security can be made over the next several years. Some Jewish individuals and organizations (such as the *American Jewish Committee* and the *Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs*) are already active in the coalition. **I suggest that support for this organization become equivalent to support for Israel in the American Jewish community.** I say this as an Israeli because I realize that this is one of those keystone initiatives which if leveraged properly can effect revolutionary change to the ultimate benefit of the entire Jewish People.

American Jewry has the ability to recruit many allies dedicated to making North America energy independent within the next ten to fifteen years, either as part of the **Set America Free Coalition** or as an independent **Jewish Energy Project**.



Environmentalists: American Jews can support environmental organizations that push for alternative energy and conservation measures on federal, state, county, and local levels.

Retrofit America: American Jews can be active in trying to reduce per capita household energy consumption to the levels of Sweden or Germany by lobbying for tax write-offs for energy-saving home improvements and appliances. Allies would be industry and home improvement giants such as General Electric, Hewlett Packard, Westinghouse, Home Center, Home Depot, and many more. These industries and their suppliers employ millions of people who might become better disposed to Jewish issues as a result of this initiative.

Organized Labor: The above policy would produce hundreds of thousands of well-paying domestic jobs and appeal to organized labor. Not only would they contribute a powerful lobby to Energy Independence but cooperation in this area could be a major factor in rejuvenating organized Jewry's traditional alliance with organized labor.

Veterans and National Security Organizations: Energy is the primary strategic resource of the industrial world. Yet, more than 30 percent of energy needs and 50 percent of petroleum needs depends on unstable countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Venezuela, and Nigeria, or hostile countries such as Iran, Iraq, and Libya. This security lapse is already causing great concern amongst veterans and national security organizations and they are also natural allies.

Educators: One might envision a "Twin Towers" energy project promoted throughout high schools in the United States. Uniting social studies, science and industrial arts departments, it would encourage pupils to surf the Internet and engage in other research to find low-cost energy conservation measures that they could install in their schools and at home. An entire system of "Twin Tower Clubs of America" could be established and could piggyback on existing youth programs such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4H. Children are by nature idealistic, and the combination of patriotism and environmentalism could galvanize them and create an irresistible grassroots movement. Such a project would enable Jewish teachers, a large and neglected segment of the community, to finally assume their rightful position in the Jewish community.

European Jewry could help initiate a sister organization called **Set Europe Free** (www.seteuropefree.org). The South African, Australian, and Latin American communities could also pursue similar smaller scale initiatives.



A History of the Future – How the Jews saved themselves and freed the world from Oil blackmail

(What follows is a futurist scenario in “The Old-New Land” tradition of Theodore Herzl; it imagines the effects of the Jewish Energy Project as well as stages of its development)

Report to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations January 2020

The Jewish Energy Project (Executive Summary)

The goal of the ***Jewish Energy Project*** was to destroy the power of petroleum as an international commodity. This has for all intents and purposes been accomplished.

Destroying the power of petroleum as an international commodity benefited everyone, but especially the Jewish People. It seriously undermined the financing of international Islamic terror, reducing it to a minor tactical annoyance rather than the major strategic threat it had become. It also rendered impotent the petroleum funded nuclear weapons programs of rogue states such as Iran. These were the two biggest external threats to the existence of the Jewish People. Nuclear weapons were a direct threat. Terror was an indirect threat as it caused some policy analysts to conclude that the very existence of Israel supported by the Jewish lobby was the problem. This view was one of the components of the new anti-Semitism, poorly disguised as anti-Zionism that had raised its head in Europe.

The end of oil dependence has also been beneficial for the world economy. The United States trade deficit has been reduced by 40% and hundreds of thousands of well paying domestic jobs have been created. In 2003 ***The National Defense Council Foundation*** concluded a year long research regarding the cost of oil dependence to the American economy:

- Almost \$49.1 billion in annual defense outlays to maintain the capability to defend the flow of Persian Gulf Oil – the equivalent of adding \$1.17 to the price of a gallon of gasoline. This did not include the cost of the second Iraq war. In other words policing the Persian Gulf had cost the American taxpayer a half a trillion dollars *between* the two Iraq wars.
- The loss of 828,400 jobs in the U.S. economy;
- The loss of \$159.9 billion in GNP annually;
- The loss of \$13.4 billion in federal and state revenues annually;
- Total economic penalties of from \$297.2 to \$304.9 billion annually.



- The periodic oil shocks of the three decades from 1973 had cost the American economy between two and two and a half trillion dollars (un-predictability is expensive).
- The Twin Towers atrocity – financed by petrodollars and a response to American “occupation” of Saudi Arabia (in defense of oil supply) – resulted in over two hundred billion dollars in direct and indirect economic losses.
- If all these costs had been internalized into the true cost of oil a gallon of gas at the pump in 2003 should have cost over five dollars.

In 2006 the price of a barrel of oil was double that of 2003 with corresponding increases of the real cost to the American economy. When the Jewish Energy Project laid these facts before the American People and drove them home in an unrelenting daily PR campaign the popular groundswell of public opinion against oil dependence became unstoppable

Given its greater dependence, the European Union has benefited even more. But the developing world, especially Africa, has benefited the most. Oil price fluctuations – caused by the OPEC oil boycotts of the 1970's and subsequent instability in the Middle East in the 90's and early 21st century –had a devastating effect on the African economy and played a major role in turning Africa into an economic basket case.

Once energy had been identified as the **keystone** of international development strategy (to a great extent because of the information and lobbying campaign of the **Jewish Energy Project**) North America, the European Union and Japan began devoting 50% of their foreign aid to making “third world” countries energy independent and thus immune to the world energy price fluctuations. As a consequence sub-Saharan African, Southeast Asian and Latin American countries as well as India have all become energy independent as of this writing.

The United States became **completely** energy independent this past year (2019) through a combination of conservation, alternative energy (solar, wind and geothermal), gasification and liquefaction of coal, and various technologies that turn carbon-based waste (sewage, manure, garbage, plastic, rubber, agricultural, etc.) into usable diesel and gas. The United States had already become **relatively** energy independent by 2015 – its sole oil imports then being from fellow NAFTA members Canada and Mexico.

The industrial might of America was mobilized in a manner not seen since World War II. By 2010 a Karrick Coal liquefaction plant producing 30,000 barrels of fuel a day (at \$40 a barrel) was being installed **every month** in the United States. This was adding 360,000 barrels of production every year. Thermal depolymerization units that produced a thousand barrels of liquid fuel were installed **daily**. This was adding 365,000 barrels of production a year. Plug in hybrids, flex fuel engines, household energy conservation and increased use of wind, solar and



geothermal energy were conserving close to 300,000 barrels of oil a year. Ethanol production from agricultural waste and bio-diesel from the food processing industry was adding the equivalent of 100,000 barrels of fuel a year. By 2010 **more than 1,100,000 barrels of oil a year was being taken off the market by the lower 48 States alone.**

China, employing similar technologies and policies, also became energy independent. Large supplies of oil were diverted from the United States and China to Japan, Korea and Taiwan (which had also drastically reduced oil consumption by conservation and use of various bio-diesel technologies). These countries presently receive all their energy imports from Russia, Canada and Mexico and not OPEC. The European Union's **remaining** oil and gas imports also come from non-OPEC countries such as Russia, Mexico and Brazil as well as West Africa.

The residual resentment against OPEC for its past boycotts and cartel behavior enabled the EU and Japan to procure oil from other suppliers when it became possible. OPEC had been banking on emerging markets such as China and India, but as noted these countries were no longer in need of OPEC oil. This so weakened that resented organization that Nigeria and post-Chavez Venezuela left it in order to guarantee their markets. OPEC has become another weak Moslem organization similar to the Arab Boycott in effectiveness. From pumping 35% of the world's daily oil supply in 2006 it now pumps less than 10%. From threatening markets it now begs for markets.

Advances in nanotechnology and biotechnology enabled extensive **environmentally friendly** extraction of oil from the tar sands of Canada and Venezuela. The production of **each** of these countries now exceeds that of Saudi Arabia at the peak of its production and along with Russia now provides the bulk of **international** exports.

These developments **enabled the West to stop ignoring the central role that Saudi Arabia had been playing in terror.** As early as 2009, the projected end of US energy dependence had enabled greater geo-political flexibility as well as greater adherence to democratic values. The era of pretending to be friends with thugs or of being intimidated or inhibited by them because they sat on vast reserves of oil was finally over. In 2009, after the formation of OPCC (Organization of Petroleum Consuming Countries) a subtle reverse oil boycott was put into operation. The West began to slowly lessen its oil purchases from Saudi Arabia, quickly dethroning it as the biggest oil exporter in the world. By 2012 it trailed Canada, Russia, and Venezuela and was no longer the chief indirect financier of international Islamic terror and direct financier of anti-Semitic propaganda. Today the **total** volume of exports from the Persian Gulf (Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait) is less than 6 million barrels a day **and declining.**



Ironically, the drastic **downgrading of oil as an international commodity** cleared the way for healthy economic, political and social developments in most of the Middle East as well as elsewhere. Petroleum producing countries were no longer capable of ignoring global developments and global standards of governance and behavior.

The dedication of the West to change the rules of the game became apparent well before the alternative methods of energy production and conservation described in this report reached optimal use. In 2007, the US, EU and Japan instituted a reverse oil boycott on Iran in order to deprive it of the means to continue to develop its nuclear weapons program (see Appendix A; "Oil: the Double Edged Sword", Commentary, March 2007). The International Energy Agency had four billion barrels of oil in reserves at this time. This enabled them to release 3 million barrels a day onto the market for a period of three and a half years – replacing the 3 million barrels a day exported by Iran. Given the energy saving and alternative energy producing steps described in this report which had been gaining impetus quicker than expected, the IEA was releasing only one million barrels a day by 2009 and began replacing reserves by 2010. At present, of course, there is no longer any need for the strategic reserves and they are slowly being drawn down.

The Oil Boycott against Iran was lead by the United States as a result of a groundswell of popular opinion that in large part had been stimulated by the **Jewish Energy Project** in collaboration with the **Set America Free Coalition** and other factors using the data referred to above. The project had mobilized Jewish (and non-Jewish) advertising agencies and public relations firms to lead an implacable campaign to "Boycott Iranian Oil". When the extent of the strategic reserves of the IEA was made known, the groundswell became a tsunami of public opinion. Bumper stickers and billboards reading "Boycott Iranian Oil" sprung up around the nation. The **Jewish Energy Project** set up a special fund to finance this campaign.

The subject became the central issue of the impending presidential election of 2008 and in the polls had the support of over 80% of the electorate. President Bush was "pressured" by Republican Congressmen and Senators (but especially the party's presidential candidates) to become proactive in pressing for the boycott. He was forced to resist the overwhelming pressure of the oil companies against the boycott and the proposed energy policy and exercised American leadership, despite his initial reluctance to do so. Ironically, his leadership on this issue salvaged his presidency in the eyes of many historians. Today we know it was **the** crucial strategic ploy in the "War on Terror". Indeed after the failure of the United States in Iraq and perceived failure of Israel in Lebanon it proved to be the trump card that saved the day for western civilization in its battle against Islamic Fascism.



The boycott on Iranian oil also had an immediate taming effect on North Korea, which had been greatly dependent on Iranian purchases of their missile and weapons technology for the little foreign currency they had. Iranian financing of Hezbollah (never popular amongst the mass of young educated Iranians) also dried up. This had a great stabilizing effect on the Israeli-Arab conflict and was a key factor in the comprehensive peace agreement between Israel and Syria/Lebanon in 2008.

This helped weaken Hamas and generate a more pragmatic attitude amongst the Palestinian masses which, along with other developments, engendered a “modus vivendi” and eventually a final two-State peace agreement in 2011.

In 2009, its economy in collapse and its impoverished population furious, Iran underwent a second revolution. The army, intellectuals and business community became infatuated with the Turkish model of modernization and governance. The catchphrase of this second revolution was “Where is the Iranian Ataturk”? Iran has since become a **constitutional republic**. The Mullahs were relegated to their pulpits and deprived of secular power. Iran was forced by economic necessity to establish close ties with the United States and the Europe Union. This obligated them to adopt an international policy of integrating into the global economy and contributing to global political stability. In 2010 it cut all ties with terrorist organizations and in 2013 it re-established relations with Israel.

The War on Terror and international Jihadism was not won by the direct strategy of armed intervention but rather by the indirect strategy of destroying oil as **the** major international commodity. This was a lesson America should have learned from its victory over communism and the Soviet Union. It was the **soft power** of American technology, science, economic freedom, mass communications and democracy that eventually brought the Berlin Wall down and not the **hard power** of armed intervention in Vietnam. As with the Vietnam war/fall of Communism equation, so it was with the Iraq War/ victory over international Jihadism equation. American technology and grassroots political will, democratically applied, won the war over terror.

Somewhat paradoxically, the standard of living of most citizens in the former oil powers is now higher than it was at the peak of OPEC's power. Juan Enriquez, the author of ***As the Future Catches You*** (Crown Publishing Group, 2000) would have, without difficulty, predicted this outcome. In his book he proved that countries that depend on commodities are guaranteed a future of poverty, because:

1. Increased productivity and professional management had reduced the **real** value of commodities and natural resources in 2000 to one fifth of what they were 150 years



previously. Petroleum was a minor exception. However, the \$80 barrel oil of 2006 was still not equivalent, *in real terms*, to the \$48 barrel oil of 1979.

2. When you have natural resources, you invest in them, when you lack natural resources; you invest in your human resources. When 70% of gross world product is the knowledge economy, investment in human resources gives a much greater return.
3. Countries rich in natural resources are more easily ruled by corrupt and incompetent thugs or religious fanatics. Dependence on human creativity and ability *requires* freedom and constitutional protections. ***In the global knowledge economy, democracy is no longer just an ideal, it is an economic necessity.***

The economic situation of Saudi Arabia had already proved Enriquez's thesis when the ***Jewish Energy Project*** was instituted. Its per capita income had declined from \$18,000 in 1982 to only \$9,000 in 2006 despite the post 9/11 oil spike.

Being deprived of their natural resource, former oil producing powers have had to reform in order to be accepted into the new global order or sink into a poverty, which at least deprives the thugs and fanatics of the ability to disturb the global order.

Russia had to reverse the authoritarian trends of Putin made possible by the post 9/11 windfall oil income. Chavez of Venezuela was quickly marginalized and faded into history as the Venezuelan middle and professional classes – the only real source of development – re-asserted themselves. This was the final death knell of Peronism in all Latin America, which enabled a decade long period of rapid growth during which substantial portions of the population and various economic sectors joined the knowledge economy. All Gulf oil powers have had an attack of reform, except Saudi Arabia – still dominated by Wahabi fanaticism – which, while turning its back on the world, no longer has the power to affect it negatively.

An added plus has been that every country in the world has fulfilled its Kyoto Protocol obligations in terms of greenhouse gas emissions (which are now 50% less than they were in 2008). The ***Jewish Energy Project*** has become a "Light unto the Gentiles" not because that was our intent, but as a consequence of our serving our own interests. It appears that enlightened egoism can sometimes be more beneficial than intentional altruism.

The Beginnings

As with many great historical undertakings the beginning was modest, literally a handful of young idealistic Jews at a parlor meeting on the East coast of the United States. They were conscious of the significance of the meeting and that they could affect the course of world history. One of those present, well read in Jewish history, noted that the first Zionist political



parties in the Land of Israel – which eventually established Israel – consisted of only several dozen people.

The meeting had two distinct factions. The first was composed of 4 Jewish activists from an organization called **The Set America Free Coalition** www.setamericafree.org. This was a coalition of neo-conservatives, liberal democrats, environmental activists, evangelical Christians, involved Jews and former members of the American security and intelligence communities. Their message was concise: **America's dependence on foreign oil was financing anti-American terror organizations around the world.** Their solution was simple and to the point: **set America free from foreign oil and we would deprive the terrorists of the financial means to conduct operations and sustain terrorist educational systems.** They had put together a doable program of how this might be achieved within a decade.

They identified transportation as the chief culprit. The combination of coal, nuclear, natural gas and alternative energy (solar, wind, geothermal etc.) could easily satisfy America's electricity and industrial needs. Indeed, an upgraded electricity grid would also make a big contribution to solving the transportation problem.

They were great advocates of the plug-in hybrid car which at the time could travel up to 100 miles on a gallon of fuel. When manufactured with ultra light, super strong composite materials (which had become economically viable by 2014) they could travel up to 200 miles on a gallon of fuel. The fuels of choice could be varieties of diesel and gas produced from organic waste and coal. They advocated that the government follow the Brazilian example and mandate that by 2012 only flex fuel engines, capable of using these fuels, would be imported or manufactured in the United States. They further estimated that a flex fuel pumping apparatus could be installed in existing gas stations for as little as \$60,000 per station, or less than 10 billion dollars for every gas station in the United States. The beauty of the concept was that it depended on "in place infrastructure" and did not require drastic changes in the preferences of the American motorist. It was logical, technologically feasible and doable in a short period of time.

The second faction was composed of a dozen members of a new Jewish organization called "**Kol Dor**" or in English the "**Voice of a Generation**". This referred to **all** young Jews (under 40) in Israel **and the Diaspora**, intimating that young Israelis and Diaspora Jews were going to be **active together as equals** and that this organization was going to be the voice of this concept.

"**Kol Dor**" had been looking for a major project to exploit the energies and excite the inherent idealism of an entire generation of Jews. They realized that unless they found such a project, they would remain a small discussion group. Their ambition, however, was to become a major



factor in Jewish life. The idea of the **Jewish Energy Project** inspired them to meet with the Jewish representatives of the Set America Free Coalition. At that meeting the **Jewish Energy Project** was born.

Strategy

They operated on several avenues of activity simultaneously.

They conducted information campaigns and encouraged other Jewish organizations (AIPAC, Hadassah, Federation Movements etc.) to endorse the **Set America Free Coalition** program and to make this Jewish endorsement known to local, state and national politicians. They encouraged individual Jews to become dues-paying members of the **Set America Free Coalition** and to lobby for endorsements and individual memberships from non-Jewish organizations of which they were members or had good working relations with (Rotary, Lions, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Evangelical Christians etc.). Their aim was to make the **Set America Free Coalition** the largest membership organization and strongest lobby in the United States. Their strategy succeeded. The addition of the Jewish Lobby to the **Set America Free Coalition** program and the way this was **leveraged** in the non-Jewish community has been seen as a turning point in the battle against oil dependence.

Concurrent to this they organized an extensive letter writing campaign to congressmen and senators, state representatives and local officials pressuring them to implement relevant aspects of the **Set America Free Coalition** program. For example:

1. Insisting that all governmental (national, state and local) non-emergency vehicles should be plug-in hybrids with flex fuel engines. As this is a huge aggregate market, the introduction of this policy motivated the world's major car makers to produce these vehicles. The subsequent large production volume lowered the price of each unit, making it attractive to the private consumer, who realized that the fuel savings actually made these vehicles cheaper than standard engine vehicles. Today 80% of the vehicles sold **worldwide** are plug-in hybrids with flex engines.
2. Insisting on tax breaks for these vehicles at national, state and local levels: income tax deductions for purchase, lower state automobile registration fees and lower local parking fees.
3. Insisting on a policy to make all government buildings (national, state, local) as energy self-sufficient as possible. This policy created a huge aggregate market for solar, wind and geothermal energy as well as insulation, alternate lighting technologies and smart materials such as windows that heat in the winter and cool in the summer. Once again, the huge aggregate market generated large production volume which lowered per unit costs, making it affordable for the private consumer. The home improvements industry



(Home Depot, Lowes etc. and their suppliers) was an important allied lobby in pushing this legislation through. This released huge amounts of energy and particularly electrical energy onto the market. This thwarted the rise in electricity prices that opponents of plug in hybrids had been predicting as a consequence of the increased electric consumption the plug in hybrids would generate.

4. Insisting on local property tax discounts for private homes that achieve energy self-sufficiency and gas stations that install flex-fuel pumps. Lobbying the Federal Government to help underwrite this policy.
5. Insisting that local municipalities install **Thermal Depolymerization** units. This was the alternative energy “killer application”. It turned all carbon based waste into useable diesel and gas. This included sewage, garbage, trash, **toxic** waste of the chemical industry, manure from feed lots, old tires etc. The only thing it could not handle was radioactive waste. At the time that the **Jewish Energy Project** was launched, pilot plants of this process were already operating in Missouri and Philadelphia. When economists analyzed the process they found it to be economically sound. The savings on sewage treatment and garbage collection as well as the tax producing use of former landfills along with the sale of diesel and gas produced by the process attracted private investment.
6. The Internet industry was encouraged to invest in R&D to develop more energy efficient ways to run the Internet and the fast food industry to develop mini thermal depolymerization units to turn their organic waste into energy and make branch restaurants energy self-sufficient. This resulted in a spin off development of individual home units. As of this writing the combination of improved insulation, electrical appliances and lighting, along with smart material windows and these mini-units has made half the private homes in the United States and 90% of the homes in the EU and Japan energy self sufficient.

Concurrently, European members of “**Kol Dor**” initiated the establishment of a **Set Europe Free Coalition** (www.seteuropeefree.org). Having little indigenous oil and much smaller coal deposits, Europe has not yet achieved energy independence but now imports one third the energy they did in 2007. Given further developments in smart materials, lighting and appliances technologies as well as recent developments in environmentally safe exploitation of methane hydrates, Europe hopes to achieve energy independence by 2030, as does Japan.

Prompted by its Jewish members the **Set America Free** and **Set Europe Free** coalitions pressured their respective countries to dedicate 50% of their foreign aid to making the third world energy self sufficient.



As previously noted, the 2008 American elections as well as various European elections during this period were framed by the issue of energy self-sufficiency. Politicians competed with one another on this issue. Jewish and non-Jewish political contributions were made on the basis of candidates' positions on the issue. The new American President's inaugural speech was reminiscent of President Kennedy's man on the moon speech: "By the end of the coming decade the United States will be energy self-sufficient". The entire country, sick of being blackmailed by thugs, of having to live with terrorists and of being periodically obliged to spill blood because of energy, became completely mobilized behind this national goal.

In Europe, the new Prime Minister of Great Britain and President of France joined with the German Chancellor to declare European Energy Independence to be Europe's equivalent of the American Man on the Moon project. The aim itself was sufficient but they also discerned another benefit no less worthy – by uniting behind this kind of epic project they could finally generate an authentic European meta-identity. This has been accomplished. Other gains have been technological, improving competitiveness and making Europe a world leader in many areas of benefit to the European economy; a similar impact to that which the Space Program had on the American economy.

In 2009 the EU, America and Japan formed **OPCC** (Organization of Petroleum Consuming Countries). This was a consumer cartel formed to prevent **OPEC** undermining energy independence initiatives by drastically cutting oil prices at crucial times in order to undercut R&D and bankrupt alternative energy projects. Saudi Arabia had been quite frank about the use of this strategy. Some members of its government had boasted that: "We will wait until you invest huge amounts of money and effort and then dramatically lower the price of oil. Not only will you lose a great deal of money but you will be inhibited for decades to come not to try to become energy independent". Some research claimed that the plummeting of the price of oil to \$10 dollars a barrel during the later years of the Clinton administration was a calculated ploy intended to drive low production high cost domestic wells out of production. Since about 30,000 wells capable of producing about a half a million barrels a day (what ANWR would have produced at its peak) were taken out of production as a consequence, one cannot dismiss the claim out of hand.

To forestall this tactic **OPCC** agreed on an \$80 dollar a barrel benchmark price for all oil consumed by member countries whether imported or domestically produced. This would guarantee a level playing field and was the only way all the players would come on board. The instrument for guaranteeing this price was a sliding excise tax on oil. If oil was being dumped by Saudi Arabia at \$30 a barrel, an excise tax of \$50 would be added at the port of entry. Domestic producers in the United States and elsewhere would have a similar add-on at the well



head. This stabilized the petroleum market and enabled entrepreneurs and corporations to make long term investments based on the predictability of the price of oil without fear they would be undercut at a crucial time. It also generated huge additional tax revenues for the member states and of course the price of oil has remained at 80\$ a barrel for over a decade, representing a decline in the real cost of oil of over 50%. Because of the benchmark price and ongoing efficiencies and improvements in the alternative technologies mentioned this decline in real price has not impacted on the ever widening and deepening use of these alternative technologies.

The Israel Energy Project

While all this was going on, the **Israel Energy Project** was initiated. Israeli members of **Kol Dor** convinced the **Young Leadership of the Federation Movement** that since the aggregate impact of the Diaspora's financial contribution to Israel had become marginal; the **Israel Energy Project** was the way to make a truly **significant** contribution to Israel. The **Federation Young Leadership**, anxious to make their distinctive mark on Jewish life, was convinced and the **Israel Energy Project** was born.

The project was structured in the following way.

1. Diaspora contributions were transferred to an Israeli organization that bought Israeli manufactured solar and geothermal energy equipment, as well as other Israeli manufactured alternative energy products. This injected hundreds of millions of dollars per year into these industries and created thousands of skilled well paying jobs which absorbed many workers who had previously been working in low paying manufacturing jobs.
2. The equipment was then donated to and installed in the homes and apartments of the poorest segments of the Israeli population – Jews and Arabs, without discrimination. This eliminated energy expenses (electricity, heating and cooling and cooking) for this impoverished population and in many cases provided them with additional income, as surplus energy could be sold back to the Grid.
3. The creation of thousands of well paying jobs amongst previously poorly paid workers as well as energy self-sufficient and surplus energy producing homes lifted tens of thousands over the poverty line and made a tremendous dent in Israeli poverty. The dent was not only economic it was also psychological. Entire towns and neighborhoods attained a different self-image.
4. This project also improved the Israeli environment and turned Israel into an alternative energy world power. Both of these developments had a positive impact on Israel's image in the world. It became increasingly difficult for “progressive” forces to attack



Israel and support its enemies when it became a world leader in environment and alternative energy.

5. These industries quickly developed huge export markets. The products they developed were supplied to **Set America Free** and **Set Europe Free** projects as well as to the general market. In America, synagogues and many evangelical churches decided to become energy self-sufficient using appropriate Israeli technology. A donor would contribute suitable Israeli technology and get a multi-dimensional benefit: an 80% tax deduction for the cost of the contribution, a significant reduction of energy expenses of his house of worship, a contribution to Israel's economy and the reduction of Israeli poverty, as well as contributing to the lowering of production costs and making these technologies economically feasible for the general market.
6. A group of forward thinking Diaspora investors bought and merged various Israel alternative energy companies into **The Israel Alternative Energy Corporation**. This new company then bought **Changing World Technologies**, the foremost thermal depolymerization company. Just as Israel had become a world power in computer related technology and software so it became a world power in alternative energy. **The Israel Alternative Energy Corporation** is now the second largest company in Israel.

As a result of all this, Israel has benefited environmentally and economically. It has eliminated its trade deficit by ending the importation of coal and oil and developed another thriving high tech sector in alternative energy products, systems and consulting. These alternative energy investments have created an abundance of high paying jobs, enabling Israel to eliminate undercapitalized, poorly managed industrial sectors dependent on minimum wage labor. Israel's image and standing in world opinion has improved tremendously as a consequence of this project.