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Final Combustion: Oil, Islam and the Christian West – Part III

By Wilfred Hahn

In the previous two parts to this series, we answered the question: “Why should oil and Islam be so closely related?” and addressed the possible complicity of the Christian West in the development of an endtime oil trap that could militate against the interests of Israel.



Beyond a shadow of a doubt, we reasoned that it could not be random chance that aligned the control of most of the world's oil today as a tactical device against Israel. Seen from the perspective of God's cosmic time plan for the world, the evidence suggested only one possibility: The Great Deceiver did have something to do with the proliferation of Islam and the materialistic hedonism of many formerly Christian nations. After all, Satan's influences and human “evil desires” are behind all of the world's false belief systems and affections.

Last month we left off with several questions: What key roles are being played by Russia and the Asian nations in the world's emerging energy crisis today? What woes may yet befall the Christian

West and Israel? And, critically, is it already too late to slow down the road to Armageddon? In other words, has the diabolically-designed trap already snapped shut?

The Final Energy Trap

For a trap to work, it must depend upon deception and initially must remain undetected by its intended quarry. So it is with all the global snares befalling the world ... and especially so with oil. However, by the time a well-laid snare is discovered, it is usually much too late to escape. An accomplished trapper does not allow his device to be revealed a moment too soon. However, there is a case to be made that at least part of the world has finally woken up. In this sense, given that the awareness of a trap has emerged just





recently, it may already be too late. The trap has sprung.

More people are recognizing that the world is not suffering a cyclical oil crisis but rather the “hostage” phase — the final phase, in other words — of a longer-running scheme of entrapment. Two recent developments underscore this realization, one in Europe, the other in the US.

Europe: Caught over the Pipeline

As a direct result of Russia’s slashing of gas exports to the Ukraine in late December 2005, the furnace pilot lights went out in Europe while the “lights went on” in another respect. Since approximately 80 percent of Europe’s imports of gas from Russia transit via pipelines through Ukraine, European society suddenly realized how dependent it is upon Russia for its natural gas needs. By extension, Europeans have also become keenly aware of their dependency upon imported energy overall — whether of Russian, Middle-Eastern or Caspian origin. “We have suddenly realized that we are highly reliant on a single supplier, which is never good in any sector but is particularly dangerous with energy,” said one analyst.¹

While this has already long been obvious to energy experts, the difference now is that the general public has become uncomfortably aware of this vulnerability because one player, Russia, has chosen to reveal how it might actually use this advantage. That makes it an urgent and topical issue for politicians ... in other words, an issue that will affect future policy decisions. It is a fact that Europe is heavily dependent upon Russia for approximately 25 percent of total energy requirements. Chillingly, no real alternatives can change this situation any time soon. The result? Russia is back in the driver’s seat with respect to maintaining and increasing its control over some of its former client

states, and crucially, also in influencing Europe (and thereby the balance of world power.)

No one 15 years ago ever would have guessed that Russia would be in the powerful position that it finds itself today. Even some prophecy scholars were writing off Russia as a potential participant in future endtime events. Even more ironic is the fact that Russia is using the monopolistic market power of a major company, OAO Gazprom — a corporation listed on the stock exchange. Like China, the old



Achimgaz - Natural gas production in Russia

communists have been opportunistically borrowing capitalistic techniques that they know will work in this present Age of Capital. Gazprom is the world’s largest natural gas company as well as a significant oil producer. It may soon even be the world’s largest company in value (with the possible exception of Aramco, the Saudi Arabian state-owned oil company, were it ever to be listed publicly).

Vladimir Putin, Russia’s president, has not been shy to reveal that his government is using Gazprom as a tool to affect its geopolitical goals. A former economic advisor to this president agrees, recently saying, “State-owned companies have become the assault weapons of this corporate state.”² Russia is only barely concealing the motivations for its manipulative techniques through the actions of Gazprom. Though the latter is supposedly a public

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BASF and Gazprom conclude groundbreaking agreement on European energy supply.

In the presence of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin (3rd from left), and the German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder (2nd from left), the Chairmen of the Board of Executive Directors from both companies, Dr. Jürgen Hambrecht (left) and Alexej Miller (right), signed a corresponding memorandum of understanding in Hanover.



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company with many other private shareholders, its chairman, Dimitry Medvedev, also simultaneously serves as the First Deputy Prime Minister in Putin's government. Imagine such a conflict of interest occurring in America or Europe? It would not be possible. While the interests and powers of major corporations assuredly influence (if not determine) the major policies of Western governments, in Russia it is very much the opposite. There, the government is in open cohabitation with a major corporation, using it as a tool to pursue its global agendas.

While such policies should scare international investors in Russia, that has not really been the case. The Russian stock market index has continued to soar, the prices of Gazprom shares reaching new highs despite the expropriative and sometime anti-foreign tendencies of the Putin-led regime. As mentioned, Russia and China have learned a few new tricks from the capitalists. Above all, they surely recognize a key weakness of the West, particularly so the Anglo-Saxon countries — rampant greed. After all, that is the signature impulse behind globalization itself.

What is the significance of all these facts?

While there is some debate about whether Russia has a prophetic endtime role, (some equate it with Gog, which is mentioned in two wars yet future) it is increasingly clear that Russia has gained

some very effective power levers that today already project right in the very heart of Middle East geopolitical developments. Whether Russia is Gog or merely has an influence over the actual Gog or Magog (perhaps a larger part of Europe?) identified by the prophetic utterances of the Holy Spirit, the Bible may still involve Russia or the role of energy. Presently, Russia is in a position to have a controlling impact over Europe, given its dependence upon Soviet energy imports. More expressly, it opens the possibility that when the crucial time comes, Russia may have influenced the EU's future responses to Israel. Russia is no friend of Israel, and never has been. In this respect, the great geopolitical backdrop that the Bible describes to the time of "Jacob's trouble" is surely shifting into place.

A Final Realization for the US

While Europe has received a jarring wake-up call from Russia recently, a similar realization — the second new "wake-up call" we want to point out — has happened in the US. In early December, the US Energy Information Agency (EIA) released a blockbuster report. This agency is responsible for producing reports and statistics that aid the US in formulating its energy policies. Signaling a monumental change of opinion, the EIA boosted its previous forecast for average oil prices between now and 2025 by a staggering 63 percent.³ Please realize that a change of forecast of this magnitude represents more than a change of estimate. It is an unprecedented reversal ... a massive change of opinion. Organizations such as the EIA who employ sophisticated forecasting systems do not ordinarily — if ever — change 20-year forecasts by such a degree. After all, these are long-range forecasts spanning decades, not simply a one- or two-year time horizon. All of this signals



another major “wake-up” and that energy has become a very urgent policy issue with great geopolitical implications. To this point, it has always been official policy to minimize the possibility of future energy supply problems. No longer.

As already mentioned, none of this is particularly new nor are the recent energy shocks unanticipated by most analysts. What is notable is this: Publicly, the cat is now out of the bag. An awakening is occurring for the nation at large. Not only does the public now realize how vulnerable their way of life actually has become, the EIA’s new and panicked forecast now supplies the official justification for tough new initiatives in the future. What might these include?

It would be too difficult to be specific. It is much easier to guess what will drive such possible measures. North American and European consumers enjoy their standard of living. That standard of living (as outlined in Part II of this series) critically depends upon the availability of hydrocarbons for gasoline, heating, plastics, and numerous industrial and other applications.

However, there is one key difference between the European situation and that of America. While both are equally vulnerable with respect to the physical supply of energy, America is the most vulnerable to huge price rises. That is the case for two reasons. European consumers are already accustomed to high energy prices while Americans are not. Europe long ago instituted high taxes on energy, beginning in the 1970s. For example, a gallon of gasoline in Germany cost three times that in the US in recent years, representing the equivalent of roughly \$150 per barrel of oil. As such, European countries have already adjusted to much higher energy prices.

The second reason Americans are more vulnerable to energy price hikes is that

household finances are at their worst state in history. The average household in the US, even before the rises in energy costs, was already spending more than its income. In contrast, most European countries (with the exception of Britain) have much higher savings rates. Taking into account that the US has also experienced a massive and speculative debt mania on the back of the greatest real estate bubble in history, only adds to this vulnerability.

Without a doubt, hydrocarbon energy supplies to the US will certainly decline in the future. Other energy solutions will need to be found. In the interim, it means that the “automobile-centered society” will be under pressure. When a serious economic crisis finally looms, or consumers cry out against the high cost of commuting to work from suburbia, what will politicians not do to find solutions? What would the American or Canadian population not sacrifice in return for continuing access to cheap oil? Would we appease the demands of Islamists? Would we abandon Israel?

Some would argue that the “good life” consumer ethic is so deeply entrenched in our societies that the possible perils of Israel — thousands of miles removed from the American freeways and the Autobahn — will be exchanged for energy in a heartbeat. On the present course of developments, all of these questions may very well be answered in the near future. Will they choose to suffer huge dislocations for their oil-dependent way of life, or instead assume complicity in the upcoming Day of the Lord? ☠

ENDNOTES

- 1 Klaudia Kemfert, energy specialist with Humboldt University in Berlin. Quoted in *The Globe & Mail*, January 9, 2006.
- 2 Andrei Illarnionov, Op-Ed Contribution entitled “Russia Inc.” *New York Times*, February 4, 2006.
- 3 Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Outlook 2006 Overview*, Released December 2005.

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