

Resource depletion is the exhaustion of raw materials within a region. From competition among hunter-gatherers for wild game to imperialist wars over precious minerals, resource wars have been fought throughout history. The United States—the world’s current economic and military superpower— entered the industrial era with a nearly unparalleled endowment of natural resources that included an abundance not only of forests, water, topsoil, and minerals, but also of oil, coal, and natural gas. Global consumption of energy for the year 2005 was about 500 exajoules, most of which was supplied by fossil fuels. Use of electricity worldwide rose by 70 percent from 1990 to 2008. This means an increase per capita of 41 percent. Since global energy per capita is not increasing significantly, there may come a point at which there is insufficient energy to prevent widespread brownouts and rolling blackouts. In 1850, before commercial production began, there were about 2 trillion barrels of oil in the ground. By about the year 2010, half of that oil had been consumed, so about 1 trillion barrels remain. At the moment about 30 billion barrels of oil are consumed annually, and that is probably close to the maximum that will ever be possible. The production rate of fresh water is declining everywhere. According to the UN’s Global Environment Outlook 4, “by 2025, about 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two-thirds of the world population could be under conditions of water stress — the threshold for meeting the water requirements for agriculture, industry, domestic purposes, energy and the environment.

There has been recent talk of renewable and non-renewable resources in the news. One newspaper pertaining to the non-renewable resource was “***Depletion of Ground Water Level***”. It talks about improving the groundwater levels, and the remedial measures that are undertaken by the State Governments. The Ministry of Water Resources also promotes rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water through implementation of pilot/demonstrative projects on water harvesting and artificial recharge and implementation of Farmers’ Participatory Action Research Programme with a view to improving the water use efficiency in the agriculture sector. The second article I read was “***Why Natural Resource Depletion Must Factor in National Debt Ratings***”. This article talks about how countries are seeing their import bills for both biological resources (fish, timber, wheat and other soft commodities) and fossil fuels rise. Commodity markets, food prices and food and resource security are becoming increasingly volatile, exacerbated by climate change-caused weather extremes and uncertainty. UNEP's report, produced with Global Footprint Network, "E-RISC: A New Angle on Sovereign Credit Risk," analyzes five "pilot" countries - Brazil, France, India, Japan and Turkey – to demonstrate a model for taking environmental risks into account. For each country, they calculated potential financial risks stemming from excess freshwater consumption, soil erosion, and deforestation. This trend is tightening global competition for the planet’s limited resources and represents risks for sovereign bond investors as well as countries issuing such bonds, creating an Ecological Footprint.

Resource depletion, opportunity or looming catastrophe? There are two different sides arguing this situation. One side believes it’s not just physical depletion that leads to scarcity. For some resources, political and financial factors can exacerbate the problem, particularly in the

short term. A recent survey by consultants PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) found a shortage of key minerals and metals could "disrupt entire economies". The other side argues that the simple fact that more resources could be discovered, but political factors alone make them hard to come by. China, for example, where most so-called rare-earth elements are found, already severely restricts exports to other countries. India and Vietnam have also curbed exports of mineral resources and the pressure for other countries to follow suit is growing.

There Are very few solutions for solving this problem, but recycling of some resources and, in the case of nonrenewable resources that can't be recycled, like oil, we can find alternatives like wind, solar, or etc.

Really I do think resource depletion is a serious matter, but due to my experience in this world, there's not much I can argue. I would like to keep as much freshwater as possible on earth though. Clean water is always important, at least to me, I bathe in it, drink it, and I'm made of it. I use water to replenish myself in sports. I think it is important for us to change the course of direction of this issue. As I said in paragraph four, we can use those methods to implement change.

Bibliography

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