

POL2012: Theories and Models in Political Economy

Energy politics (climate change)

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The political economy of Energy

- ▶ Energy \neq electricity
 - ▶ Different sources for different uses
 - ▶ Fossil fuels
 - ▶ Renewable and non-renewable
- ▶ Technology-economics-politics
- ▶ Energy and politics
- ▶ Energy and growth

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International politics

- Big money



International politics

- Not just big money
- Energy security



Discuss the statement:

“Energy dependence is a source of conflict”

International politics



Climate change

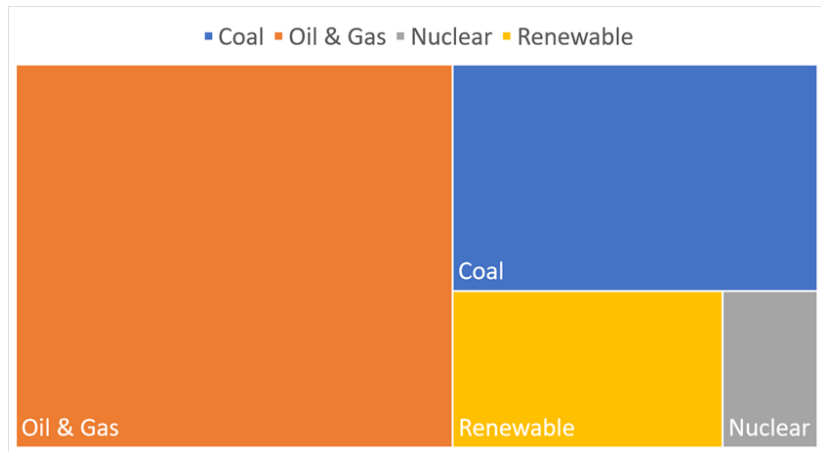


Figure: Current global energy supply

What needs to happen?

- ▶ Change the type of energy used
- ▶ Change source of electricity
- ▶ How do they interact?

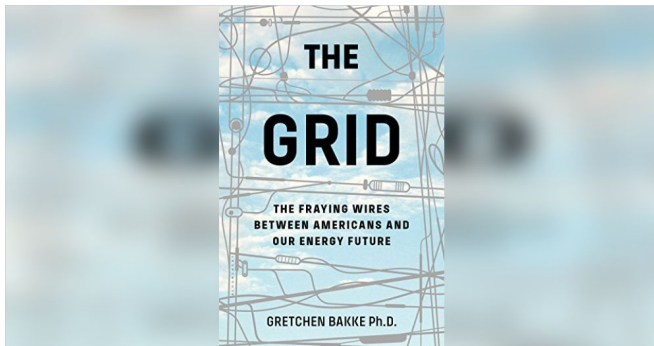
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The problem of the grid



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Market mechanisms

- ▶ Make renewable energy competitive
- ▶ Carbon taxes and ETS

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Alternatives to the market?

Will it work?

Potential problems

- ▶ Vested interests
 - ▶ Energy systems are built around fossil fuels
 - ▶ Energy efficiency
 - ▶ Only works if our assumptions hold

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