

Geopolitics, Conflicts and Petroleum

John Foster

Canada Africa Chamber of Commerce
Toronto

29 September 2016

Geopolitics, Conflicts and Petroleum

John Foster

Canada Africa Chamber of Commerce
Toronto

29 September 2016

Surprise!



Recent conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa all have a petroleum connection

Bad Guys!



The Petroleum Connection



IRAQ – Oil Giant

Map



Saddam Hussein



IRAQ – Oil Giant

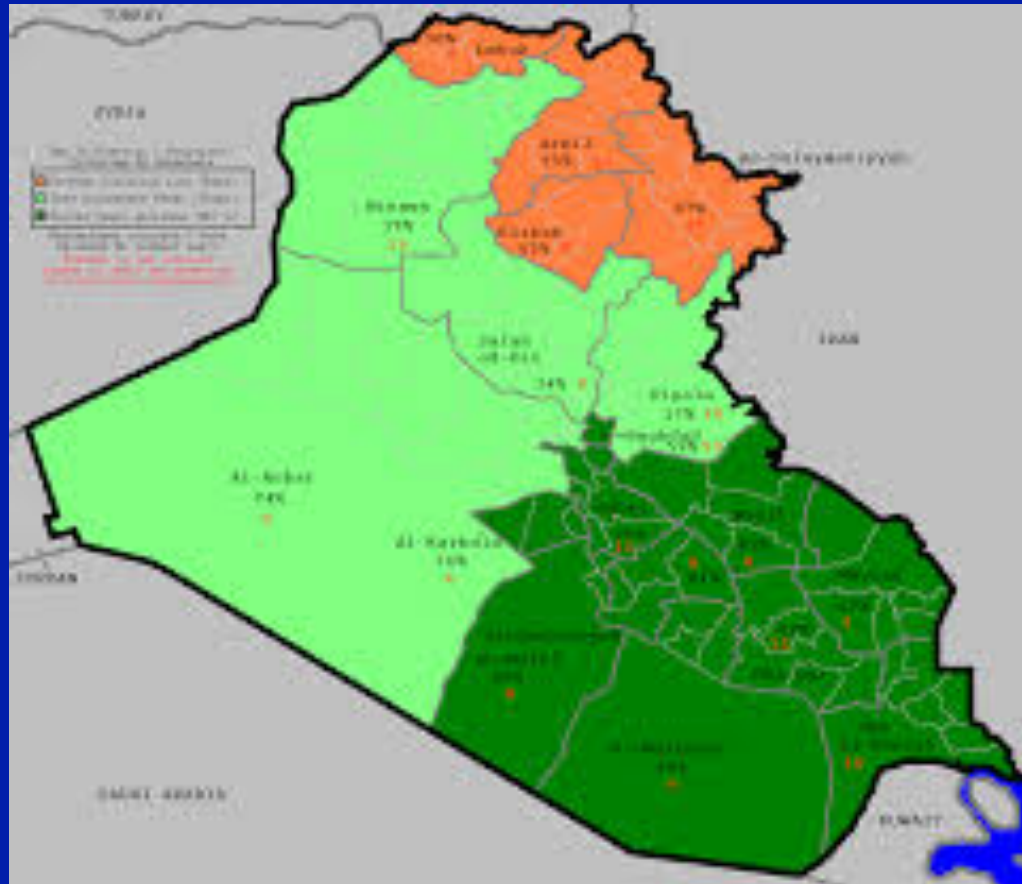
Baghdad Museum



Ministry of Oil



Iraq War's legacy – partition



Syria

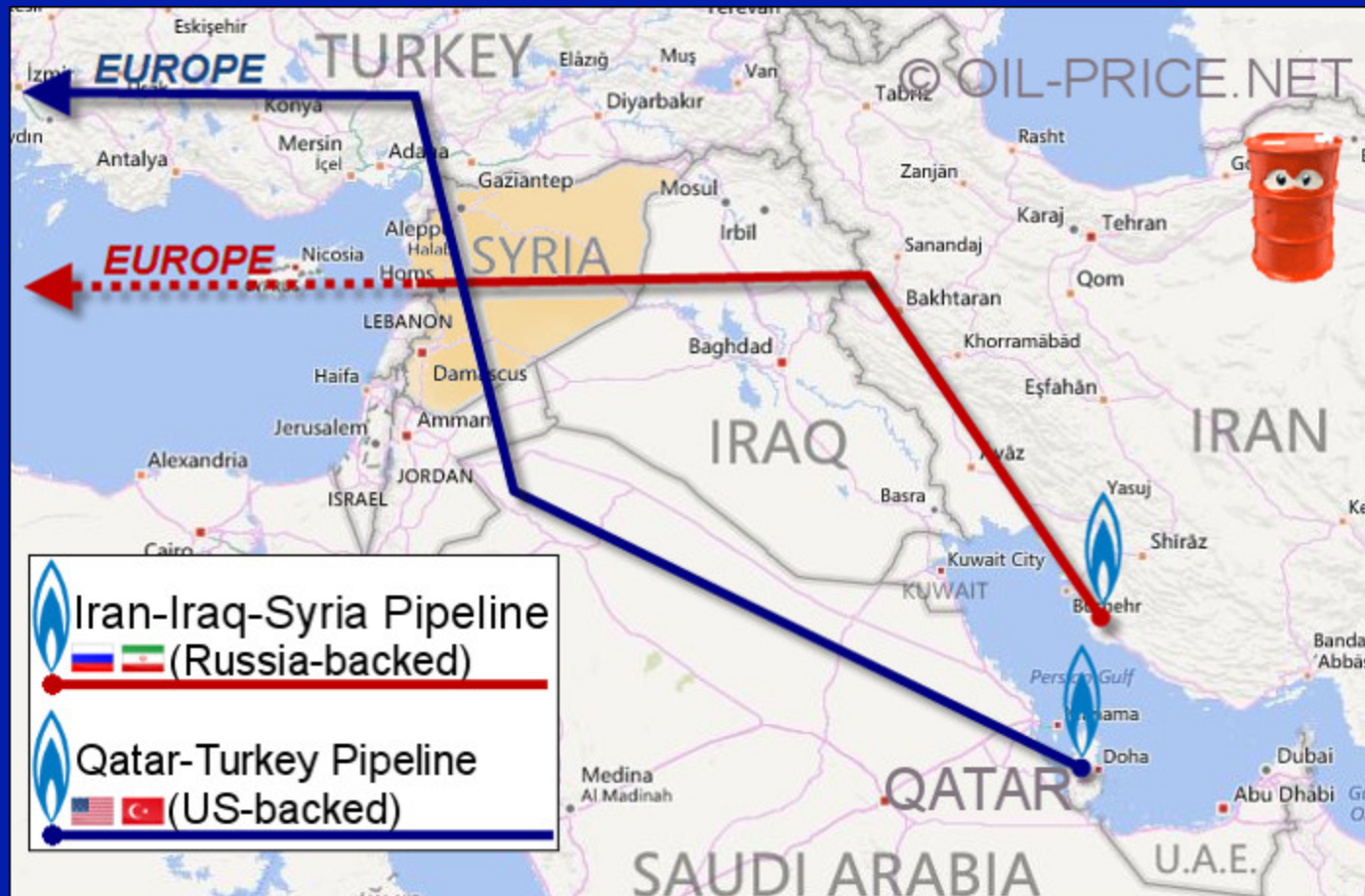
Peace in Our Time?



Gas routes proposed via Syria

Qatar pipeline 2009

Iran pipeline 2011



Who supports whom?

- Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey support IS
- Turkey bombs Syrian Kurds (US allies)
- US coalition supports moderate rebels (if any)
- China, Russia, Iran support Assad



AFGHANISTAN



Turkmen gas to China



Proposed TAPI pipeline



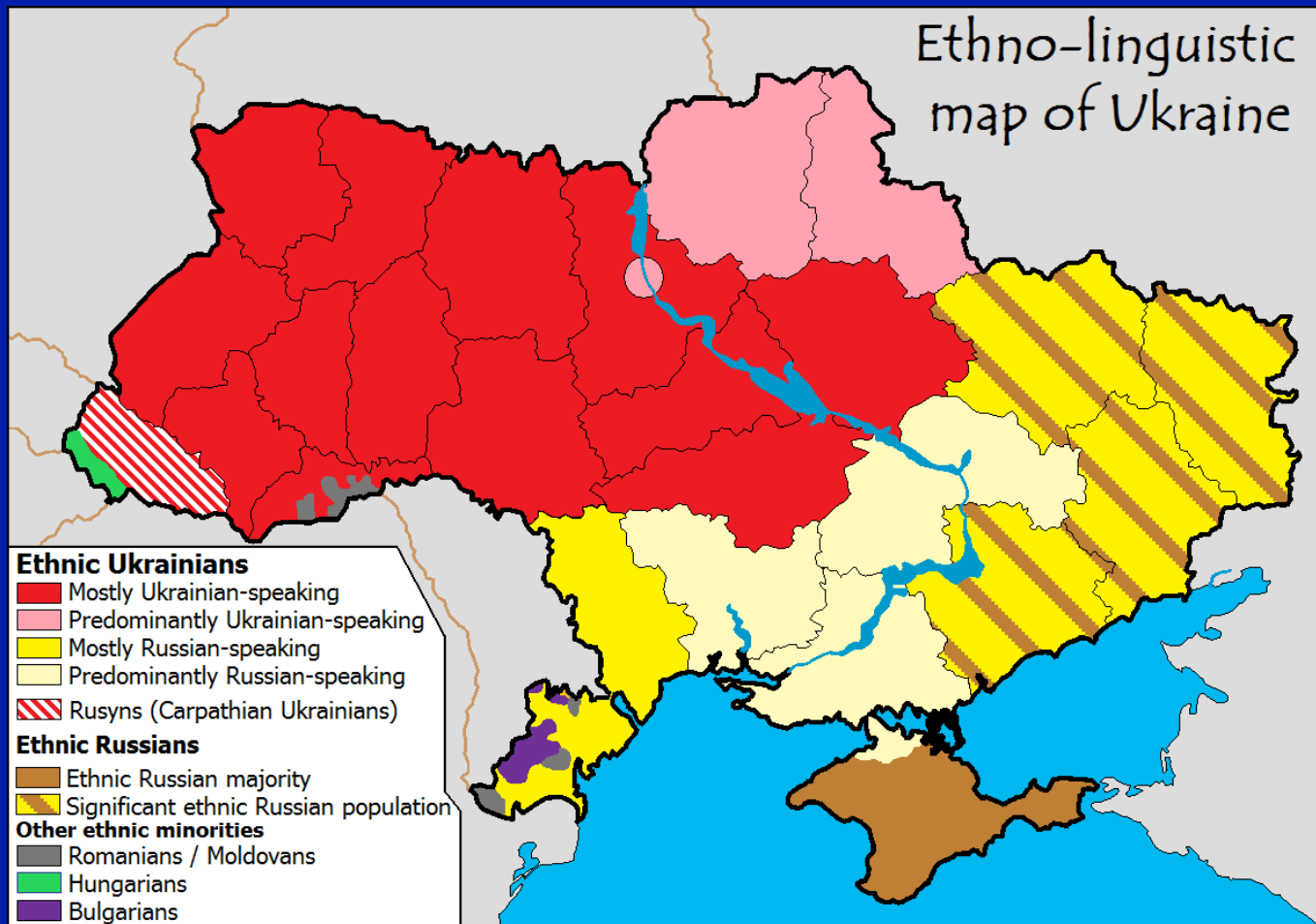
Somalia and Yemen



Djibouti



UKRAINE – a Divided Country



Two Narratives

US/EU/NATO

RUSSIA

The New York Times

RT

Shady Stuff



Ukraine – gas bridge

Major natural gas transit pipelines flowing through Ukraine



Nord Stream pipeline – bypassing Ukraine



South Stream thwarted



Turkish Stream



Rival project: Southern Gas Corridor



LIBYA – until 2011

- Top quality oil
- Free education & health care
- 90% literacy
- Low infant mortality



Gaddafi Had Big Plans

- African financial institutions
- Gold currency for Africa



West and East



Chinese evacuation



Sirte – before and after



Libya in chaos

Refugees at sea



ISIS in Sirte



Oil chaotic too

- Oil exports problematic
- Exploration uncertain
- Failed State



Interventions

- Iraq, Libya – petroleum resources
- Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine – pipelines
- Somalia, Yemen – strategic sea routes

Big Power Rivalry

- Big Power rivalry impinges on sovereignty
- Provides both opportunities and risks

United States

- Concern for European energy security
- Russian gas



Russia – a Petro-state

- Concerns for trade
 - sanctions
 - obstacles to gas exports to Europe
- Concerns for containment



China and Russia strengthen cooperation



China – Belt and Road initiative



Big Game in Africa?



“Oh, What a Lovely War”

- One war after another
- Energy wars? Missions?
- Wars for resources illegal – UN Charter



Oil and geopolitics inseparable

- Power
- Politics
- Petroleum

