

## HISTORY TIMELINE OF THE WORLD'S PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

Did you know that people have been using oil in 5000 years ago?

*Do you know why whales are now thanking the industrial Revolution!*

While whale oil was very wanted lighting lamps and so forth, people were still using petroleum in different things without any knowledge about it, until 19<sup>th</sup> century when they started understanding and knowing well what lately became known as petroleum (crude oil). Though crude oil has been being used in everyday life, whales lost their lives giving oil to people. Oil has been very important in many very ancient and great civilization of the world. As Per the Herodotus, more than thousands ago asphalts have been being used in construction of walls and towers of Babylon indeed some tremendous quantities are found near there, the fact that highlights that there had early been a source. There were pits near Ardericca and pitch spring on Zynthus. But also, petroleum was known to be used in medicine for upper levels of some great civilization of the epoch as found in the chronology summarized below to show some petroleum important events. Until to the end of 21<sup>st</sup> century, western world was known of killing whales to produce oil which was very important due to its versatility. The whales' blubbers used to be heated to fetch oil to light lamps or to be used in other things. Petroleum was also having similar role, but less known and less needed by people than whale oil was. As also it is seen in the chronology bellow, petroleum which appears in various forms could be used to light street lamps in some important towns or being used in medicine. The way they found it was easy and random. They could find oil as seeping liquids or discovering it while digging wells to fetch drinking water. The increased knowledge about oil use and exploration was mostly caused by the scarcity of whale oil and increased oil demand that was lately caused by the Industrial Revolution, thereby lives of survived whales in western world became saved from hunters.

### **1. History of the World Petroleum Industry: Important Dates**

Here is a chronological summary of some of the important events impacting the evolution of the world petroleum industry with some key world events that had mainly impacted the oil industry

Chronology Summary:

- \* 6th Century BC - The army of Kir II, first shah of Achaemenid Empire (present - Iran), used Absheron oil in weapons of fire to invade castles and cities. (Note: much of the historic information relating to the early history in the Middle East has been provided by Mir-Yusif Mir-Babayev, Professor of Azerbaijan Technical University in Baku)
- \* 450BC - Herodotus described oil pits near Babylon
- \* 325BC - Alexander the Great used flaming torches of petroleum products to scare his enemies
- \* 100AD - Plutarch described oil bubbling from the ground near Kirkuk in present day Iraq
- \* 347AD - Chinese reported to have drilled holes in ground using bamboo to extract oil
- \* 8th Century AD - Baku people used ground impregnated with oil for heating because of absence of wood
- \* 9th Century AD - Arabian traveler Baladzori (Al-Belazuri Ahmed) describes in "The Conquest of the countries" that political and economic life on Absheron had been long connected with oil. (Published in English "The origins of the Islamic state", by P.K. Hitti and F.C. Murgotten, v.1-2, N.Y.-L., 1916-1924)

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- \* 10th Century AD - Arabian traveler Abu-Dulaf visits and describes Absheron's oil sources; and noted that there were two major sources - black and white oil. White oil was exported to Iran, Iraq and India as a valuable article
- \* 12th Century AD - A unique medicinal oil from the Naftalan (Azerbaijan region), was used for curing various health problems. It was carried in wineskins through the territory of modern Georgia to the Black Sea shores and from there to other countries of the world
- \* 1273 - Marco Polo recorded visiting the Persian city of Baku, on the shores of the Caspian Sea in modern Azerbaijan, he saw oil being collected from seeps for use in medicine and lighting
- \* 1500s - Oil from seeps in the Carpathian Mountains in Poland was burned in street lamps to provide light in the Polish town of Krosno
- \* 1568 - Under the direction of Englishmen Thomas Bannister and Jeffrey Duckett, Moscow Company agents visited Azerbaijan and wrote about Baku oil (the Moscow Company was founded in London in 1555).
- \* 1594 - A stone dated 1594 and signed by Allahyar Mahammad Nurogly is found in an oil well (kolodets) 35 metres deep in Baku (in settlement Balakhani) (this well is dug by hand)
- \* 1618 - Italian traveller Pietro Della Valle spoke about great amounts of black oil around Baku; it was cheap and brought lots of income to the shah every year.
- \* 1637 - Baku oil is marked as a 'terrible weapon by ignition' in a "List of gun stocks' of Moscow state.
- \* 1647 - Turkish traveller Evliya Chelebi examines and thoroughly describes Baku oil fields while in Baku. As per to his data, Baku oil brought 7000 tumans of annual income to Shah's treasury and was exported to Persia, Central Asia, Turkey and India
- \* 1666 - Dutch sailor and traveller Jan Struys (he was taken prisoner in Iran and used to visit this place often with the merchant who owned him - he even drew the Caspian Sea map) visited Azerbaijan and wrote in his work called "Journey" that there were wells built with stones inside and with white and black oil coming to the surface on Besh Barmag mountain (now - in Siazan region of Azerbaijan)
- \* 1723 - Peter the Great (1672-1725) issues special decrees about the order of oil extraction; in a letter to major-general Michael Matyushkin, who governed Baku, he demanded sending "one thousand poods of white oil or as much as possible, and to look for increase in production". Persian campaign (1722-1723) of Peter I resulted in Baku and Derbent (on the East coast of Caspian) being annexed to Russia
- \* 1739 - Academician I.V. Veytbreht publishes the treatise "About the oil", which contains much data about Absheron oil
- \* 1741 - Director of English-Russian trading company Ioannas Hanway investigated condition of Baku oilfields. In 1754 he published "Historical essay about English trade in Caspian Sea" in London
- \* 1771 - Academician Samuil Gmelin (1745-1774) visits Baku and confirms that white oil was sublimated for production of kerosene in Surakhani and describes the technique of well's oil production

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- \* 1781 - Count Marko Voynovich (1750-1807), the chief of the Caspian expedition, finds the signs of oil and gas on the bottom of the Caspian Sea near the island Zhiloy (Chilov), near the Absheron peninsula. In 1781-1782 Voynovich M.I. charted a detailed map of Eastern part of the Caspian Sea
- \* 1796 - Marshal von Frederick Bibershtein (1768-1826) notes that "the Absheron peninsula contains an inexhaustible stock of oil"
- \* 1836 - For the first time, academician G.I. Gessi researched Absheron natural associated gas from a scientific point of view and defined its composition
- \* 1801 - First coal powered steam engine
- \* 1803 - Offshore oil extraction reported in Bibi-Heybat Bay of the Caspian Sea (Azerbaijan) from two hand-dug wells 18 and 30 meters away from the shoreline. The first offshore oil field ceased existence in 1825 when a huge storm ravaged all wells in the Caspian.
- \* 1807 - Streets of London lit by coal oil
- \* 1814 - One of the first wells that produced oil which was marketed was drilled near Marietta, Ohio, in 1814 (Hildreth 1833, p. 64). Well was drilled for salt water, the oil was a useless by-product which often spoiled the well. This Ohio well was almost 500 feet deep and produced about a barrel or so of oil per week, which was worth about 50 - 75 cents/gallon
- \* 1818 - In southeastern Kentucky another salt well produced oil. It was known as the "Beatty Well," named after the owner of the land on which it was drilled (Shepherd 1988). The site is on the banks of the South Fork of the Cumberland River, and the well-produced upwards of 100 barrels/day according to some reports. By 1820, oil from this well was being shipped to Europe as well as several other southern states. Thus, the Beatty Well seems to be the first drilled well which produced commercial oil in North America.
- \* 1816 - Start of the US manufactured gas industry - the Gas Light Company of Baltimore
- \* 1825 - First commercial natural gas production and use in Fredonia, New York - well drilled to 7' by William Aaron Hart, gas piped through hollow logs to adjacent houses
- \* 1837 - Autun, France - first attempts to mine oil shale, mines were closed in 1957
- \* 1846 - Baku the first ever well drilled with percussion tools to a depth of 21 metres for oil exploration.
- \* 1849 - Abraham Gesner developed a method for distilling kerosene from crude oil.
- \* 1857 - Development of the kerosene lamp - provided clean burning light
- \* 1857 - Preston Barmore drilled two gaswells on Canadaway Creek near Fredonia, NY - used an 8-pound charge of gunpowder at a depth of 122' to 'frack' the well - the first record of artificial fracturing
- \* 1857 - First drilling of oil wells at Bend, northeast of Bucharest, on the Romanian side of the Carpathians
- \* 1858 - First oil well in North America at Oil Springs in Ontario, Canada
- \* 1859 - Col. Edwin Drake struck oil 69ft below the surface of the ground in Titusville, Pennsylvania

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- \* 1861 - First recorded shipping of oil between countries - from Pennsylvania to London on the sailing ship 'Elizabeth Watts'
- \* 1862 - de Rochas of France patented the four-stroke engine
- \* 1863 - J.D. Rockefeller founded an oil refining company in Cleveland
- \* 1870 - J.D. Rockefeller formed Standard Oil (Ohio). - controlled 10% of American oil refining
- \* 1872 - Rockefeller took over 22 of his competitors (The Cleveland Massacre) to increase Standard Oil share of market to 25%
- \* 1877 - Rockefeller controlled 90% of American refining
- \* 1878 - First oil drilling at Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela
- \* 1879 - Thomas Edison invents the electric light bulb
- \* 1882 - Standard Oil Trust formed
- \* 1885 - Oil discovered in Sumatra by Royal Dutch
- \* 1892 - Standard Oil Company of Ohio broken up by Federal Regulators
- \* 1893 - First well drilled in Los Angeles
- \* 1895 - Extraction of bitumen from bituminous sand using hot water at Carpentaria, California
- \* 1895 - John D. Rockefeller retired
- \* 1895 - Invention of combustion engine
- \* 1896 - Henry Ford's first motor car
- \* 1901 - Spindle top gusher, blew out on January 10, 1901 near Beaumont in East Texas, drilled by Captain Anthony Lucas it heralded the birth of the Texas oil industry - Gulf and Texaco.
- \* 1902 - Ida Tarbell begins campaign against the monopoly and questionable practices of the Standard Oil Trust - published a series of articles in McClure's Magazine (1902-1904)
- \* 1903 - Wright Brothers first flight
- \* 1903 - Ford Motor Company founded
- \* 1905 - Baku oilfields set on fire during Russian Revolution
- \* 1906 - Federal Government filed suit against Standard Oil under the Antitrust Act.
- \* 1907 - Shell (British) and Royal Dutch merged to form Royal Dutch Shell
- \* 1908 - Oil discovered in Persia, Anglo Persian Oil company formed (Later BP)
- \* 1910 - First oil discovery in Mexico at Tampico on the Gulf Coast
- \* 1910 - US Congress authorized legislation to set aside land as Naval Petroleum Reserves.
- \* 1910 - Lakeview gusher blew out near Los Angeles, CA, reportedly at rates of >100,000BOPD with a total of 9,000,000 Barrels oil released before the well was brought under control
- \* 1911 - Break up of Standard Oil Trust ordered by Supreme Court\* (See end for further detail)
- \* 1912 - Land in California (Elk Hills and Buena Vista Hills) as Naval Petroleum Reserves No. 1 & 2

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- \* 1914-1918 - World War I, the first conflict where control of oil supply mattered - needed for tanks, ships and planes. British Forces captured Baghdad in 1917
- \* 1915 - Teapot Dome Wyoming established as Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 3
- \* 1916 - Naval Oil Shale Reserves established in Colorado and Utah
- \* 1921 - First experiment of using seismic waves to image the subsurface - at Vines Branch in south central Oklahoma by William Haseman, Clarence Karcher, Irvine Perrine and Daniel Ohern
- \* 1924 - Teapot Dome scandal - political manipulation in providing 'friends' with the right to develop the US Naval Oil Reserves resulted in the resignation of the Secretary of the Interior (Albert Fall) and Secretary of the Navy (Edwin Denby)
- \* 1929 - Start of Great Depression
- \* 1930 - East Texas Oilfield discovered by 'Dad' Joiner
- \* 1931 - Conrad and Marcel Schlumberger successfully identify presence of oil in a formation by measuring resistivity
- \* 1932 - Oil discovered in Bahrain
- \* 1933 - Saudi Arabia granted oil concessions to Standard of California - became California Arabian Standard Oil Company (CASOC)
- \* 1934 - The first floating drilling rig reported in the Caspian Sea
- \* 1933 - The Texas Company introduced the first submersible drilling barge which was used in the estuaries (Lake Pelto) Louisiana
- \* 1936 - Texaco took a 50% share in CASOC
- \* 1938 - Mexico nationalizes foreign oil companies, all assets placed under the control of Pemex
- \* 1938 - Oil discovered in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia
- \* 1939-1945 - World War II - control of oil supply from Baku and Middle East played a huge role in the events of the war and the ultimate victory of the allies. Cutting off the oil supply considerably weakened Japan in the latter part of the war
- \* 1941 - An inclined (slanted) well to the depth of 2000 metres was drilled by drilling master Aga Neymatulla's team with turbodrill method on Bayil settlement (near Baku)
- \* 1942 - Japan invaded Indonesia for access to their oil reserves
- \* 1944 - CASOC became Aramco (Arabian American Oil Company)
- \* 1947 - Kerr McGee brings in the first producing oil well on the Outer Continental Shelf off Louisiana
- \* 1948 - Ghawar Field discovered in Saudi Arabia - the largest conventional oil field in the world (about 80 billion barrels)
- \* 1949 - First offshore oil drilling at Oil Rocks (Neft Dashlari) in the Caspian Sea off Azerbaijan eventually resulted in a city built on pylons

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- \* 1950 - Aramco agreement with Saudi Arabia
- \* 1951 - Anglo Iranian Oil Company nationalized
- \* 1954 - Anglo-Persian Oil Company renamed British Petroleum
- \* 1955 - Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal
- \* 1956 - Suez Crisis - Britain, France and Israel attempted to regain control of Suez Canal
- \* 1956 - Oil discovered in Algeria and Nigeria
- \* 1959 - Natural gas discovered in Groningen Field, Netherlands
- \* 1959 - Arab Oil Congress in Cairo - a 'gentleman's agreement' for oil producing countries to have a greater influence on oil production and marketing
- \* 1960 - OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) founded in Baghdad - Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Kuwait, Iraq, and Iran \*See end for current member countries.
- \* 1964 - Start-up of Colony Oil Shale project in Colorado, USA - to extract oil from immature source rocks
- \* 1967 - Six Day War between Israel and the Arab world, Suez Canal closed
- \* 1967 - Great Canadian Oil Sands Ltd (later Suncor) began production of tar sands north of Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada - first commercial production of the largest oil resource in the world.
- \* 1968 - Oil discovered on North slope of Alaska
- \* 1969 - Qaddafi seizes power in Libya
- \* 1969 - Santa Barbara oil spill, 6 miles offshore from Summerland, California. Created major backlash against industry
- \* 1969 - Oil discovered in North Sea
- \* 1971 - Libya, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Iraq negotiate price increase from \$2.55 to \$3.45 per barrel
- \* 1971 - OPEC Countries begin nationalizing oil assets. - Libya nationalizes BP concession
- \* 1971 - US oil production peaked
- \* 1972 - Iraq nationalizes Iraq Petroleum Concession
- \* 1973 - Iran nationalizes oil assets
- \* 1973 - Saudi Government acquired a 25% interest in ARAMCO
- \* 1973 - Yom Kippur War - Egypt and Syria attacked Israel
- \* 1973 - Arab oil embargo on oil exports to the US for siding with Israel in the Yom Kippur War - oil prices rise from \$2.90 to \$11.65.
- \* 1974 - (March) Arab oil embargo on oil exports to the US lifted
- \* 1975 - Venezuelan oil industry nationalized
- \* 1975 - First oil production from North Sea
- \* 1975 - Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) authorized in US - to store an emergency supply of oil in salt domes
- \* 1976 - Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve, California opened for commercial production

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- \* 1977 - Alaska oil pipeline completed
- \* 1978 - Amoco Cadiz runs aground off French Coast
- \* 1978 – Natural Gas Policy Act in United States – provided incentives or de-controlled pricing for certain types of gas deemed to be high cost – including ‘Tight Gas’
- \* 1979 - First significant coalbed methane drilling by Amoco in San Juan Basin, USA
- \* 1979 - Shah of Iran deposed, Ayatollah Khomeini takes power
- \* 1979 - Three Mile Island - Nuclear power plant accident
- \* 1979 - Saddam Hussein becomes President of Iraq
- \* 1979 - (June) Blowout at Ixtoc 1 in the Bay of Campeche in the Gulf of Mexico - brought under control in March 1980 - largest single oil spill
- \* 1979 - November - Iran takes US hostages
- \* 1979-1981 - Oil prices rise from \$13.00 to \$34.00
- \* 1980 - Saudis bought out the balance of Aramco from US oil companies
- \* 1980 – Crude Oil Windfall Profits Act in United States – included an unconventional gas tax credit – provided tax credit when oil prices were low to reduce the chance of gas consumers switching to oil
- \* 1980 - Iraq launches war against Iran
- \* 1982 - OPEC's first quotas
- \* 1982 - Exxon shuts down Colony project in Colorado - intended to extract oil from immature oil shale
- \* 1984 - Gulf Oil acquired by Chevron after a bidding war with Arco
- \* 1986 - Oil prices collapse
- \* 1986 - Chernobyl - Nuclear power plant accident
- \* 1986 - 87 - "Tanker War" between Iran and Iraq - destroying oil tankers in Persian Gulf
- \* 1987 - Naval Oil Shale Reserve transferred to the Ute Indians.
- \* 1988 - Cease fire in Iran-Iraq War
- \* 1988 - July 6 - Explosion at Piper Alpha North Sea oil and gas production platform operated by Occidental Petroleum (Caledonia) Ltd. The explosion and resulting fire destroyed the platform, killing 167 men, with only 59 survivors. At the time of the disaster the platform accounted for approximately ten percent of North Sea oil and gas production, and was the worst offshore oil disaster in terms of lives lost and industry impact.
- \* 1989 - March - Exxon Valdez aground in Prince William Sound, Alaska
- \* 1990 - August - Iraq invades Kuwait, UN embargo on Iraq
- \* 1991 - January - Gulf War - Operation Desert Storm, Kuwait oilfields set alight
- \* 1991 - November - Soviet Union collapses
- \* 1995 - UN resolution to allow partial resumption of Iraq oil exports in "oil for food" deal.
- \* 1997 - Qatar inaugurates the world's first significant liquid natural gas (LNG) exporting facility

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- \* 1997 - Kyoto Agreement proposed to limit greenhouse gases
- \* 1998 - Asian economic crisis
- \* 1998 - 50-year moratorium on mining and oil exploration in Antarctica approved
- \* 1998 - Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve sold to Occidental Petroleum for \$3.65 billion.
- \* 1998 - BP announces plans to acquire Amoco for \$48.2 billion
- \* 1998 - Exxon to acquire Mobil for \$75.4 billion
- \* 1999 - Atlantic Richfield (ARCO) acquired by BP AMOCO
- \* 1999 - US Sanctions against Libya lifted
- \* 1999 - Total Fina and Elf Aquitaine agree to merge
- \* 1999 - Panama Canal reverts to Panamanian authority
- \* 1999 - Y2K has the world holding its breath - quickly turns to a yawn!
- \* 2000
- \* 2001 - September 11th - Terrorist attacks on the United States
- \* 2002 - Construction started on Bosphorus bypass pipeline bringing oil from Baku to the Mediterranean
- \* 2002 - Conoco and Phillips merged to form ConocoPhillips.
- \* 2002 - US threatens invasion of Iraq to stop development of WMD's (Weapons of Mass Destruction).
- \* 2002 - (November) - UN weapons inspectors return to Iraq.
- \* 2002 - (November) - Oil Tanker Prestige sunk off NW coast of Spain
- \* 2002 - (December) - Chevron-Texaco planning LNG receiving facility on Gulf Coast (800Mmcf/d increasing to 1.6Bcf/d)
- \* 2002 - (December) - National strike in Venezuela shuts down Venezuelan oil production
- \* 2003 - (February) - BP to purchase 50% interest in TNK - the 4th largest Russian oil company
- \* 2003 - Talisman sells holdings in Sudan following pressure from civil rights groups.
- \* 2003 - US Senate rejects proposal to allow oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in northern Alaska
- \* 2003 - (March 19-20) -US led invasion of Iraq begins - to overthrow Saddam Hussein and prevent the spread of WMD's.
- \* 2003 - (April 9) - US take Baghdad
- \* 2003 - (May 21) - Alan Greenspan acknowledges that the low level of natural gas supplies is "a very serious problem" in a Presentation to Congress' Joint Economic Committee.
- \* 2003 - (Aug 14) - Major electrical failure causes blackout in New York State and Ontario.
- \* 2003 - (Sept) - Mikhail Khodorkovsky, CEO of Yukos Oil Co (largest Russian oil company) arrested
- \* 2003 (Dec 23) - Sour gas blow-out in Chongqing, SW China, kills 234 people
- \* 2004 (Jan 20) - Explosion at an LNG plant in Algeria halts oil production



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- \* 2004 (July) - US oil imports at a record 11.3MMBO per day
- \* 2004 - (Nov) George Bush re-elected President in USA
- \* 2004 (Oct 25) - Oil at a record price of \$55.67 US per barrel on concerns over high demand and possible supply disruptions in the Middle East and damage on the Gulf Coast from Hurricane Ivan.
- \* 2004 (Dec) - Renationalizing of Russian oil industry continued with Rosneft acquiring the largest unit of OAO Yukos Oil Co. Yukos has been forced into bankruptcy due to non-payment of taxes
- \* 2004 - Oil production in UK sector of North Sea declined by 10% in 2004.
- \* 2005 (Mar 30) - Goldman Sachs suggest oil could spike to \$105 US per barrel
- \* 2005 (Mar 23) - Explosion at BP's Texas City Refinery kills 15 people and injures 170 others
- \* 2005 (Mar 31) - Oil briefly exceeds \$58 US per barrel on continued strong demand and concern over supply
- \* 2005 (Apr 4) - Chevron-Texaco offer to buy Unocal Corp for \$16.4 Billion
- \* 2005 (Apr) - Gulf Gateway Energy Bridge Deepwater Port opened - the first offshore LNG receiving facility and the first new LNG regasification facility to be built in the USA in 20 years.
- \* 2005 (June 23) - China State Oil Co offers \$18.5 Billion for Unocal Corp, (offer withdrawn in August)
- \* 2005 (July 4) - First import of LNG to United Kingdom in 20 years as North Sea natural gas production declines
- \* 2005 (July 7) - Terrorist attacks in London - 4 bombs - 3 planted on Underground, 1 on a London bus.
- \* 2005 (July 24) - Iran and Iraq sign a cooperative oil trading agreement
- \* 2005 (Aug) - Chevron Corp acquisition of Unocal Corp finalized
- \* 2005 (Aug 29) - Hurricane Katrina strikes the Gulf Coast of the US with devastating results
- \* 2005 (Aug 29) - Oil reaches \$70.80 US per Bbl
- \* 2005 (Sept) - The 1770 km long Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan (BTJ or BTC) oil pipeline began operation at the Sangachal Oil Terminal in Baku. The second longest oil pipeline in the world after Russia's "Druzhba".
- \* 2005 (Sept 19) - Natural gas (NYMEX) at all time high of \$12.33US on fears of new storm approaching Gulf of Mexico
- \* 2005 (Sept 23) - Hurricane Rita strikes Gulf Coast
- \* 2005 (Dec 13) - Natural gas price hits a record high of \$15.65US/mmbtu in the United States
- \* 2005 (Dec 13) - Conoco Philips and Burlington Resources to merge in a deal valued at \$35.6US Billion
- \* 2006 (Jan 1) - Russia attempts to penalize the Ukraine by blocking
- \* 2006 (Jun 23) - Anadarko Petroleum Corp offers US\$21.1Billion for Kerr McGee Corp and Western Gas Resources Inc
- \* 2006 (July 13) - Oil hits a record high of \$78.40/bbl on New York Mercantile Exchange on supply and world political concerns - nuclear tensions in Iran and supply concerns in Iraq, Nigeria, Gulf of Mexico; missile testing by North Korea and flare ups between Israel and Lebanon

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- \* 2006 (Aug 6) - BP to shut-in part of the Prudhoe Bay Oil Field, Alaska to replace corroded pipelines, resulting in accusations of poor maintenance procedures
- \* 2006 (Aug 18) - Mexico receives first shipment of Liquefied Natural Gas at its Altamira Terminal near Tampico in NE Mexico, LNG to be used for power generation
- \* 2006 (Sept) - Russia exerting nationalistic pressures on multi-national oil companies - Shell, Exxon and ConocoPhillips
- \* 2006 (Dec 18) - Statoil and Norsk Hydro to merge to create a \$92.3Billion enterprise
- \* 2006 (Dec 22) - Gazprom to buy half of the Sakhalin-2 project from Shell and partners for \$7.45Billion - continuing Russian efforts to have more control over their industry
- \* 2007 (Jan 8) - Russia turns off flow of oil through Belarus to Eastern Europe on accusations that Belarus was illegally taking their oil
- \* 2007 (Jan 8) - Venezuela planning to nationalize oil refineries
- \* 2007 (Mar) - European Union introduced new environmental regulations to reduce GHG emissions by 20% by 2020
- \* 2007 (Mar 23) - Oil prices rise on tension over Iran capture of 15 British soldiers reportedly strayed into Iranian waters. Released on 4th April resulting in oil prices falling back
- \* 2007 (Mar 27) - Venezuela deal with China National Petroleum Corp to export more oil to China instead of USA (United States of America)
- \* 2007 (Apr 9) - GECF - Gas Exporting Countries Forum met in Qatar - a group of gas exporting countries. countries led by Russia with plans to 'strengthen ties towards cooperation and stability in natural gas markets. - Possibly the start of an 'OPEC' for gas? (Member countries are listed at the bottom of the page)
- \* 2007 (May 1) - Venezuela nationalizes part of oil industry by taking over operating control of oilfields operated by ConocoPhillips, Chevron, ExxonMobil, BP, Statoil and Total
- \* 2007 (May 31) - May LNG imports to USA highest ever at 3.1Bcf/d. Compared to 2006 average of 1.6Bcf/d.
- \* 2007 (July 9) - Statoil and Norsk Hydro to merge
- \* 2007 (Oct 5) - Ecuador announces plan to increase royalties from 50% to 99% on oil and gas prices above a contractual benchmark
- \* 2007 (Nov 20) - WTI oil price futures hit a record close of \$99.29US driven by supply concerns and weakness in the US dollar
- \* 2008 (Jan 2) - WTI oil price briefly touches US\$100 per barrel for the first time driven by supply concerns and the weak US dollar
- \* 2008 (Mar 18) - Venezuela announces plans to price more of its oil sales in Euros to protect against the drop in value of the US dollar

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- \* 2008 (Apr 8) - BP and Conoco Phillips announce plans to develop an Alaska gas pipeline - in competition to the previously announced plan led by TransCanada Pipeline
- \* 2008 (July 11) - Crude oil hits a record high over \$147.27 per barrel on continued concern over supplies and the weak US dollar
- \* 2008 (July 23) - Alaska gives nod to TransCanada Pipeline to develop the Alaska Gas Pipeline
- \* 2008 (Sept -Nov) -- Global recession fears
- \* 2008 (Nov 18) - Saudi supertanker hijacked off Somalia
- \* 2008 (Nov 20) - Price of oil drops below \$50/bbl (see July 11, 2008)
- \* 2008 (Nov - June 2009) Global Recession a reality
- \* 2009 (Jan) - Gas exports to Europe greatly reduced as a dispute between Russia and Ukraine causes a halt to gas exports through the Ukraine
- \* 2009 (Jan 19) - Oil price falls to \$34 US per barrel
- \* 2009 (1Q) - Declining natural gas prices in North America cause significant cut in gas drilling in both Canada and USA
- \* 2009 (June) - Khurais oilfield in Saudi Arabia brought onstream - largest single oil development ever - expected production of 1.2MMBO, 315Mmcf/d Gas and 70mbbls NGLs per day
- \* 2009 (July 24) - California Government approves new offshore oil lease off Santa Barbara - see 1969
- \* 2009 (Sept 13) - Chevron announces plans to develop the Gorgon LNG Project at Barrow Island offshore Australia
- \* 2009 (Oct 20) - Oil above US\$80 per barrel - driven mainly by weakness in US dollar
- \* 2009 (Dec 7 - 20) - Climate change conference in Copenhagen, Denmark - yielded very little results
- \* 2009 (Dec 14) - Exxon-Mobil offer \$30 billion to acquire XTO Energy Inc (a significant shale gas exploiter in the United States)
- \* 2010 (Jan 13) - Apache Canada Ltd. to acquire 51 percent of Kitimat LNG Inc.'s planned liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminal in British Columbia.
- \* 2010 (Feb 5) - Russia and Venezuela to jointly invest \$20billion over 40 years to develop the Junin 6 Field in the Orinoco Basin
- \* 2010 (Apr 15) - Eyjafjallajokull volcano in Iceland erupted - disrupting air travel in Europe and across the Atlantic - problem lasted about one week.
- \* 2010 (Apr 20) - Deepwater Horizon rig explosion and fire while drilling BP's Macondo exploration well, in Gulf of Mexico, 11 workers killed and concern about a major environmental catastrophe along the Gulf Coast
- \* 2010 (Apr 27) - Russia and Norway sign agreement resolving sovereignty of a portion of the Barent's Sea that has been in dispute for more than 40 years. The area is believed to be highly prospective for oil and gas exploration

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- \* 2010 (June 3) - EOG blowout of gas well in the Marcellus trend in Pennsylvania - reporting reflected some of the sensitivity around oil and gas activity following the BP blowout (see April 20)
- \* 2010 (June 16) - BP suspends dividend payments and sets aside \$20Billion to cover damage claims from the blowout in the Gulf of Mexico
- \* 2010 (July 15) - BP succeed in placing a cap to stop the leak on the Maconda exploration well in the Gulf of Mexico. Subsequently, 4.9 Million barrels of oil estimated to have leaked from the well
- \* 2010 (July 19) - Apache Corp to buy BP's Permian Basin, Egypt Western Desert and Canadian Upstream assets for \$7 Billion
- \* 2010 (July 26) - Rupture in Enbridge oil pipeline leaks 19,500bbls oil into the Kalamazoo River, Michigan
- \* 2010 (Oct 10) - China National Oil Corp (CNOC) to spend \$2.2Billion to acquire an interest in the Eagle Ford Shale (liquids rich gas) in South Texas
- \* 2010 (Oct 11) - Statoil and Talisman Energy buy \$1.8Billion to acquire interests in the Eagle Ford Shale (liquids rich gas) in South Texas
- \* 2010 (Oct 12) - USA lifts ban on deep water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico
- \* 2010 (Nov 9) - Chevron Corp to buy Atlas Energy for US\$4.3Billion to gain access to the Marcellus Shale play
- \* 2010 (Nov 23) - Freeport LNG and Macquarie Bank plan to build LNG export facility in Texas with a capacity of 1.4Bcf/d to be operational in 2015 at a cost of \$2Billion
- \* 2011 (Jan 16) - BP signs deal with Rosneft to jointly explore for oil and gas in the South Kara Sea of the Russian Arctic
- \* 2011 (Jan - Apr) - Unrest in various countries of the Arab world creates concern over energy supply and boosts oil prices
- \* 2011 (Feb 1) - Exxon-Mobil and partners report drilling a horizontal well with a reach of 7.13miles (11425metres) to the Odoptu Field offshore Sakhalin Island. The actual measured depth of the well was reported as 12,345metres.
- \* 2011 (Mar 11) - A 9.0 earthquake offshore Japan created a tsunami that caused considerable damage to the Fukushima Nuclear plant 150 miles north of Tokyo - raising questions on the viability and safety of nuclear power
- \* 2011 (Apr 19) - A blow out in a shale gas well owned by Chesapeake Energy in Bradford County, north Pennsylvania ignites debate on the safety of hydraulic fracturing
- \* 2011 (May 18) - BP and Conoco Phillips withdraw Denali Pipeline Application - proposal to build a pipeline to bring gas from Prudhoe Bay to southern or export markets
- \* 2011 (Jul 12) - EIA estimates 2011 growth in US gas Production of 5.8% or an estimate of 65.39Bcf/day for a new record level of gas production in the United States. (Driven by the enormous growth in shale gas production)

## HISTORY TIMELINE OF THE WORLD'S PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

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- \* 2011 (Jul 14) - ConocoPhillips announces plans to split into two companies - an E&P company and a refining/marketing company
  - \* 2011 (Sept 20) - Husky Energy Inc authorize Liwan Gas Project with CNOOC (Chinese national Offshore Oil Co) located offshore 300km SE of Hong Kong production of upto 500Mmcf/d expected by 2015
  - \* 2011 (Sept 26) - Chevron approves \$29Billion Wheatstone LNG project in Western Australia (Partners: Apache, Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Expl Co, Royal Dutch Shell and Kyushu Electric)
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