Oil Revolution

Through innovative and expansive research, Oil Revolution analyzes the tensions faced and networks created by anticolonial oil elites during the age of decolonization following World War II. This new community of elites stretched across Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Algeria, and Libya. First through their western educations and then in the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, these elites transformed the global oil industry. Their transnational work began in the early 1950s and culminated in the 1973 to 1974 energy crisis and in the 1974 declaration of a New International Economic Order in the United Nations. Christopher R. W. Dietrich examines how these elites brokered and balanced their ambitions via access to oil, the most important natural resource of the modern era.

Christoph R. W. Dietrich is Assistant Professor of History at Fordham University. He has been awarded fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the American Historical Association, the National History Center, Yale University, the University of Texas at Austin, and the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.
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Oil Revolution

Anticolonial Elites, Sovereign Rights, and the Economic Culture of Decolonization

CHRISTOPHER R. W. DIETRICH

Fordham University
For Verónica
What in short is the truth’s cash-value in experiential terms?

William James
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Acknowledgments

Morris Zapp, the antihero of David Lodge’s novel *Small World*, provides some insight into one academic neurosis: “Scholars these days are like the errant knights of old, wandering the ways of the world in search of adventure and glory.”

1 The quixotic sentence drips with irony, especially when uttered by such a notorious pedant. Delusions of grandeur aside, scholars are rarely thrill-seekers or glory-mongers. But Lodge’s mockery of his character becomes poignant at the center of the sentence when, in the swift transition from simile to explanation, he lets Zapp utter truth. Scholarship requires one to wander and the wandering is often errant.

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That I am a lucky person is confirmed to me every day by Verónica Jiménez Vega, for whom my love grows ever greater. She is the most spirited person I have ever met, with the possible exception of our son, Emiliano Dietrich-Jiménez. Without them my wandering may or may not have been less errant. But it wouldn’t have been nearly as much fun.
### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAPSO</td>
<td>Afro-Asian People’s Solidarity Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AJIL</td>
<td><em>American Journal of International Law</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOG</td>
<td><em>Arab Oil &amp; Gas</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIEC</td>
<td>Conference on International Economic Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWIHP</td>
<td>Cold War International History Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DDRS</td>
<td>Declassified Documents Reference Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNSA</td>
<td>Digital National Security Archive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOS</td>
<td>Department of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECAFE</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECLA</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOSOC</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRUS</td>
<td><em>Foreign Relations of the United States</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFL</td>
<td>Gerald Ford Presidential Library, Ann Arbor, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICJ</td>
<td>International Court of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMFA</td>
<td>Archives of the International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ION</td>
<td><em>Inter-OPEC Newsletter</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBJL</td>
<td>Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOC</td>
<td>Library of Congress, Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEED</td>
<td><em>Middle East Economic Digest</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>MEES</td>
<td><em>Middle East Economic Survey</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>NAM</td>
<td>Non-Aligned Movement</td>
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Abbreviations

NARA  National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD
NIEO  New International Economic Order
NSC  National Security Council
OAPEC  Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries
OAU  Organization of African Unity
OECD  Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIC  OPEC Information Center, Vienna, Austria
OPEC  Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
PFAPC  *Papers of the First Arab Petroleum Conference*
PIW  *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*
PPPUS  *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States*
PSAPC  *Papers of the Second Arab Petroleum Conference*
RG 59  Record Group 59: Records of the Department of State
RNL  Richard Nixon Presidential Library, Yorba Linda, CA
ROAPE  *Review of Arab Petroleum Economics*
SDIPI  OPEC, *Selected Documents of the International Petroleum Industry*
SFAPC  *Study of the Fifth Arab Petroleum Conference*
UKNA  The National Archives of the United Kingdom, Kew, Richmond
UN  United Nations
UNA-G  Archives of the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
UNA-NY  Archives of the United Nations, New York, NY
UNCLS  UN Conference on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD  UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNGA  UN General Assembly
UNITAR  UN Institute for Training and Research
UNOPI  UN Office of Public Information
UNSC  UN Security Council