

## **The Geopolitical Role of Africa in Enhancing Oil and Gas Supplies amid Current International Crises.**

**Elhamza Ahmed<sup>1</sup>, Elbar Amine<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>National Superior School of Political Science, elhamza.ahmed@enssp.dz

<sup>2</sup>EchahidCheikh Larbi Tebessi university, elbar.amine@univ-biskra.dz

*Received:13./03/2023*

*Accepted: 08./06/2023*

*Published:15./06/2023*

### **Abstract**

This study aims to investigate Africa's role in meeting the increasing global demand for energy in light of geopolitical challenges and current international crises. This is due to Africa's geopolitical position and vast resources, as major powers seek to enhance their relationships with African countries to secure sustainable and stable supplies of oil and gas. Africa has become a suitable alternative to the global energy market, especially with the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war, which has led European countries to search for alternatives to Russian oil and gas, amid sanctions imposed on Russia in an attempt to get rid of its dependence on the Russian energy market

**Keywords:** Geopolitics, oil and gas supplies, Africa, current international crises

## **INTRODUCTION**

Geopolitical and geostrategic balances play a significant role in determining the nature of inter-state relations within any region, including addressing issues and mechanisms of interaction in that region and the various methods that govern these relationships, determining their paths, directions, and objectives. International relations are usually a reflection of certain geographic, political, and economic realities that impose on the parties to this relationship the nature of the political behavior adopted in their relations with other parties, whether regionally or internationally.

The term "geopolitical and geostrategic significance" refers to the strategic importance of a geographical location and its value as a key element in the global strategic balance, and the dimensions of its use in the comprehensive strategic plans of various powers. The African continent possesses all the potential and human and economic resources, thanks to the enormous wealth it has, both in terms of vegetation, minerals, and a significant workforce. This has made it occupy the top position in many exports, such as oil, natural gas, copper, manganese, cobalt, diamonds, gold, uranium, and hydropower. Additionally, the African continent is characterized by an important geographic location that has a geopolitically significant impact on international and regional political movements and international navigation routes. The geographical location of the African continent is significant in the world from a geopolitical perspective because it lies at the center of the navigational passages between the five continents. It overlooks several important straits, including the Strait of Gibraltar, the Suez Canal, the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, Cape of Good Hope, and is surrounded by islands that overlook the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

This site has made Africa a crucial link between the continents of Asia and Europe, especially in its northern and northeastern parts, as it is considered the artery of global transportation between the two continents. Therefore, Africa has a pivotal role, especially in international energy security. Given the control of African countries over the shipping lanes that connect the world's continents, they have played a significant role in

securing the exports of Gulf countries, which depend on global oil revenues by 90%. Hence, the geopolitical role of the African continent in enhancing energy supplies, whether related to oil or natural gas, is highlighted, particularly with the exacerbation of current global crises, especially the Russian-Ukrainian war, through Russia's tightening of oil and gas exports to European countries, which have turned to Africa as a safe haven and alternative for obtaining these important resources, which have become their top priority in recent times. This issue will be addressed according to the following problem: How can African geopolitics contribute to enhancing global oil supplies in light of current international crises? This question includes several sub-questions, the most important of which are:

- What is the concept of geopolitics?
- How are oil and gas supplies delivered worldwide?
- How does Africa contribute to maintaining the balance of oil and gas supplies worldwide, especially in light of current international crises? From this, the following main hypothesis can be formulated: To what extent is Africa considered a safe haven for oil and gas supplies in light of current international crises? This article can be addressed according to the following plan: First axis: the conceptual and theoretical aspect of the study; Second axis: the map of oil and gas supplies worldwide and the controlling factors; Third axis: the geopolitical importance of Africa; Fourth axis: the future of the African role in oil and gas supplies worldwide in light of current international crises.

## **2. The conceptual and theoretical aspect of the study**

To clarify the conceptual aspect of the study variables, it is necessary to define the most important concepts and theories as follows:

### **2.1. The concept of geopolitics**

It is impossible to understand terms and words without understanding their meanings and concepts. Therefore, we will try to discuss the term "geopolitics".

#### **- Linguistic definition**

The term "geopolitics" consists of two words, "Geo", which means earth, and "politics", which means policy.

#### **- Technical definition**

Geopolitics means "the science of earth politics" (Razig, 2014, p. 45) and is the result of the fields of geography and politics. It can also be said that the study of geopolitics "inherently involves the study of geographical facts and applied political science since these facts cannot be separated from the study of international relations, and political geography is the starting point for this subject." Geopolitics is concerned with the future situation, as it outlines the image of what the state should be like.

Some people consider geopolitics to be the science that specializes in studying regions that are politically organized. (Mohammed, 1996/1997, p. 15)

Some of the most important definitions given by many thinkers and researchers include:

- **Cohen Reosenthal defines:** " geopolitics as the study of the role of spatial variables (geography) in political processes".
- **Otto Maul defines:** " geopolitics as the study of the state as a living entity, not through a static concept. Geopolitics looks behind the state's relationship with its environment, its spatial dimensions, and tries to address the problems arising from spatial relationships". (Al-Ayeshawi, 2003, p. 33)
- **Hawshfer defines:** "geopolitics as a science and an art capable of justifying the effective leadership of state activities, which include various dimensions such as geopolitical, human, and social structures. These structures interact with their various institutional multiplicities". (Razig, 2014, p. 18)
- **Spykman defines:** " geopolitics as the study of security policy planning that cannot independently confront the regional specifications that give rise to tensions and crises". (Razig, 2014, p. 19)
- **Mohamed Motwally and Mohamed Abu Al-Aladefine :** " geopolitics as the geography of states or political units. Its task is to study each country in the world as a unique political entity with its distinct characteristics and importance in terms of its ability to contribute to global security" (Al-Ala, Political Geography, 1988, p. 09)
- **Rudolf Kjellendefines :** "geopolitics as the practical application of political geography in analyzing national power". (Al-Zaher, 2007, p. 14)
- **Hartshorn defines** "geopolitics as the study of the state as a changing space in relation to other distinct spaces". (Razig, 2014, p. 20)

In 1954, Hartshorn revised his definition, stating that geopolitics is the science that is concerned with studying the similarities or differences in

the political personality of different spaces, and that it should be seen as interconnected parts in every complex closer to general similarities and differences.

## **2.2. heoretical Approaches to Geopolitics:**

There have been various perspectives and viewpoints among thinkers in analyzing the concept of geopolitics, which were based on their underlying objectives that aim to achieve the higher interests of states and explain the nature of the relationships they adopt. This led to the emergence of many theoretical schools that dealt with this concept, which can be highlighted as follows:

### **A. The theory of living space (Lebensraum) by Friedrich Ratzel:**

This theory focused on the laws of expansion, which are: (Al-Haiti, 2000, p. 179)

The territory of the state grows with the growth of its civilization. The more the population spreads and carries with them a special character of civilization, the more the new land occupied by these people increases the area of the state.

The growth of the state is a subsequent process of various aspects of population growth, which must occur before the state begins to expand. This process confirms the theory that science follows commercial expansion.

The growth of the state continues until it reaches the stage of annexation by adding small units to it.

The borders of any state are its closed living organism that protects it. The borders not only demonstrate the state's safety but also indicate the stages of its growth.

The state seeks to absorb regions of political value in its growth, meaning that these regions are either plains, coastal areas, mining areas, or areas of value in food production.

The primary motivation for expansion comes from outside the primitive state. This means that the great state of civilization carries its ideas to primitive communities that are driven by population growth to feel the need for expansion.

The general tendency for expansion and annexation moves from one state to another and then intensifies, as the history of expansion indicates that appetite increases as food is consumed. (Razig, 2014, pp. 45-46)

From what has been mentioned, we can see that in his theory of the biological field, Ratzel gave great importance, especially to political

boundaries. Thus, the large area and available resources play an important role in building the political power of countries. This is a geopolitic theory that serves interests and ambitions at the expense of other countries and in a racist manner. (Al-Haiti, 2000, p. 180)

One of the most important legacies that Ratzel has left us is the connection he made between the large continental spaces of the state and political power. In his view, the large surface area - the place - is a political energy that can appear and stand out with good use. Ratzel was strongly influenced by the live example of the growth of the United States as a great power within the framework of the large place, which made him feel that the role of Europe would diminish, and that the history of world politicians would be dominated in the 20th century by the giant states occupying a large place on continents such as America, Russia, and Australia.

We can conclude our discussion of Ratzel by quoting the French geographer A. Demangeon, who appreciated Ratzel's scientific efforts. Ratzel was the first to recognize the complexity of the life of the state and its functions and gave his studies a scientific character. Moreover, scholars agree that Friedrich Ratzel bore the burden of conducting the first fundamental study in political geography. (Razig, 2014, p. 49)

### **B. Mahan's Theory of Sea Power.**

Mahān is considered a military man who did not use the term geopolitics, but his analytical approach and the results he arrived at are in line with the geopolitical vision. Mahān derived his theory from his experiences and expertise as a sailor, so naval power was considered the future of humanity. Mahān believes that trade is the primary goal of the political process, and military action aims to secure trade. The naval fleet has no role other than ensuring the achievement of this trade, and the most effective way to achieve this is to establish strategic locations to protect shipping routes. Mahān believes that naval power is the foundation of state power, and any state that wants to control the world must control a significant naval force and dominate the seas. (Razig, 2014, pp. 76-77)

In his opinion, maritime states are the ones that will ultimately dominate the world. Mahān identified six factors that are essential in forming the naval power of states, and based on these factors, it is possible to estimate the possibility of each state in this field. These factors are:

- **The state's geographical location:** Several important concepts define naval power related to the location, such as having one or more frontages on open seas. A state's naval power increases if this location provides advantages related to controlling important trade routes through waterways or supervising straits. Also, the bases through which the enemy can be contained or threatened.

- **The state's natural shape:** Mahan refers to the shape of the state's coastline. He said, "The coastal lands overlooking the sea are boundaries for the state, and the more accessible it is from these boundaries to the sea, the more individuals' desire to communicate with the rest of the world through the sea." We can imagine a state with long coastlines that will not have maritime trade, shipping, or a fleet on these coasts. This power and wealth increase with the presence of bays and extended maritime heads inside the coastal borders of the state. (Al-Ayeshawi, 2003, pp. 303-304)

- **Population size:** Population size is considered one of the important factors that determine a state's naval power in Mahan's view. A state with a large population can own bases and colonies across the seas that require a large number of administrative soldiers.

- **Maritime orientation of the population:** Mahan refers to the individuals' readiness to sail and trade. If individuals cannot obtain food from the sea or engage in commercial transactions with the outside world, they will not be able to build naval power. Mahan considered overseas trade as the first step in developing naval power.

- **The extent of the land borders:** Mahan considers a location that imposes long land borders to be less important, while a peninsula location is of great value.

#### **J. de Seversky's Theory of Air Strategy assumes the following:**

- Those who possess air supremacy can control areas of aerial conflict.

- Those who control areas of aerial conflict can control the world.

In de Seversky's geopolitical analysis, he sees the most dangerous areas of conflict between the two superpowers as being in the North Pole region, which is considered the closest area of proximity between them. Since this region is frozen for most of the year, it is not suitable for ground

or naval forces. Therefore, the power that controls the air will control the area. The essence of de Seversky's theory is that air superiority is the crucial element in gaining control and dominance over the world.

### **C. Halford Mackinder's central theory**

Also known as the "Heartland Theory," is one of the most famous theories in the field of global power. It was introduced in an article titled "The Geographical Pivot of History," which was published in a geographic magazine in 1904. Mackinder believes that the heart of the world or the Heartland is the Eurasian region (Europe and Asia), which consists of naturally protected interior plains.

One of the most significant changes in Mackinder's views occurred in 1943 compared to his earlier positions in 1904 and 1919. He shifted the geopolitical importance of the Heartland from merely relying on location and territorial unity and ease of movement for continental powers to rely on people, infrastructure, resources, and logistical lines of movement. Mackinder developed a set of assumptions, including:

A) Mackinder believed that the continuous struggle for victory ultimately rests on land power, not sea power. B) Mackinder's delineation of the world's priority, the World Island, includes one continent, Eurasia, and Africa as one piece. He considered the other two continents, America and Australia, as islands revolving around the World Island.

C) The boundaries of the Heartland intersect with river basins towards the inland seas, making it inaccessible to seafaring vessels (only the ocean is considered).

D) Mackinder believed that the Eurasian Heartland's change in the Balkans, especially including the straits, mountains, and river basins, is like the cornerstone upon which global domination of the space covered by Eastern Europe relies, as per his famous quote, "Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland; Who rules the Heartland commands the World-Island; Who rules the World-Island controls the world."

E) The geostrategic intuition that gives Eastern Europe a distinguished status is an opening intuition, even if Mackinder relied on historical



references to its people's conflicts with the Germans to dominate Eastern Europe.

It is noteworthy that Mackinder's views were subject to several criticisms. In 1919, he called for the creation of several states in Eastern Europe to separate Germany from Russia, creating a European isolation zone between the heart of the Eurasian continent and the maritime world of naval power. Mackinder also believed that the significant progress in land transportation means had made them more important than sea transportation. In 1943, the geopolitical importance of the Heartland shifted from simply relying on people, urbanization, and resources. During this time, the boundaries of the Heartland were limited to Eastern Europe and Russia, the Far East, and it became a region that formed a standalone entity. (Razig, 2014, pp. 79,88)

### **3. Map of oil and gas supplies worldwide**

The geopolitical role of the map of oil and gas supplies plays an important role in determining international relations, especially at present. This will be explored as follows:

#### **3.1. Map of global oil supplies**

The supply and demand for oil are determined by market forces, and conditions outside the market cannot be predetermined. This makes oil prices highly volatile compared to other primary commodities. Oil, more than any other primary commodity, is often used as a financial investment and hedging tool and contributes to shaping expectations of oil prices. The dominant role of the Intercontinental Exchange in London and the New York Mercantile Exchange in trading futures contracts for two types of oil, West Texas Intermediate and Brent crude, creates immense buying of futures contracts for crude oil, which may contribute to price increases in the same way that actual demand works in the spot market. (Region, 2016, p. 3)

Furthermore, oil is used as a tool in international politics and currently plays a strategic role in the foreign policy of major oil producers. The Arab oil embargo in 1973, the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the Iraq-Iran war in 1980, and the recent embargo imposed by the United States and Europe on Iraq, Iran, and Libya are just a few examples of this use. Between 1970 and 2010, at least 12 events occurred that contributed to shaping the shocks that the oil market has faced. In addition, the value of

the dollar is another factor that is negatively correlated with oil prices, as a decline in the value of the dollar is negatively correlated with oil prices. Rising dollar prices can lead to lower oil prices and vice versa.

Oil reserves in the world are distributed unevenly, with some Arab countries and Russia being the largest producers of oil in the world. According to recent statistics, the United States is the largest oil producer in the world, followed by Russia and Saudi Arabia. The following are the main regions for oil supplies in the world: (Unit)

**A) The Middle East:** The Middle East is a major area for oil production in the world, where Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Qatar, and Oman hold most of the world's oil reserves.

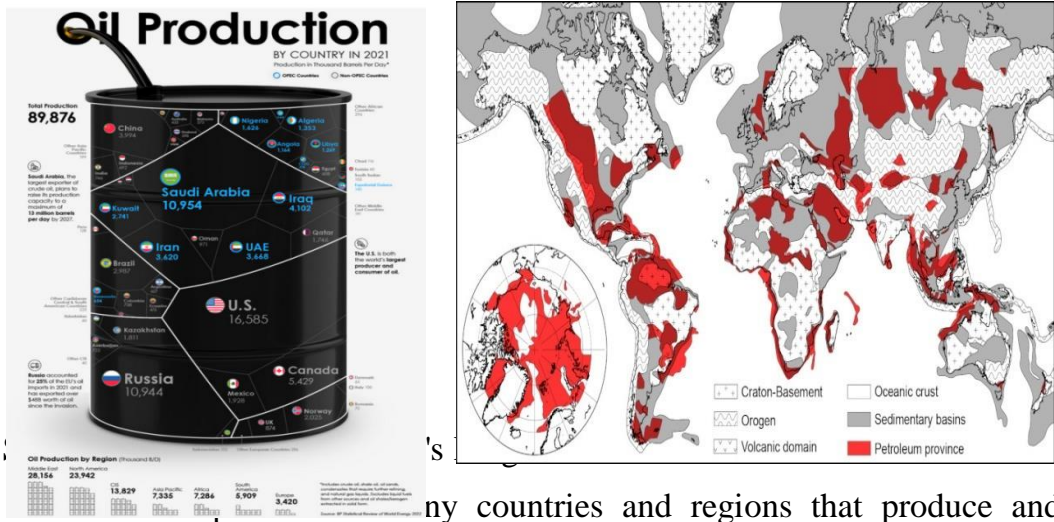
**B) Russia and Europe:** Russia is the second-largest oil producer in the world, and there is also oil production in other European countries such as Norway and the UK.

**C) North America:** The United States and Canada are oil producers, and there are also countries such as Mexico, Venezuela, and Cuba that produce oil.

**D) Africa:** Oil is produced in African countries such as Algeria, Nigeria, Angola, and Libya.

**E) Asia and the Pacific:** Asian countries produce significant amounts of oil, such as China, India, and Indonesia, as well as countries bordering the Pacific Ocean such as Australia and New Zealand. It should be noted that there are oil supplies in many other regions of the world, but these countries and regions are the most productive and exporting of oil.

**Figure 1: Map of Oil Reserves and Largest Producers in the World.**



any countries and regions that produce and export oil, and indicates the level of production and consumption. It can be observed that the Arab region and Russia represent the largest share of oil production in the world. It can also be noted that the United States and Europe represent the largest share of global oil consumption.

### 3.2. Map of Natural Gas Supplies in the World

Natural gas supplies are one of the most important sources of energy that the world relies heavily on. Natural gas is extracted from several sources including oil wells, gas fields, coal, and shale rocks.

According to the latest available statistics for 2021, Russia, Iran, Qatar, the United States, and China represent the largest sources of natural gas in the world. Russia tops the list with an annual natural gas production rate of over 700 million tons, followed by Iran with a production rate of over 200 million tons, Qatar with a production rate of over 170 million tons, the United States with a production rate of over 120 million tons, and China with a production rate of over 110 million tons.

Natural gas supplies are of great interest around the world, as they are used in a variety of applications, including power generation, heating, cooling, manufacturing, and transportation. Natural gas is the only source of energy that generates energy more efficiently than nuclear energy.

Natural gas supplies continue to increase worldwide, and are expected to increase even more in the future, given the continuous increase in demand from industries and consumers, as well as various developments on the international scene and various factors affecting it. (Jabbar, 2017, p. 79)

The most important natural gas producers and consumers in the world can be described as follows:

#### **A- The world's largest liquefied natural gas producers**

According to recent figures from the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, in a report on the developments of natural gas in the global market during the fourth quarter of 2021 and throughout 2021, it appears that natural gas exports worldwide reached a level that has not been achieved in the history of the gas industry for five decades. The exported liquefied natural gas quantities reached approximately 380 million tons, compared to 355.1 million tons in 2020, achieving a growth rate of 7%. This means that the liquefied gas industry has an increasing role in the global energy market. As for the countries with the largest share of the liquefied gas export market, Qatar ranked second in the world with a share of 77.4 million tons, after holding the top spot for several years in the liquefied gas export market worldwide. (Elsawi, 2022)

The International Gas Union's annual global report on liquefied natural gas exports indicates that by 2026, Qatar will lead the world in liquefied gas production and export.

According to the International Union, production from the Qatar North Gas Field project will gradually increase annual liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports from 77 million metric tons currently to 110 million by 2025 and then reach 126 million by the end of 2027. Australia is currently the world's top LNG exporter, with quantities reaching 80 million tons, followed by the United States in third place with 71 million tons, and Russia in fourth place with exports of 29.3 million tons. As for Arab countries that export natural gas, they received a share estimated at 29.4% of the total global gas exports, with Arab gas exports reaching 111.7 million tons. Qatar tops the list of Arab countries that export LNG, followed by



The continent of Africa is one of the oldest and earliest inhabited continents, with conflicting opinions about the origin of its name. Some believe it was derived from "Oprica," a Latin name meaning hot or sunny, while others believe it comes from "Afri," the ancient name of North Tunisia and "Afrika," meaning the land of the Afri in Latin. The Arabs gave the name "Afriqiya" to the city of Carthage or North Tunisia.

Due to the dominance of the black race and being a source of slaves during the European colonization period (Abdul Jalil Andrew Musa Anyank, 2018, p. 26), the continent became known as "Black Africa" in colonial circles. Africa is the continent that lies at the center of the old world and is the second-largest continent in terms of area, with an area of approximately 30 million km<sup>2</sup>. Its 55 countries share common characteristics, but they differ in terms of area, population, and economic resources.

The location of the African continent is the most important in the world from a geopolitical perspective, as it is the center of the shipping lanes between the five continents. It overlooks the Strait of Gibraltar, the Suez Canal, the Bab al-Mandab Strait, Cape of Good Hope, and is surrounded by islands overlooking the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

This location made Africa the link between the continents of the world, especially in its northern and northeastern regions. It is considered a link in the global transportation system between Asia and Europe, which makes Africa play a pivotal role in regional and international security.

Due to African countries' control over the shipping lanes connecting the world's continents, they have significant importance in securing the exports of Gulf countries, which depend on global oil revenues by 90%, in addition to goods and services. Africa also holds market importance in the face of any military action in the region.

Africa is also the second largest continent in the world in terms of both land area and population, covering approximately 06% of the world's total land area, and about 15% of the world's population lives on this continent, with most of its inhabitants being young. The largest country in terms of land area in Africa is Algeria, (Amin, 2020.)while Nigeria is the



largest in terms of population. Transportation is essential for achieving rapid economic and social development in society, and it comes first as an indicator of measuring a country's development as a fundamental element of the building and development process, including the maritime routes surrounding Africa, which contain important water surfaces, some of which represent the backbone of international trade and the largest fuel transport arteries. (Al-Mashaihi, 2000, p. 15)

## **5- The Energy Importance of Africa**

Africa is a region rich in natural resources and occupies an important position in the world's oil and gas supplies. Here are some facts about oil and gas supplies in Africa: In terms of oil resources, African countries represent about 7% of the world's total oil production, with Nigeria, Algeria, Libya, and Angola being the leading oil-producing countries in Africa. Africa also occupies a significant position in natural gas supplies, where the gas-producing African countries hold key positions in gas exports, such as Algeria, Nigeria, and Egypt.

Africa is a region of great strategic importance in the energy sector worldwide for several reasons: (Diop, 2014)

- **A. Natural Resources Potential:** Africa is characterized by possessing large natural resources of renewable and non-renewable energy, such as oil, gas, coal, solar energy, wind, and water.
- **B. Growing Demand:** Energy demand in Africa is growing rapidly, with improving living standards, population growth, and economic growth, and electricity demand in Africa is expected to increase by 80% by 2040.
- **C. Investment Opportunities:** Africa is an attractive region for investment in the energy sector, where natural resources can be developed, energy transformation infrastructure can be improved, energy efficiency can be increased, and productivity can be enhanced.
- **D. Heavy Reliance on Fossil Fuels:** Africa heavily relies on fossil fuels as a source of energy, leading to higher levels of environmentally harmful emissions and pollution. Therefore, developing the energy sector in Africa is one of the top priorities to meet the growing energy needs, provide new investment opportunities, and at the same time, reduce the environmental pollution effects.

## **6- The future of Africa's role in global oil and gas supplies in light of the current international crises**

The current international crises have led to chaos and instability in the international order, especially in the energy sector. For example, the Russian-Ukrainian war has disrupted the international energy market in general. This is due to the tension resulting from Europe's sympathy with Ukraine, which led these countries to impose restrictions on Russian oil and gas and to seek to get rid of their energy dependence on Russia. These factors have contributed to the trend towards alternative markets for Russian energy, and perhaps Africa's geographical proximity to Europe will lead to a future shift towards it as an alternative to enhance European supplies. The following will discuss the most important of these factors.

### **6.1. Challenges facing the oil and gas industry in Africa**

The oil and gas industry in Africa faces many challenges in light of current international crises. Among these challenges are: (Abdelrahman, 2009)

**A. Declining oil prices:** Oil prices declined in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and political tensions in the global market, which negatively affects the income of African oil-producing countries.

**B. Logistics difficulties:** African countries face logistical difficulties in exporting oil and gas due to the lack of infrastructure and well-equipped seaports, leading to delayed shipments and increased shipping costs.

**C. Energy transition:** The world is currently moving towards renewable energy sources and reducing dependence on fossil fuels, meaning that the demand for oil and gas will gradually decrease in the future.

However, Africa remains an important source of oil and gas globally, and African countries are expected to continue developing the oil and gas sector to meet global demand. Africa can benefit from this by developing exports and increasing productivity, as well as transitioning to the use of renewable energy and improving energy efficiency to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and minimize negative impacts on the environment.



## **6.2. Future trends in the African energy market**

Africa is an important source of oil and gas globally and has significant opportunities for exporting oil and gas to Europe amidst the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. This can be attributed to several factors, including: (Al-'Alaw, 2022)

**A. Africa's strategic location:** Africa is located between Europe and the Middle East and has a strategic geographic location that facilitates transportation and export to Europe.

**B. Increase in production:** African countries are currently working to increase their oil and gas production, which gives them significant opportunities to export more oil and gas to Europe.

**C. Energy transition:** Europe is currently striving to transition to renewable energy sources and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, which increases the demand for oil and gas from outside sources.

**D. Russian-Ukrainian conflict:** Gas suppliers in Europe face significant challenges due to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, where Russian gas represents a significant portion of Europe's gas consumption. African countries can meet a part of Europe's demand for gas.

However, African countries face challenges in exporting oil and gas to Europe, including transport and export difficulties, logistical challenges, and environmental and legal constraints. This requires improving infrastructure and logistical procedures, and developing the energy sector in Africa to take advantage of available export opportunities. It cannot be definitively concluded that Africa can be used as an alternative for oil exports to Europe, as this requires studying several factors such as the available quantities of oil in Africa, the ability of African countries to increase their production and exports, and the cost of establishing infrastructure for exporting oil from Africa to Europe.

Furthermore, global markets and political relations between oil-exporting and importing countries must be considered, including the Ukrainian-Russian conflict mentioned earlier. For example, difficulties may arise in exporting oil from some African countries to Europe in the event of

conflicts or political crises in those countries, leading to a decrease in supplies and an increase in prices.

In general, Africa can be a good source of oil, but the conditions must be carefully studied to determine the feasibility of using it as an alternative for oil exports to Europe. It is also necessary to consider shifting dependence on oil to renewable energy sources and working to diversify economies in oil-exporting countries. This requires widespread global efforts to build it and ensure global stability, especially in the field of energy.(Al-'Alaw, 2022)

## **7. Conclusion**

The African continent occupies an important position in the future of oil and gas supplies in the world, and the geopolitical role of the African continent in this field is manifested in several points, perhaps the most prominent of which is the huge quantities of oil and gas it contains. Some African countries have large proportions of these materials, such as Nigeria, Libya, Algeria, and others. There are also new sources of oil and gas in areas such as the Sahara Desert and the Red Sea. Given the geostrategic location of this continent, which is a connecting axis between the European and Asian continents, it is an important gateway for exporting oil and gas to the markets of the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Considering the numerous crises in the world, Africa is considered a suitable and safe alternative, especially for European countries that have been affected by their supplies of oil and gas due to the Russian-Ukrainian war, as well as the positions taken by these countries against Russia. Therefore, the opportunity is ripe for Africa to open up new markets to enhance its local output, to gain unexpected permanent customers, and to seek development that has been delayed for a long time on this continent.

## **Bibliography List :**

Abdelrahman, H. (2009, 08 25). *Al Jazeera Center for Studies*. Récupéré sur <https://studies.aljazeera.net/ar/reports/2009/2011721162736968327.html>

- Abdul Jalil Andrew Musa Anyank, G. o. (2018). *Geography of Africa*. Saudi Arabia: College of Social Sciences.
- Al-‘Alaw, A.-H. A.-S. (2022, 07 06). *Al Jazeera Center for Studies*. Récupéré sur <https://studies.aljazeera.net/ar/article/5418>
- Al-Ala, M. M. (s.d.). *Political Geography*.
- Al-Ala, M. M. (1988). *Political Geography*. Egypt: Anglo-Egyptian Library.
- Al-Ayeshawi, F. M. (2003). *Contemporary Political Geography*. Egypt: Dar Al-Maarefa Al-Jameia.
- Al-Haiti, S. F. (2000). *Political Geography with Geopolitical Applications*. Jordan: Dar Safaa for Publishing and Distribution.
- Al-Mashaihi, A. M. (2000). *Geography of the African Continent and Its Islands*. Benghazi: Dar Al-Jamahiriyah for Publishing.
- Al-Zaher, N. (2007). *Contemporary Political Geography: In Light of a New International System*. Jordan: Al-Yazouri Publishing and Distribution.
- Amin, M. S. (2020., 01 20). *"Africa and Gulf Strategic Security*. Récupéré sur <https://alkhaleejonline.net>
- Diop, M. (2014, 03 08). *The World Bank blogs*. Récupéré sur <https://blogs.worldbank.org/ar/voices/nasikiliza/powering-africa-s-renewable-energy-revolution>
- Elsawi, A. (2022, 02 21). *aljazeera*. Récupéré sur <https://bit.ly/3ZvtvgJ>
- Jabbar, A. J. (2017). The Developments of the Natural Gas Industry and its Effects on the Global Oil Market. *Al-Ghary Journal of Economic and Administrative Sciences*, 79.
- Mohammed, M. H. (1996/1997). *Political Geogaphy*. Cairo University: Faculty of Arts.
- Razig, M. (2014). *Geopolitics: Concepts and Meanings* . Algeria: Dar Qurtuba.
- Region, Q. E. (2016). Where Are Oil Prices Heading? *the world Bank Group*, 3.
- Unit, T. E. (s.d.). <https://bit.ly/3L0HKoe>. Consulté le 07 11, 2021, sur <https://bit.ly/3L0HKoe>

