### Africa

**Independently, solving U.S. demand for uranium increases the capability for indigenous African economic development**

**Meierding ’11**

**(Emily, “Energy Security and Sub-Saharan Africa”, International Review of Politics and Development (translated from French), 2011, http://poldev.revues.org/744)**

Section 2 identifies two trends that have prompted foreign energy consumers’ new ‘scramble’ for African resources, namely escalating international petroleum demand and the impact of anthropogenic climate change. It then discusses foreign powers’ increased investment in Sub-Saharan Africa’s oil and uranium reserves, focusing on the security interests of the United States (US) and China. Section 3 shifts away from conventional geopolitical analyses to examine how these outside activities have impacted energy security within Africa. Noting the importance of access to modern energy resources for economic development, it reviews Africans’ attempts to increase their own use of oil and nuclear power. Although Sub-Saharan African consumers share many of the same energy security interests as consumers outside the region, their ability to meet these needs through increased use of local resources is constrained. Such impediments arise, in large part, from external states’ efforts to intensify exploitation of the continent’s oil and uranium reserves. Given the difficulty of increasing local consumption of petroleum or uranium, Africans have attempted to increase local energy security through a variety of alternative strategies, focusing on different energy resources. Section 4 highlights efforts aimed at sub-state and at supranational energy development. The article concludes by observing that, while these alternative programmes do enhance African energy security, they are **not sufficient compensation** for lack of access to continental resource reserves. Restricted oil consumption, in particular, remains a major development challenge. **Absent alterations in foreign resource demand** or in the behaviour of political regimes in oil- and uranium-endowed states means the gap between external and African access to modern energy resources is likely to persist.

**That inhibits African growth**

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There are no equivalent figures for continental uranium consumption. However, Africa’s limited installed nuclear capacity is indicative of the low levels of local demand. Only one Sub-Saharan country, that is South Africa, employs nuclear power to produce electricity; the state’s total installed nuclear power generating capacity is only 1.8 gigawatt (GW). This represents less than 2 per cent of Africa’s electrical energy mix, the lowest figure for any continent. The average world share of electricity generated by nuclear power is 13.8 per cent. Western Europeans rely on nuclear energy for 26.3 per cent of their electricity supplies (IAEA, 2010b). Even South Africa’s two reactors may not be consuming continental uranium reserves. Since no Sub-Saharan African state currently possesses the capability to enrich uranium domestically, South Africa may be using entirely foreign resources. This resource drain constitutes a significant impediment to African development. Access to modern energy resources is a vital contributor to improvements in human well-being and economic growth (Asif and Muneer, 2007).15 Electrification enhances lighting and communications and allows for the mechanisation of production. It enables refrigeration, which **improves food security** and the storage of medical supplies. Increased access to petroleum-based fuels strengthens internal transportation networks. This facilitates **trade and human mobility,** which contribute to economic expansion. By consuming more petroleum resources and gaining access to new sources of electricity, Africans could dramatically enhance their quality of life.

**Prevents African instability**

**Sachs ‘1**

(Director of the Center for International Development @ Harvard University [Jeffrey D. Sachs, Professor of International Trade in the Department of Economics at Harvard, “The Strategic Significance of Global Inequality,” The Washington Quarterly 24.3 (2001) 187-198//project muse)

The most comprehensive study of state failure, carried out by the State Failure Task Force established by the Central Intelligence Agency in 1994, confirms the importance of economic underpinnings to state failure. 3 The [End Page 188] task force gave formal definition to state failure (as a case of revolutionary war, ethnic war, genocides or politicides, and adverse or disruptive regime changes) and counted all cases during 1957-1994 in countries of 500,000 people or more. The Task Force identified 113 cases of state failure. Of all the explanatory variables examined, three were most significant: infant mortality rates, suggesting that overall low levels of material well-being are a significant contributor to state failure; openness of the economy, in that more economic linkages with the rest of the world diminish the chances of state failure; and democracy, with democratic countries showing less propensity to state failure than authoritarian regimes. The linkage to democracy has another strong economic aspect, however, because other research has shown strongly that the probability of a country being democratic rises significantly with its per capita income level. 4 In refinements of the basic study, the task force found that in sub-Saharan Africa, where many societies live on the edge of subsistence, temporary economic setbacks (measured as a decline in gross domestic product per capita) were significant predictors of state failure. They also found that "partial" democracies, usually in transition from authoritarian to fully democratic institutions, were particularly vulnerable to collapse. Similar conclusions have been reached in studies on African conflict, which find that poverty and slow economic growth raise the probability of conflict. 5

**Africa instability escalates**

**Glick ‘7**

[Caroline Glick 7, deputy managing editor of The Jerusalem Post, Senior Fellow for Middle East Affairs of the Center for Security Policy, “Condi's African holiday”, December 11, http://www.rightsidenews.com/20071211309/editorial/us-opinion-and-editorial/our-world-condis-african-holiday.html]

The Horn of Africa is a dangerous and strategically vital place. Small wars, which rage continuously, can easily escalate into big wars. Local conflicts have regional and global aspects. All of the conflicts in this tinderbox, which controls shipping lanes from the Indian Ocean into the Red Sea, can potentially give rise to regional, and indeed global conflagrations between competing regional actors and global powers.

**Development in Africa solves ozone**

**Stetter ‘9**

[Ernst, Secretary General of Federation for European Progressive Studies, “Why Africa matters! – The economic crisis and Africa,” 2/4, http://www.feps-europe.eu/fileadmin/downloads/globalisation/090204\_Stetter\_Africa.pdf]

If there is no doubt that Africa is endowed with abundant natural resources, it is also true that Africa is still struggling to address the multiple challenges facing the continent, this includes poverty, under-development, protracted conflicts, environmental degradation, HIV/AIDS pandemic, tuberculosis and malaria. It has been suggested that all over Africa, poverty is a common denominator and it is not surprising that people’s immune systems have been damaged. Reports on Africa’s HIV/AIDS pandemic have all come to the conclusion that HIV/AIDS on the continent is closely associated to poverty. It is clear that the absence of technological investment and the contemning human resource capacity has prevented Africa from making optimal use of its abundant resources for the benefit of its people. Nevertheless, the new scramble for natural resources in the continent is likely to create a new awareness of the geopolitical importance of the African region. Therefore, **Africa remains a critical partner for the world’s economic viability.** However, for Africa to benefit more from its vast natural resources it must be finally enabled to add value to these products rather than export them raw to Europe and elsewhere in the developed world. Africa needs to be helped in manufacturing value-added products that yield higher profit and income to African economies. In addition, there are, at least, five significant factors that provide a plausible explanation as to why Africa matters, especially concerning Europe: Firstly, it is the history of Africa and its relationship with Europe. The history of Africa has been a history of integration into the European economy and markets. Therefore, Africa has historically held a significant place in the **European economy, trade and investments**. If Africa matters to Europe it matters also to the globalised world. Secondly, there is also the inherent link between environment and sustainable development. While the history of Africa and its integration into the European economy is clearly defined by historical circumstances, the environmental aspects are not clearly discernible. Environmentally, Africa matters to the world because it provides the **largest capacity in the world necessary for maintaining equilibrium in the biosphere and avoid further depletion of the ozone layer**. At the same time the raid of depletion of Africa’s biodiversity including its tropical forests, medicinal plants remain threatened by the levels of poverty on the continent. Africa’s most prevailing source of energy is biomass which means depletion and an exponential raid of its forestation. **If this is left to continue, the World will suffer serious climate change** which is likely to erode its socio-economic prosperity and a consequent negative impact to its population. This is an area which needs a strong partnership with the rest of the world, to protect its environment and avoid further depletion of the ozone layer.

**Extinction**

**Busman ‘98**

(Dept. of Geological Sciences, University of Michigan, http://www.umich.edu/~gs265/society/ozone.htm)

**The ozone layer is essential for human life**. It is able to absorb much harmful ultraviolet radiation, preventing penetration to the earth’s surface. Ultraviolet radiation (UV) is defined as radiation with wavelengths between 290-320 nanometers, which are harmful to life because this radiation can enter cells and destroy the deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) of many life forms on planet earth. In a sense, the ozone layer can be thought of as a UV filter or our planet’s built in sunscreen (Geocities.com, 1998). Without the ozone layer, UV radiation would not be filtered as it reached the surface of the earth. If this happened, cancer would break out and all of the living civilizations, and all species on earth would be in jeopardy (Geocities.com, 1998). Thus, the ozone layer essentially allows life, as we know it, to exist.