OPEC and the "Seven Sisters"

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) includes: Iran, Iraq, Venezuela, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Indonesia, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. The group was created on September 14, 1960, for the purpose of setting oil prices by controlling oil production. They were originally thought to be primarily Arabian in ownership, however, it is actually an international group which includes Americans [and Europeans].

The cartel was established from an agreement signed on September 17, 1920, by Royal Dutch Shell, Anglo-Iranian, and Standard Oil, for the purpose of fixing oil prices. By 1949, the cartel was made up of Anglo-Iranian, Socony-Vacuum, Royal Dutch Shell, Gulf, Esso, Texaco, and Calso. In the early 1950's, revelations surfaced that the oil companies would pump the oil from the Middle East, then split the profits with the government of the country where the oil was produced. OPEC was formed to make people believe that the Arabian oil reserves were not owned by these non-Arabian oil companies.

These non-Arabian oil companies were informally called "The Seven Sisters". They control what is shipped to the United States and how much is refined into gas and heating oil. Originally [the group included:]

- Exxon (was Standard Oil of New Jersey, then Esso)
- Mobil (was Standard Oil of New York, which merged with Vacuum Oil)
- Chevron (was Standard Oil of California)
- Texaco
- Gulf Oil (controlled by the Mellons)
- Shell (Royal Dutch Petroleum)
- British Petroleum (Anglo-Iranian)

They controlled 90% of crude exports to world markets by controlling every important pipeline in the world, such as the 753-mile TransArabian Pipeline from Qaisuma in Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean Sea, which was owned by Exxon, Chevron, Texaco, and Mobil. Exxon owned the 100-mile Interprovincial Pipeline in Canada and also the 143-mile pipeline in Venezuela. The 799-mile Alaskan Pipeline was owned by British Petroleum and Exxon. By controlling these and other vital arteries they can restrict the flow of oil, limiting supplies to refineries.

These companies also had joint ownership of major crude oil production companies [throughout the middle east]:

Aramco Saudi Arabia

- Exxon: 30%
- Mobil: 10%
- Chevron: 30%
- Texaco: 30%

Kuwait Oil Co.

- British Petroleum: 50%
- Gulf: 50%

Iraq Petroleum

- British Petroleum: 23.75%
Shell: 23.75%
Compagnie Francaise des Petroles: 23.75%
Exxon: 11.875%
Mobil: 11.875%
other: 5%

Iran Consortium

British Petroleum: 40%
Shell: 14%
Gulf: 7%
Exxon: 7%
Mobil: 7%
Chevron: 7%
Texaco: 7%
Compagnie Francaise des Petroles: 6%
other: 5%

Abu Dhabi Petroleum Co.

British Petroleum: 23.75%
Shell: 23.75%
Compagnie Francaise des Petroles: 23.75%
Exxon: 11.875%
Mobil: 11.875%
other: 5%

Abu Dhabi Marine Areas

British Petroleum: 66%
Compagnie Francaise de Petroles: 33%

Bahrain Petroleum Co.

Chevron: 50%
Texaco: 50%

The Seven Sisters were also interlocked with eight of the largest banks in the country, and with each other: Exxon had ties to Bank of America, Chevron, and Texaco; and Mobil had ties to Exxon, Shell, and Texaco. When six of the nation's major commercial banks held their Executive Board meetings, the directors of the top eight oil companies, with the exception of Gulf and Chevron, met with them.

When the Bank of America had a Board meeting, the directors of Chevron and Getty Oil met with them. Chevron also had ties with Western Bancorp. Shell and Mobil directors were present at the Board meetings of First National City Bank. Mobil also had ties with Bankers Trust, and Chemical Bank. Exxon was tied in with the Chase Manhattan Bank (a holding company for hundreds of smaller oil companies, including Humble Oil and Creole Petroleum), Morgan Guaranty, and Chemical Bank. Amoco (Standard Oil of Indiana) was tied in with Chase Manhattan, Continental Illinois, and National Bank and Trust.