

West. On the other side you see that production for the Middle East is at a much lower level, only 20% of world production, but this is very much bound to come up in the future. And any way you look at the worldwide picture, the Middle East is going to be at the center of it and therefore at the center of Western interest for some time to come.

The next chart gives you an idea of how this is apportioned among the Middle Eastern countries. You see the biggest one here is Kuwait and the next one Saudi Arabia; then Iran and Iraq. It's interesting that these two also are the ones with the biggest oil reserves. So, from the point of view of the West, as you look at the map, it's on the shore of the Gulf itself that the real concentration of oil is, and it's also that part of the Middle East where Naval power can project itself if this becomes a necessary part of the picture.

Now, this oil is not vital because the United States needs it, but because Western Europe does. What is important is not so much the specific existing arrangements about how this oil comes to Western Europe; how it is produced; what are the arrangements between the governments and the companies, etc., the main thing is that the oil continue to be available to the industrial countries of the West which are our allies, because the industrial life of that part of the world - Western Europe - depends upon it.

The Suez crisis was a prime example of the kind of big scare which we have of the vulnerability of the West when this oil might be stopped or cut off. You recall Nasser blocked the canal then; Syria blew up the pipelines, so this oil was coming to the West only by the round-about way