

The Role of OPEC in Facing the Challenges of Energy Security after the Russian-Ukrainian War

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Abstract

The role of OPEC in facing the challenges of energy security after the Russian-Ukrainian war.

The research problem covered by the topic is related to the central question: Did OPEC help to provide guarantees for energy security?

The objectives that the research worked on are related to the study of the most prominent energy security challenges globally, and the extent of OPEC's contribution to weakening them. And the importance that is related to the study of the subject of the research is related to the fact that the Russian-Ukrainian war ended in harming the energy security of Western countries, in the short term, but in the long term it will have negative consequences for the traditional energy-producing countries, the most important of which is oil because that war led the major oil-consuming countries To invest in non-traditional energy alternatives and clean energy alternatives.

The methodology used in the research relied on the descriptive approach, and from it, the conclusions reached by the research were reached.

As for the most prominent results that were reached, they are related to the fact that OPEC's policies in dealing with the issue of energy after the global financial crisis are based on an attempt to adjust production levels, to suit the volume of demand for it, and to make oil prices commensurate with the needs of producers and consumers.

Keywords: *OPEC, energy, the Russian-Ukrainian war, energy security, OPEC policies, OPEC plus, production quotas, energy alternatives.*

Introduction

The research on the issue of energy security indicates the importance of energy in general to the producing and consuming countries, for this reason, the consuming countries have worked to ensure the provision of several alternatives to ensure the protection of their security. It is also a raw material used in industry.

Energy in today's world is no longer dependent on traditional energy, which is coal, oil and natural gas, but there is a tendency to accelerate the production and use of unconventional energy (oil and shale gas), and clean energy (solar energy, wind energy and hydroelectric energy) in addition to nuclear energy, and investment has increased In alternatives with the tendency to provide environmental security guarantees and protect the climate from pollutants.

Since the establishment of OPEC in the sixties of the last century, to support and strengthen the capabilities of oil-producing countries in dealing with monopolistic companies, the organization has shifted its objectives towards being a tool for cooperation

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among member states, to monitor the shift in the global energy market, and to regulate the production of member states only, at appropriate levels. Although most of the production operations take place outside OPEC, the importance of the organization lies in the fact that most of the essential oil reserves are in OPEC countries.

In 2022 the world witnessed a Russian-Ukrainian war, which ended up having some impact on the energy security of Western countries because Russia was supplying most of the European countries with their needs of oil, natural gas, and liquefied gas. With that war, Russia used energy to influence the will of the consuming countries. This is what forced European countries in 2022 to bear the repercussions of the Russian approach, to bear measures to reduce consumption and raise prices, to search for alternatives among other producers of oil and gas, to increase investment in clean energy alternatives, and other measures that helped Europe to overcome the era of the important repercussions of that. The war was to restore Western policy towards imposing restrictions on Russian oil exports and push Russia to increase exports at reduced prices to China and India.

Energy security suffered sharply in the year 2022, and Western countries tried to put pressure on the producing countries, especially OPEC, to increase production, in a way that reduces the repercussions of the war on energy security, at a stage when OPEC was adhering to policies of temporary understandings: OPEC Plus, to reduce and regulate production. Due to the large losses that befell the producing countries due to the drop in prices after 2014.

Research objectives and importance:

The research set out from several objectives, as following:

- 1- Studying the challenges of global energy security, and the transformations that accompanied the important transformations in the idea and meaning of energy, and increasing investment in various traditional energy alternatives, and how they affected energy security.
- 2- Searching on the goals for which OPEC was found, under which it operates, and the policies it follows to achieve those goals.
- 3- Researching how the Russian-Ukrainian war ended to influence energy security.
- 4- The extent of OPEC's commitment to global energy security, and the organization's keenness to implement commitments and understandings OPEC Plus.
- 5- The trends adopted by Western countries to control energy security challenges after the Russian-Ukrainian war.
- 6- The impact of Western trends in the field of energy security on OPEC in the future.

And the importance of research on this subject is that it will end up affecting the future of OPEC because Western countries have tended their weight to search for alternatives to traditional energy by increasing investment in renewable energy and developing techniques to reduce and rationalize traditional energy consumption.

Research limits:

The research is restricted temporally to the study of the phase that follows the year 2022, and objectively, the research focuses on each country of OPEC, and what it could end in, in light of the policies followed by the major consuming countries to ensure energy security.

Research problem:

The research problem that will be focused on in this research is related to a central question, which is:

Has OPEC helped provide guarantees for energy security, globally?

The research problem raises several research questions:

What are the causes of the Russian-Ukrainian war, and who are the main parties to that war?

What are the energy security challenges for energy-producing and consuming countries, and how have these challenges evolved yet?

The Russian-Ukrainian war?

What is the role of OPEC in dealing with energy security challenges?

How will the policies of Western countries in terms of energy security reflect on OPEC?

Research Methodology:

The methodology used in the research depended on the descriptive approach, which is from the conclusions reached by the research.

Research Structure and Plan:

The research was divided into three sections, in addition to the introduction and conclusion, which are:

First: The causes of the Russian-Ukrainian war and its parties.

Second: Energy security challenges for energy-producing and consuming countries.

Third: The role of OPEC in dealing with the challenges of energy security.

First - The causes and sides of the Russian-Ukrainian war

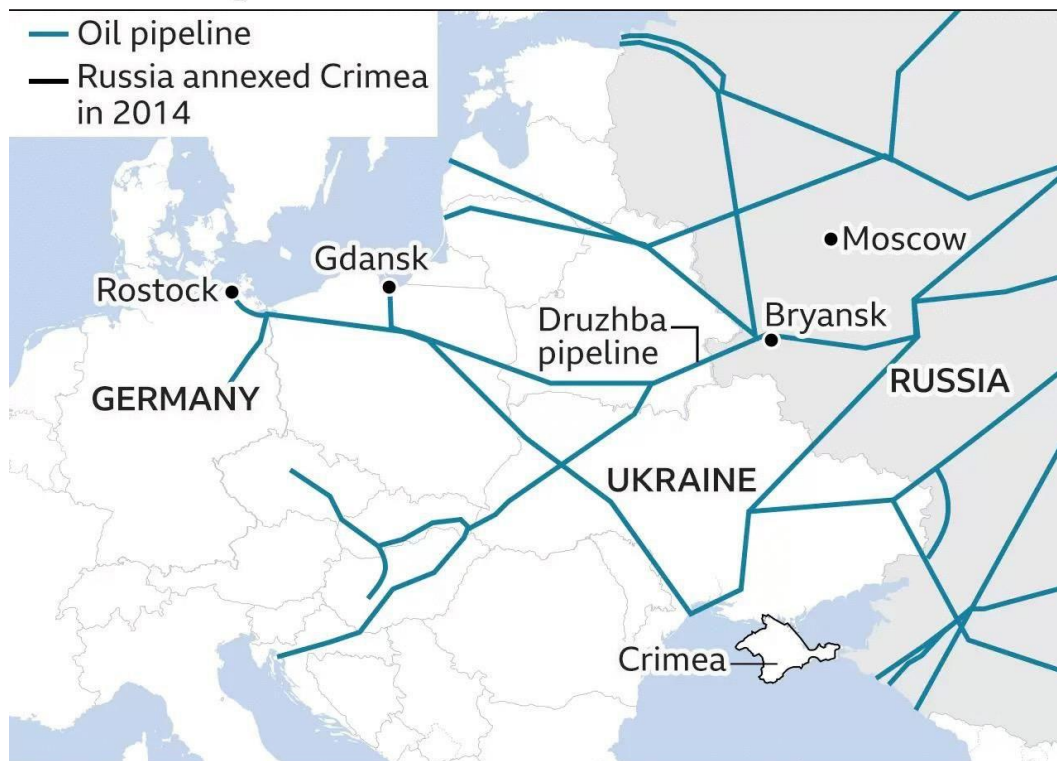
The relations between Russia and Ukraine are deep-rooted relations, linked to the spread of the peoples of those regions and their contiguousness on the land extending in eastern and eastern Europe, but the Russian peoples were able to build a state for them, and expanded with it, while the Ukrainian people remained for most of its history unclear, leading to the integration Ukraine in the Soviet Union. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Ukraine emerged as an independent country, but it returned and associated with Russia in relations with a degree of confusion after eastern Ukraine became mostly Russian settlers from the Soviet era. On the other hand, Ukraine entered into a relationship of suspicion with Russia, which was evident in the negotiations for Soviet nuclear and strategic disarmament on its soil, and the settlement agreement ended in Budapest to provide security guarantees to Ukraine in return for disarming its nuclear and strategic weapons and returning it to Russia, with guarantees from the United States and Britain to maintain security And the independence of Ukraine from any threat that might be exposed to it, at the end of 1994 (1).

During the period that followed in 1995, Ukraine became a corridor for the passage of Russian conventional energy to Europe, and at the same time, Russia was making it clear to NATO that the expansion of NATO or the deployment of the missile shield in a way that affects Russia's national security, could end in problems in Russian-Western relations, up to the year 2013 when the Ukrainian internal crisis escalated, which was linked to Ukraine's choices, and its ability to determine the directions of its policies, and Russia anticipated events and announced support for the formation of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic, in eastern Ukraine, which are areas where the population is predominantly of Russian origin, and the number of people is increasing Its population was about 14 million in 2014, and Russia went to hold a quick election in which the Ukrainian Crimea was annexed (1).

As a result of those Russian policies, Western countries imposed multiple sanctions on Russia, but they allowed the flow of energy from Russia to Europe, due to the volume of mutual dependence between Russia and European countries at the time (2), and it includes the flow of: oil, and Russia provides European countries with more than one

type From it, it exports diesel oil from it by about 720 thousand / barrels per day, on average, while it exports about 4.51 million barrels / day of its crude oil estimated at about 7.7 million barrels / day to European countries, and the largest importers are the countries of northern and central Europe, the most important of which is Germany, according to Data for the end of the year 2021 was issued on average, to Germany about 917 thousand barrels / day, to the Netherlands about 740 thousand barrels / day, to Poland about 490 thousand barrels / day, to Belgium about 295 thousand barrels / day, and to Finland about 270 thousand barrels / day / day, followed successively by the rest of the European countries, while it exports to these countries gasoline derivatives at the rate of 300 thousand barrels / day (3), and Russia supplies Europe with oil and its derivatives through a large pipeline network, and through large cargo ships, and as far as the pipeline network is concerned, it is clear that Some of them pass through the Ukrainian territory in exchange for commissions and a reduction in energy prices.

Main oil pipelines between Russia and Europe



Source: S&P Global Platts

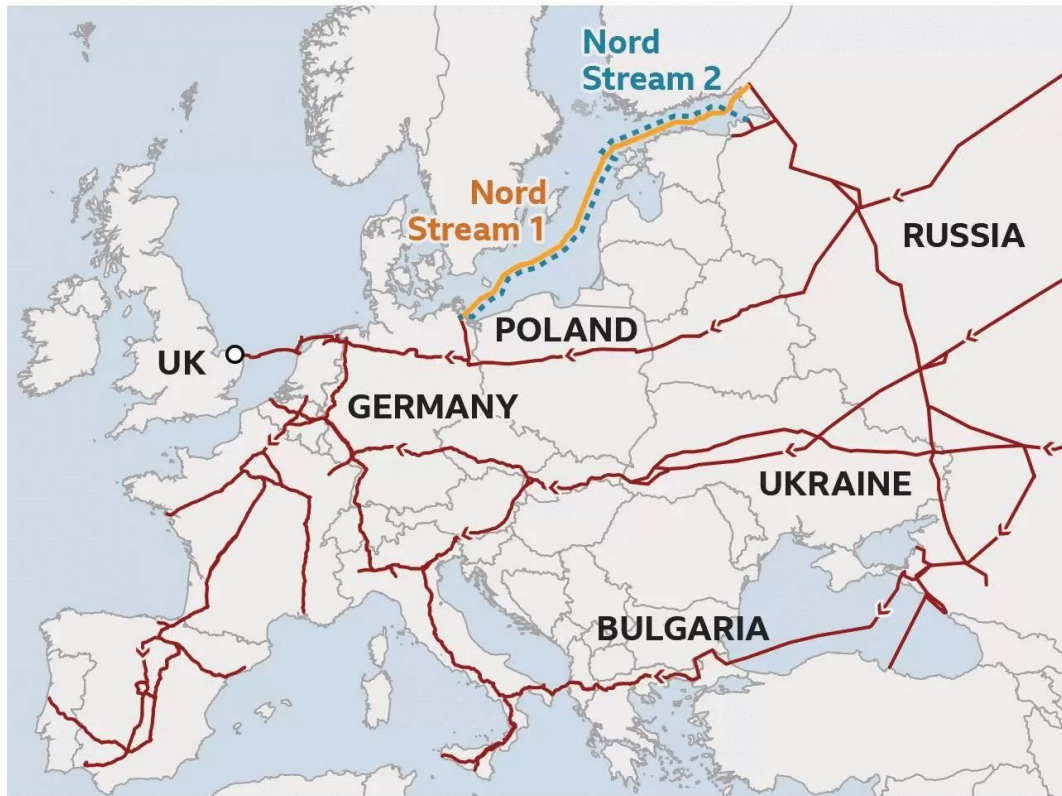


Map number (1)

Source: Can the world dispense with Russian oil and gas supplies? April 22, 2023, at the link: <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/industry-61324009>

Europe also imported about 41% of its natural gas needs from Russia, at a rate of 400 million euros/day, according to the price level at the end of 2021, and the largest European gas importers, according to data at the end of 2021, are Germany with about 44 billion cubic meters annually, and Italy with about 29 billion cubic meters annually, the Netherlands with 16 billion cubic meters annually, Hungary with about 12 billion cubic meters annually, Poland with about 11 billion cubic meters annually, and then the rest of the other countries come (1).

The most important gas pipelines in Europe



Source: European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas



Map number (2)

Source: Jake Horton, Daniel Palumbo, and Tim Bowler, Can the world dispense with oil and gas supplies, on April 22, 2023, at the link: <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/business-61324009>

The world has viewed the Ukrainian crisis after 2014 as one of the serious crises that could lead to results that threaten stability and global peace. It is a serious crisis that reaches the level of an international conflict (1), and it is not linked to Russian-Ukrainian relations only (2), given that Russia is a nuclear state, NATO is protected by the NATO umbrella, and there is an agreement between Ukraine and Russia with US-British guarantees in the year 1994 related to ensuring the protection of security, independence and territorial sovereignty Ukraine in exchange for abandoning nuclear and strategic weapons, and the major powers realized the seriousness of the crisis that occurred in the year 2014, and they did not want to lead it to war, despite that the preludes to that crisis continued for several years before reaching the stage of war later (3), at a time when US-Russian relations were Witnessing more overlap between the factors of cooperation, competition and conflict (4). These transformations came at a time when US policies are reviewing their global strategies, and they are aware that the rate of competitiveness in the international community has escalated (5).

In addition to the issue of energy, the most prominent causes related to the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war were related to other factors, including:

1) Russia's view, and specifically the view of Russian President Vladimir Putin (6), to the importance of Ukraine as it represents part of a region that Russia considers a national security zone (7).

2) In addition to the existence of a variable competition over energy supply to Europe between Russia and the United States (1), meaning that an important part of the causes of the war was related to Russian-American relations (2), and the American approach to crisis management that the United States follows towards the Ukrainian crisis, supporting the latter by all means and strengthening its capabilities to deal with the challenges posed by Russia (3).

3) The previous topic was related to another topic, which is Russia's refusal to expand NATO to include Ukraine (4), which was raised in the meeting of Presidents Vladimir Putin and Joe Biden in June 2021 in Geneva, and then via closed-circuit television in December 2021, During this, each of the two countries expressed its point of view on the Ukrainian crisis and ways to deal with the interests of the two countries in that crisis (5).

The most prominent reflection of the Russian-Ukrainian war was that it paved two issues:

First is the emergence of Russia's identity, and specifically its identity in terms of international relations (6).

Second, it contributed to a greater strengthening of Russian-Chinese relations (1), in addition to the influence of the United Nations, and the emergence of its weakness in managing a crisis in the relations of the major powers, despite the passage of several decades since its establishment.

Second - Energy security challenges for energy-producing and consuming countries

The major industrial powers paid attention to the issue of energy security (2), given that the various economic activities from the household through transportation and ending with industrial activities needed energy. Before the First World War, the focus was on the use of coal in energy, with the rapid growth of the use of oil, leading to the Second World War And beyond when the use of oil escalated to become the most important resource used in various economic sectors, not only as a source of energy but also as a primary industrial material.

In the year 1973, an important shift took place in the perception of the Western major powers in particular, about a decade after the founding of the OPEC organization, which was established to support the improvement of negotiating conditions between the producing countries and Western monopolistic companies (which were giving little to the producing countries, and exploiting the lack of possession Those countries for the techniques of oil extraction and production obtained large monopoly privileges), and to support cooperation between the producing countries, and later turned their attention to increasing cooperation between the producing countries and studying the conditions of the global market, to find the Western countries themselves facing an oil embargo practised by some of the producing countries, on the countries that stood against the interests of the Arab countries in the October 1973 war, and as a result, oil prices rose several times fold (3), and easy access to oil has become questionable.

That is why the International Energy Agency was established, whose membership brings together European countries, the United States and Japan to study how to ensure energy security, and Western policies ended in the early eighties until the price of a barrel of oil decreased at large rates, due to policies such as: developing techniques to rationalize oil consumption, developing nuclear energy, Developing the trend towards alternatives, including shale oil and gas, investing in renewable energy, and most importantly developing techniques for oil exploration and production in small fields, which raised the number of producers whose production exceeds 100 thousand barrels / day to 43 countries, and to reduce the contribution of OPEC (consisting of: Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Emirates, Iran, Algeria, Libya, Angola, Nigeria, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Venezuela, Qatar and Indonesia, with reserves of more than 1213.1 billion barrels) in Global production has reached about 42%, although the rate of oil reserves in OPEC countries represents about 73% of global reserves, according to

2020 data. One of its most prominent reasons is that with every oil crisis, OPEC reduces production to maintain balance in the global market, while other countries do not comply outside it, which raises the share of countries with limited reserves (1). The decline continued with him to the beginning of the nineties of the last century when the second Gulf War triggered fears of a shortage of oil supplies.

After a stage, the price of a barrel of oil witnessed a moderate fluctuation between the years 1991-2008, which ended with a gradual increase in world oil prices, but it did not match the growth in the global inflation rate, and with the year 2012 it reached the level of 140 dollars per barrel (2), despite the global financial crisis. That is, despite the slowdown in global economic growth and the recessions and recessions in some major economies, the price growth showed that there are other variables that affected the energy market, including: speculators in the oil stock exchanges, which began to float as a phenomenon that had its own characteristics in the first decade of the current century, but the rise in prices had motivated investors in: shale oil and gas in the United States to reach production to the level of 16 million barrels / day in 2015, and to increase investment in renewable energy, before the climate conference in Paris 2016 concluded that countries must commit to reducing emissions and reducing burning fossil fuels. Until the middle of this century at high rates.

At that stage, Russia had planned for itself almost complete involvement in the Ukrainian crisis, and the separation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, which made Western countries impose some sanctions on Russia, and oil prices were declining dramatically, which forced OPEC countries to open up to major producers. Outside it, the most important of which are Russia and Mexico, and it was agreed to: reduce production, which restores stability to the global energy market in an agreement known as: OPEC Plus (including OPEC countries and all of: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan), and indeed after a series. From the reduction, the price of a barrel of oil stabilized until the year 2020 when two variables occurred: the global economic closure due to the Corona pandemic, and the Saudi-Russian intersection that led the two countries to increase production and reduce the price, before OPEC Plus renewed its commitment to reduce production until the end of the year 2023, at a stage that coincided with the Russian-Ukrainian war and Russia closing more than once the energy transmission pipelines to Europe, and at a stage that coincided with the decline in the desire of investors to expand investment in oil fields and turn instead to clean energy, the price of a barrel of oil rose again (1).

In order to analyze the reality of the phase that followed 2021 on global energy security (2), it is noted that between the months of April-September 2022 Russia practiced closing energy transmission lines to Europe under more than one title, including fearing that the pipelines would be at risk due to war and maintenance operations, but the real reason is It is to remind Europe that it depends on energy from Russia. Then Russia resorted to another means of pressure on European countries when the Russian company Gazprom (3) cut off natural gas supplies to both Poland and Bulgaria, imposing sanctions on it or excluding it from the global financial system - Swift, because whoever buys energy imports from them must deposit their price in an account in that bank, otherwise they will suffer from the problem of stopping Russian energy supplies.

Russia imposed on buyers of its gas to open accounts in euros and Russian rubles in that bank in the months of April - June 2022, and the United States did not intend to freeze the bank's assets or impose sanctions on it but rather imposed sanctions on 27 executives in the bank, and in June 2022 companies from European countries agreed, including Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Hungary, will have to pay for natural gas supplies from Russia in euros to Russia's Gazprombank, which will convert the currency into rubles. While Poland and Bulgaria refused to do so (1).

The European Union, along with the Group of Seven industrialized countries, and Australia imposed several packages of sanctions on Russia after the Ukrainian war (2), the most important of which was the sixth package of sanctions on Russia, which in June 2022 approved sanctions that include the Russian energy sector, just as the industrial countries imposed in December 2022, a new package of sanctions in which the price of oil purchased from Russia was determined, and the industrialized countries decided to set a ceiling for a price at a level less than \$15 from the prevailing price in the global market. as follows: The price of a barrel of crude oil arriving by sea is about \$60 per barrel, and The price of oil derivatives from Russia, including the ceiling of the price of a barrel of diesel at about \$90, and the face of obligation is for economic, industrial and commercial companies in the world that use Western financial transactions and services (3).

To overcome the energy crisis that accompanied the war, several countries in the International Energy Agency released about 120 million barrels of strategic oil reserves to meet the shortfall in European oil demand. In the second half of 2022, the United States also discussed initial ideas for lifting the oil embargo on Venezuela and Iran to increase the global oil supply. More than that, in August 2022, US President Joe Biden visited Saudi Arabia and held several summit meetings, and worked to raise several points during his visit: increasing the production of OPEC countries to meet the oil needs of the industrialized world and regional security issues, and raising the issue of normalization with (Israel) was postponed.) and the topic of creation: the Middle East Strategic Alliance (MESA), which was proposed by President Barack Obama in 2015, then US President Donald Trump in 2017, and then in 2019, President Joe Biden in 2022 presented it.

The United States tried to put pressure on Saudi Arabia on the issue of increasing oil production, but Saudi Arabia stated that it adheres to what the OPEC Plus group concluded, which is to reduce production at specific levels by two million barrels until the end of the year 2023, instead of pumping quantities that contribute to flooding the markets and reducing production, Minister Saudi energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman stated in February 2023, that is, after Western sanctions were issued against Russia related to lowering Russian oil prices, that the world suffers from two issues: the increasing trend in demand for oil, and the decline in investment in conventional energy, which will lead to a decline in supplies in the future. In exchange for the growth in the volume of aggregate demand, there will be a supply crisis in the future from which some countries that have not invested in alternative or non-traditional energy sources will suffer. And he concluded by saying: "We are a responsible group of countries. We put all policy issues related to energy and oil markets in one (basket), (but) we do not get involved in political issues." In general, Western policy prompted Russia to search for new buyers or increase exports to traditional buyers of Russian oil, among them China and India, at prices lower than international prices (1).

Thus, European countries found themselves in the midst of a crisis in energy security, for a limited period, but that crisis prompted Western countries to offer several alternatives to deal with it, the most important of which is increasing investment in clean energy alternatives, developing consumption rationalization techniques, and increasing shale oil and gas production in the United States. And invite other suppliers to supply Europe with traditional oil and gas.

Third - the role of OPEC in dealing with energy security challenges

Energy security in the world, and not only in Europe, was subjected to several pressures in the aftermath of the Russian-Ukrainian war, given that the European demand for conventional energy represents a large amount compared to global production.

Europe is diversified in terms of energy security, as it consumes about 487 million tons of coal, at a time when it produces about 510 million tons annually, according to 2022 data, with an increase of about 6% over 2021 consumption, after several decades of a gradual

decrease in the uses of coal. Coal in the economy (2). It consumes about 16 million barrels/day of oil, according to the data for the year 2021, and produces only about 3.3 million barrels/day, and the rest is imported from global markets. It consumes about 552 billion cubic meters of natural gas according to the data for 2022 and produces about 240 billion cubic meters of it, and the rest is imported from international markets (1). Most of Europe's sources of oil and gas are Russia. As for renewable energy, its consumption has increased in recent years. Available data indicate that Europe's consumption of fossil fuels: coal, oil and gas decreased from about 94.2% of the total energy consumed in 1970 to about 91.8% in 1980, to 80.9% in 1990, to 77.4% in 2000, to 73.2% in 2010, to 69.9% in 2015, and to 65% in 2021, while the consumption of renewable energy increased to the total energy consumed from about 2.4% in 1970, to 2.1%, 2.7%, 3.5%, 5.8%, 6.3%, and 7.1% for the same years, respectively, while the use of nuclear energy increased to total energy sources from about 2.9%, 5.8%, and 14.8%, 17.4%, 17.9%, 19.8%, and 20.1% for the same years, respectively (2).

Despite the diversity of energy sources and sources of supply, the vacuum left by the war on European energy security was great, because most of the uses of oil are for industrial purposes and transportation, while most of the uses of gas are for heating and electric power generation. As for the United States, it has reached a stage of semi-sufficiency in energy sources, and what it imports in limited quantities, due to the development of shale oil and gas technologies, which made Europe search for new suppliers of oil and gas, at a time when countries that export both materials produce to semi-stable consumption markets. They are China, India, Japan, South Korea and Singapore, as they are the largest oil importers with more than one million barrels/day (3).

And the variable of the Russian-Ukrainian war came to generate pressure on European countries, and with Russia closing pipeline networks several times from Europe under several headings, including the maintenance of these networks, and Europe's tendency to impose sanctions on the Russian energy sector, Russia turned to importers such as China and India, which is what Reducing the imports of the two countries from traditional producers and suppliers, at a time when there is an agreement between OPEC countries with Russia and other countries within the framework of: OPEC Plus, to reduce nearly two million barrels of global supply per day, until the end of the year 2023, which prompted Europe to practice a policy of rationalizing energy consumption In terms of oil, the volume of imports from Russia decreased from about 4.51 million barrels / day at the end of 2021 to reach the level of 0.3 million barrels / day at the beginning of 2023, and the United States tended to export quantities of energy to Europe to address the shortage.

The result is that US oil exports to Europe increased from about 10% of the total European imports to about 18% of the volume of European imports (1).OPEC is an organization concerned with regulating the production of member states, and its market share is approximately 40% of the volume of exports in the world. It does not exceed 32% in 2021, so the volume of OPEC exports to the total global energy consumption does not exceed 14% of the total energy import volume, which is a limited amount. Nevertheless, OPEC has suffered conflict with other producing countries and with the policies of the International Energy Agency, firstly It seeks to increase production, not adhere to and withdraw from the OPEC share, Although the reserves of producing countries outside OPEC are small, while the policies of the International Agency are based on stimulating investment other than oil, which made OPEC struggle to increase prices in a way that serves the interests of producing countries.

In 2016, OPEC agreed with other producers to reduce production, and disputes occurred in this regard in 2020, then OPEC Plus returned to agree to continue reducing production in 2022-2023, to increase prices of oil and overcome the crisis associated with the Russian-Ukrainian war (2).

Today, OPEC is facing a future challenge (3). The world is accelerating the trend towards oil alternatives, which will make the oil produced by OPEC countries not competitive markets, because China, India and Japan may find alternatives to oil. It is also obligated to reduce oil consumption until the middle of the current century, in compliance with the decisions of climate conferences since 2016 (4).

The world of energy in the coming years will change, and the developed countries are establishing an economic base for the post-oil phase, then Energy security in the future will be linked to internal factors and not to imports from global markets, because renewable and clean energy depends on sunlight, wind energy, hydroelectric power and others Other sources of energy.

Summary:

In recent decades, the world has witnessed important shifts in the energy market, particularly after the 1973 crisis in which the price of oil doubled. As a result, the consuming countries began to rationalize consumption, invest and develop non-oil alternatives, at a time when the robbery of monopolistic companies declined, and the focus of OPEC became focused on To organize production and studying trends in the global energy market.

Russia is among the major producers of oil and gas globally, while Europe is among the consumers and major importers of oil and gas. Hence, the Russian-Ukrainian war, which erupted in the wake of a crisis that lasted since 2014, ended in conflicting directions. Russia used oil and gas for pressure. On European energy security, Europe saw that its choice was determined by supporting Ukraine, and not bowing to Russian tendencies, and after several months of European suffering in terms of providing alternatives to Russian oil and gas, and the refusal of the major producers in OPEC to increase production to reduce oil prices, and to meet the needs of Europe in abundance of it, Europe has passed the danger stage in terms of providing adequate energy supplies, and has turned to pressure Russia with the same energy option to influence its political decision, and it has ended up with a great Russian openness to selling oil and gas at discounted prices to both China and India, as they are major global consumers.

Global energy security has faced challenges, meaning that the environment in which it operates has become difficult, which has led the major consuming countries to accelerate resort to various types of alternatives, including investment in shale oil and gas, clean energy, and traditional energy rationalization technology.

The world today is gradually moving towards a world beyond traditional energy, and therefore OPEC is facing narrow choices, because it, as an international organization, adopts tools: organizing production, monitoring shifts in the global energy market, and searching for options for cooperation among member states, in a way that secures the interests of oil-producing member states.

The weight of OPEC in terms of global oil reserves is large, but its production share is less than the size of its reserves, and some member states did not prepare for the post-traditional energy phase, and therefore The post-Russian-Ukrainian war world will end up affecting energy security, and make it move from Being dependent on traditional energy, to approach unconventional and clean energy, meaning that energy security will not depend in the future on trade in energy supplies, but will depend on investment in alternative energy technology, including clean energy.

Conclusions:

The conclusions reached in the body of this research are:

1. The causes of the Russian-Ukrainian war were related to Russia's will to impose its security on the regional environment, in light of NATO's tendencies to expand eastward and ensure that Europe is within the framework of the alliance's programs and policies.
2. Many parties were involved in the war, the most important of which is Russia and NATO, meaning that it was not limited to Ukraine, Other countries continued to suffer in their choices, and some of them preferred to choose neutrality or non-alignment with one of the parties to the crisis.
3. OPEC arose as an organization working to protect the interests of member states towards monopolistic companies, and it turned to guarantee production quotas later in a circumstance in which the size of OPEC countries' reserves did not match the size of their global production.
4. Developed countries tended under many circumstances to accelerate the transition to traditional energy alternatives, which put pressure on oil prices continuously since the oil crisis in 1973, and then energy security will be gradually dependent on internal conditions and not on external supplies.
5. Russia pressed through the option of supplying Europe with oil and natural gas, in order to influence the European political decision regarding the Russian-Ukrainian war, which caused damage to European energy security for several months. Western countries dealt with it by reducing and rationalizing consumption, searching for non-traditional energy alternatives and searching for sources New supply of oil and natural gas, which made it restored stability to energy security, in the short term, but in the long term, it will ensure more excellent stability in terms of energy security guarantees.
6. Western countries tended in 2022 to demand from the major countries in OPEC to increase their production and increase the supply of oil to Europe. Still, they were bound by commitments and understandings: OPEC Plus, for the year 2016, reduced total production and regulated production quotas, to ensure obtaining a suitable price for a barrel of oil.
7. In the near future, the interests of OPEC countries could be harmed, because energy security will not depend heavily on oil supplies to the global market, but will depend on factors related to each country, given that renewable energy can be produced locally, relying on national resources and technology, in light of the transformation Paying attention to environmental considerations, which will put OPEC in front of a significant dilemma related to preserving the interests of member states in pumping quantities of production and achieving financial returns from them.

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