

Today's Strategic Debate about Oil and Electricity

Andrew Witting/REUTERS



Jonathan Bachman/REUTERS



The articles in this section deal with the very current topic of two strategic energy sub-sectors: oil and electricity. The analyses cover different aspects like the sector's legal, regulatory framework; the description of the state of the two most important companies involved (Mexican Oil, or Pemex, and the Federal Electricity Commission, or the CFE); the bodies linked to these companies and their technological institutions; the structure of supply; and policies, actions, and main trends.

Some of the questions that the oil industry studies attempt to answer are, for example: what has the real function of Pemex been for the Mexican state? What interests does it really serve? How has the dispute over oil rent unfolded?

While it is difficult to respond exhaustively, clearly, what we are seeing in Mexico is the development of the neoliberal project and the discrete involvement of the international agencies that support it. In contrast with the international sphere, where oil is a strategic resource managed under state ownership with a business perspective, in Mexico, Pemex is increasingly subject to U.S. energy security requirements and the private interests of transnational corporations.

Another question answered is: do bio-fuels really aid in reducing greenhouse gas emissions? The response is the result of a rigorous evaluation of parameters, like energy return, and water and cultivable land requirements for its production. Just as in other cases, the mitigation of climate change could be achieved by encouraging energy efficiency and conservation, using solar energy, planning land use, conserving biodiversity, recovering rivers, and remodeling local and national urban transportation, among other measures.

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