

Jan Selby: International / Inter-Carbon Relations

Carbon policy is becoming one of the most important current topics, in other words, a global megatrend, among the competition of various geopolitical importance taking place in the system of international relations today, especially in the field of energy security. Carbon policy is causing various environmental problems, attracting not only the developed powerful countries of the world, but also the countries of the whole world. British Sheffield University professor Jan Selby analyzes such problems in his article "International/inter-carbon relations". We present to our readers the review of this scientific research prepared by **O.Tashpulatov**, a trainee-teacher of the International Relations department.

After defending his PhD in political science in 2002, Jan began his academic career as a lecturer at the Department of Politics and International Relations at the Lancaster University. He has also held several leadership positions at the University of Sussex, including Chair (2007-09), Director of Research (2011-20) and Director of the Sussex Interdisciplinary Center for Conflict and Security Studies (2012-18).

While Professor Selby's research focuses on climate change, water and energy security policy, he also works occasionally on international relations theory, conflict, peacebuilding and development.

Jan Selby's research entitled "International/Carbon Relations" mainly consists of 3 parts: *1) Fossil Capitalism; 2) Climate change issues* and *3) Decarbonization issues*. We will analyze them below.

Initially, the author noted that in the period before the start of the first industrial revolution in Europe, the volume of industrial production was not high, and that all production enterprises were located on the edge of the river/sea transport system, which were the most optimal means of resource delivery at that time, and that working days were long and resources were scarce. refers to the lack of continuity of production due to supply problems. In the following places, the introduction of coal production by the 1830s and the introduction of steam engines in Britain clearly solved the problems of resource supply, which led to

the expansion of the number of industrial enterprises and the continuous continuation of production. will be done.¹

The use of coal as a source of energy made it possible to move from manual labor to production with the help of step-by-step techniques. Large-scale production began to require more energy sources. Naturally, the increase in industrial production will also rapidly develop trade. Urbanization processes begin in Europe. The increase in the population and the opening of resource extraction mines led to the development of new lands.

Britain began to turn its attention to new lands in order to establish the supply of energy sources and meet the need for coal in industry. From this period, the imperialist policy of the British flourished. Coal soon became the main source of quality for Europeans. The wealth of coal reserves in Germany ensured the development of heavy industry in addition to light industry. In the future, the production of military weapons in heavy industry led to the clash of interests of the imperial states in terms of colonies and hegemony in the region. Figure 1 shows how much coal was used among energy reserves in the period from the 30s of the 21st century to the end of World War I.

Selby also notes that the Carboniferous was a major impetus for the development of desert areas in the Arabian Islands and the beginning of production or cultivation relations in these lands.

Of course, the large-scale use of coal as an energy source did not remain without its negative effects. Coal-powered industrial enterprises began to release large amounts of CO₂ into the atmosphere. This soon led to an increase in air temperature and climate change.

If we look at the statistics presented in the study, after World War II, the percentage of carbon in the atmosphere was 0.8 ppm, in 2010 it was 2.4 ppm, and by 2022 it will be 421 ppm. According to Jan Selby, this is higher than the previous two million years. The air temperature has increased accordingly from

¹ Malm, Fossil Capital: The Rise of Steam Power and the Roots of Global Warming (London: Verso, 2016), p. 80.

1.2°C in the 1960s to 1.5°C. According to the author's calculations, this indicator will reach 2°C by 2030.²

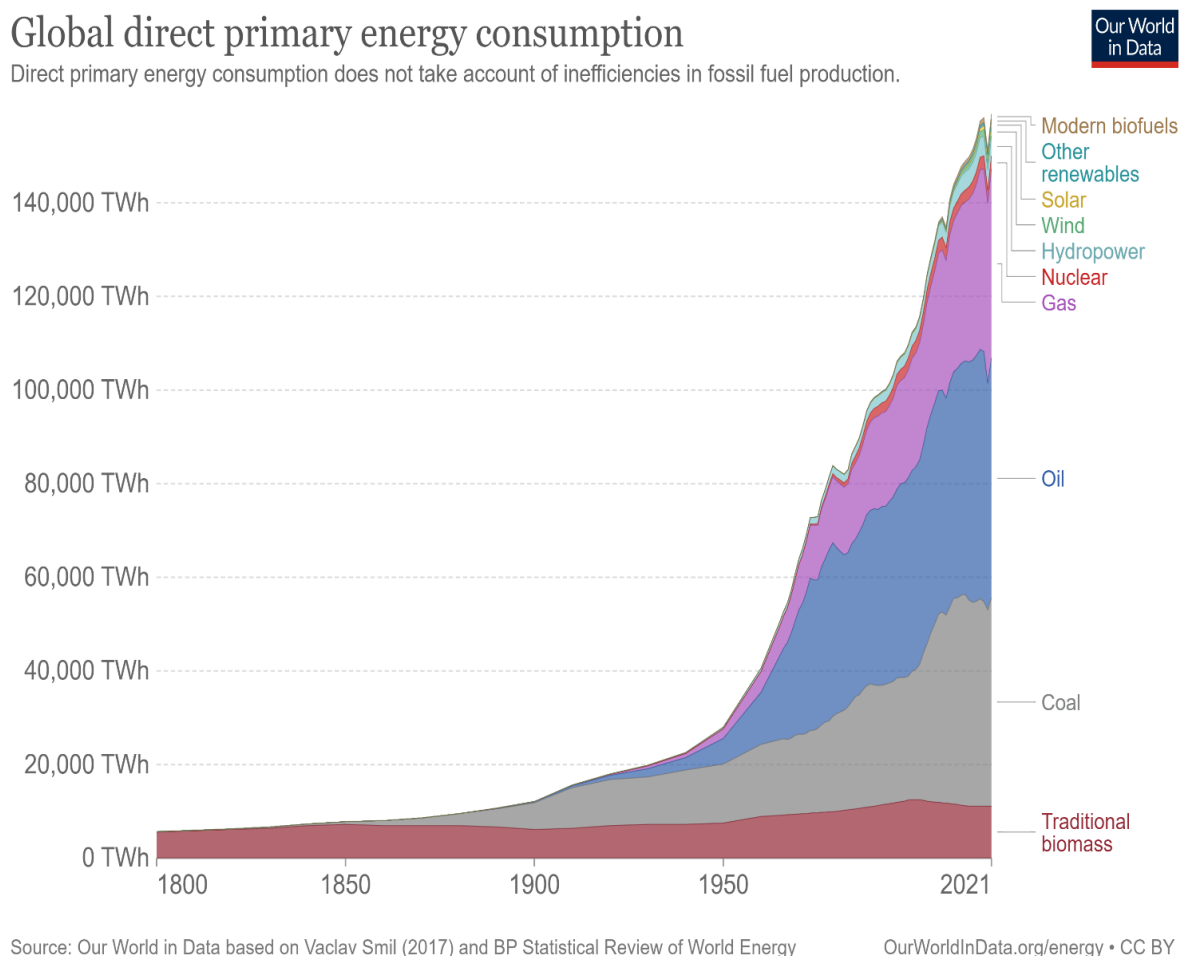


Figure-1 <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/global-primary-energy>

An increase of air temperature and the heat effect will ensure the drying up of water reserves and the onset of drought in places. This naturally affects the outbreak of various diseases and food safety.

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 'Global Warming of 1.5°C: An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Gas Emission Pathways, in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty', Summary for Policymakers, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018), p. 4

Civil war in 2003-2005 in the Darfur region of Sudan, in the Middle East (especially in Syria) and around Lake Chad also caused many victims due to the depletion of water resources due to climate change.³

In addition, the drying up of the Aral Sea in Central Asia today is causing major environmental problems in the region. The salt storm coming from the dry desert area is causing not only the people of Karakalpakstan and Khorezm, but also the people of neighboring Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to get sick with various infectious diseases.

Climate change and depletion of energy resources are causing economic wars in various regions today. Various color revolutions and civil wars in the Middle East, together with climate change in Europe, are creating a new regional problem, i.e. migration.

During the IV industrial revolution, a large part of the world's population lives in cities, and due to the development of technologies, with the cultivation of agricultural products, as in previous times, attention to human resources is reduced.

In his research, Jan Selby notes that the increase or decrease in digestibility of crops does not depend on climate change.⁴ However, this point of view is quite controversial in our opinion. The lack of water resources, the lack of food in the African region and the countries of the Middle East, famine, many victims, the spread of various diseases, and the increase in the flow of migration indicate the author to reconsider his view.

The 2016 Paris Agreement was signed with the participation of the world's leading countries regarding carbon emissions. According to it, it was envisaged that the countries should close the production industries that emit CO₂ that causes the depletion of the ozone layer and the thermo effect, as well as the gradual replacement of the use of coal as an energy source with alternative energy resources. This agreement was aimed at preventing the increase in air temperature in the future and solving various environmental problems. However, during the

³ Jan Selby and Clemens Hoffmann, ‘Beyond Scarcity: Rethinking Water, Climate Change and Conflict in the Sudans’, *Global Environmental Change*, 29, 2014, pp. 360–70

⁴ Jan Selby. *International/inter-carbon realtions// International relations*. 2022. p. 13

Trump era, the USA and the People's Republic of China left this agreement and started an economic race to occupy the world market. As a result, the two countries account for a total of 50% of the world's annual CO₂ emissions. The warming effect is again becoming a global trending topic. As a result, there is a decrease in water reserves in the northern states of the USA. In the northern states, residents are prohibited from installing pools in their homes. The US is now starting a policy of buying water from Canada. In the PRC, as the environment deteriorates, cities are covered with poisonous gas fog. Such problems serve as a wake-up call for the two superpowers to return to the Paris Agreement and follow the strategic priorities defined in the agreement.

In conclusion, it should be said that carbon emission is considered one of the mega-trend problems in the geopolitical arena today. The depletion of resources is the cause of various economic wars between countries, and due to various infectious diseases, the population in Africa, the Middle East, India, and other countries are the cause of many victims. The struggle for resources brings the problem of migration and organized crime to the EU.