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The Cost of Liquid Gold

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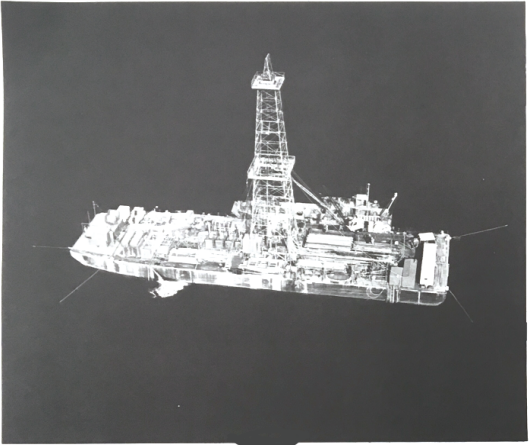
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The Cost of Liquid Gold:

The Consequences of Western Claims to African Land

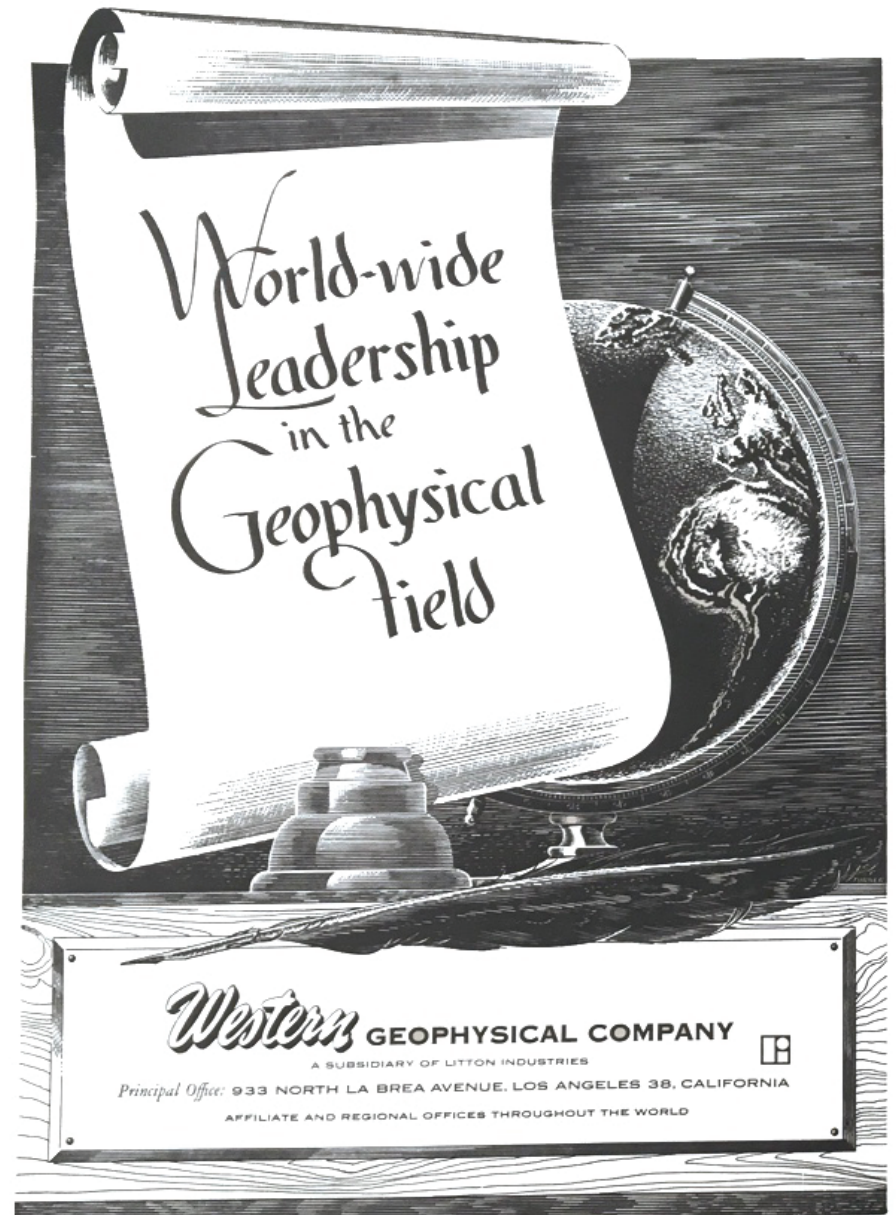
On February 15th 2019 I was browsing the maps collection in the basement of the Honnold Mudd Library. My attention was drawn to a particular book, "Petroleum Developments and Generalized Geology of Africa and Middle East". Initially my interest in this book was purely superficial and was spurred by an interesting and worn cover with a map of Africa and the Middle East. The pages on the inside are maps of different countries in Africa and trace paper overlays that identify different geological features that might signify oil. However, as I flipped through the pages of this book maps, I found something interesting. Every few pages there is an ad for another oil service, whether it be for finding oil or tools for collecting it. The juxtaposition of these ads, that obviously target a Western audience, and the maps of African countries started to form some questions in my mind. How did oil drilling in Africa start? Why is a Western audience concerned with oil fields in Africa? And what have been the consequences? In order to answer these questions I turned to the Claremont Colleges Library website to find more resources on the subject. I searched on the Library website for books related to the terms "African Oil" and "Conflict" in hopes to find a source that should shed some light on the consequences of African Oil claims. I found a book titled "The Scramble for African Oil" and I headed to the library to check it out. Surrounding this source on the shelf were multiple other books on the topic of African Oil, but one that stuck out to me as a valuable resource for answering the other questions I had on the subject was a book titled "The Hundred Men," which after scanning the first few pages was clearly a glorification of African oil drilling. I felt that "The Hundred Men" would be a good source to consult in order to understand both sides of the topic. I read these two sources in McConnell and the differences were striking. As I read it became like a dialogue. McConnell ("The Hundred Men") would make grand statements about the bravery and adversity of the Western men who went to Africa to make claims to oil, and Yates ("The

Scramble for African Oil") would follow explaining how these thought patterns lead to war, poverty, and environmental unrest in these oil rich regions. Each of these sources provided context for the other in a way that made it clear to me how Western perceptions of Africa have come to shape the political and social landscape. One of the easiest ways to demonstrate this influence is through an analysis of oil drilling and its direct impact on the regions involved. This dialogue that began to form inspired the final form of my project. My project is intended as a printed booklet that engages the reader in the dialogue that I began to see with brief statements by me for context and closing remarks.



February 15th, 2019:

Wandering around the basement of the Honnold Mudd Library I stumbled upon a dusty old book titled “Petroleum Developments and Generalized Geology of Africa and Middle East”. Up to that point I hadn’t thought much about oil developments in Africa, but as I flipped through the pages and pages of maps in this book I found something really interesting. Every few pages I found another ad for an oil related company. The juxtaposition of these ads and the maps of African countries on the adjacent pages, made clear to me the ways in which western perceptions of Africa have cultivated a destructive habit of land grabs and developments in these oil rich countries.



McConnell, Philip C. (1985). The Hundred Men

Yates, Douglas A. (2012). The Scramble for African Oil

All figures and images come from “Petroleum Developments and Generalized Geology of Africa and Middle East” (Avrill H. Munger, E. Placidi, 1960)

This story has been written as an expression of affection. It is offered as a tribute to those Americans who, with their Saudi assistants, struggled during the early years of the Second World War to perform the tasks required in holding the vast Saudi Arabian oil concession. These visitors from the West met the Arabian desert with a tolerant grin and a casual curse and the unspoken taken-for-granted attitude that they had come to this barren land to do a job and, by God, they planned to do it

The 'oil curse' is a shorthand expression that denotes a series of dysfunctions—economic, political, governmental, and security—which are strongly associated with oil-dependency.



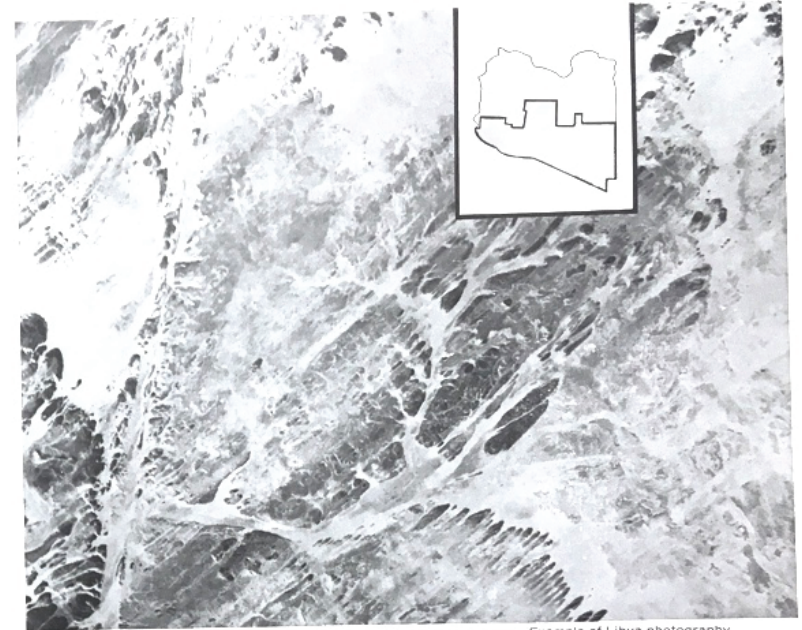
Together, they encountered an uncompromising desert that could kill those who violated its rules. Together they became aware of a strange and ancient civilization that had produced a people full as proud of their heritage as the Americans were of theirs.

Torn by violent conflicts based on ethnocentrism, unfair distribution, status frustration and internalized inferiority complexes, the people who live in these oil-rich countries are prone to rebellion, insurrection, and civil war.

These men and women had been tested by the challenge of the desert and had found there a justification for holding on in spite of discomfort and such growing threats to personal safety as war might offer. They had made an investment of themselves in this venture.

The West was often on the wrong side, choosing men who would collaborate with multinational corporate designs for Africa and assassinating genuine nationalists and pan-Africanists who might, had they lived, taken their countries in a different direction.

In that flow of oil and history, the Hundred Men performed a small part that gains in significance as it is viewed as a link in a chain of events that made this oil available to the modern world.



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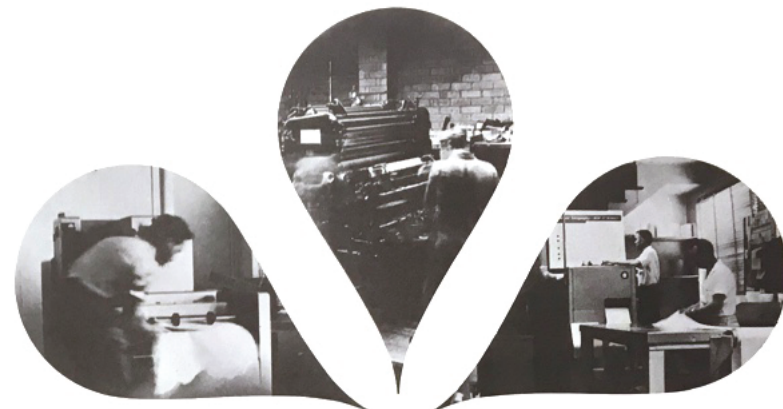
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the geologists took the name Dammam for the prospective oil field surrounding it, in accord with a habit of giving an oilfield the name of a nearby town. The community that grew within the oilfield, and became the company's headquarters, was known as Dharan.

They, as the geologists before them, were pioneers in the fullest sense of the word.

When you consider an African oil enclave, one of its single most striking features is the domination by and dependence upon foreign multinational corporations (MNCs) that own it. They hire their own exploration teams. They build their own offshore drilling platforms. They run their own pumping stations, pipelines, refineries, heliports and tanker fleets as they please. Their global distribution networks, world-class investments, and superior technology give them a kind of sovereign power over poor rural African villages located around the enclaves.



For specialized service to the oil industry see footnote!



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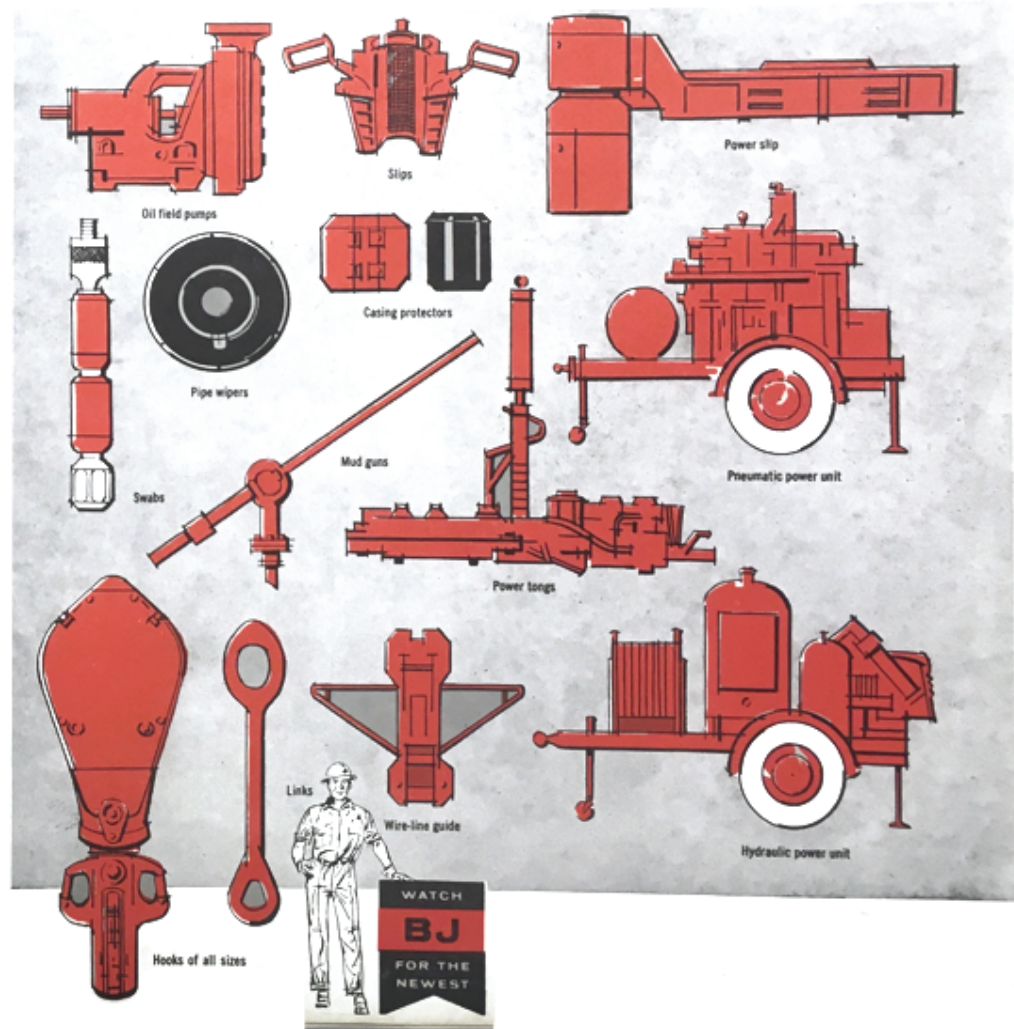
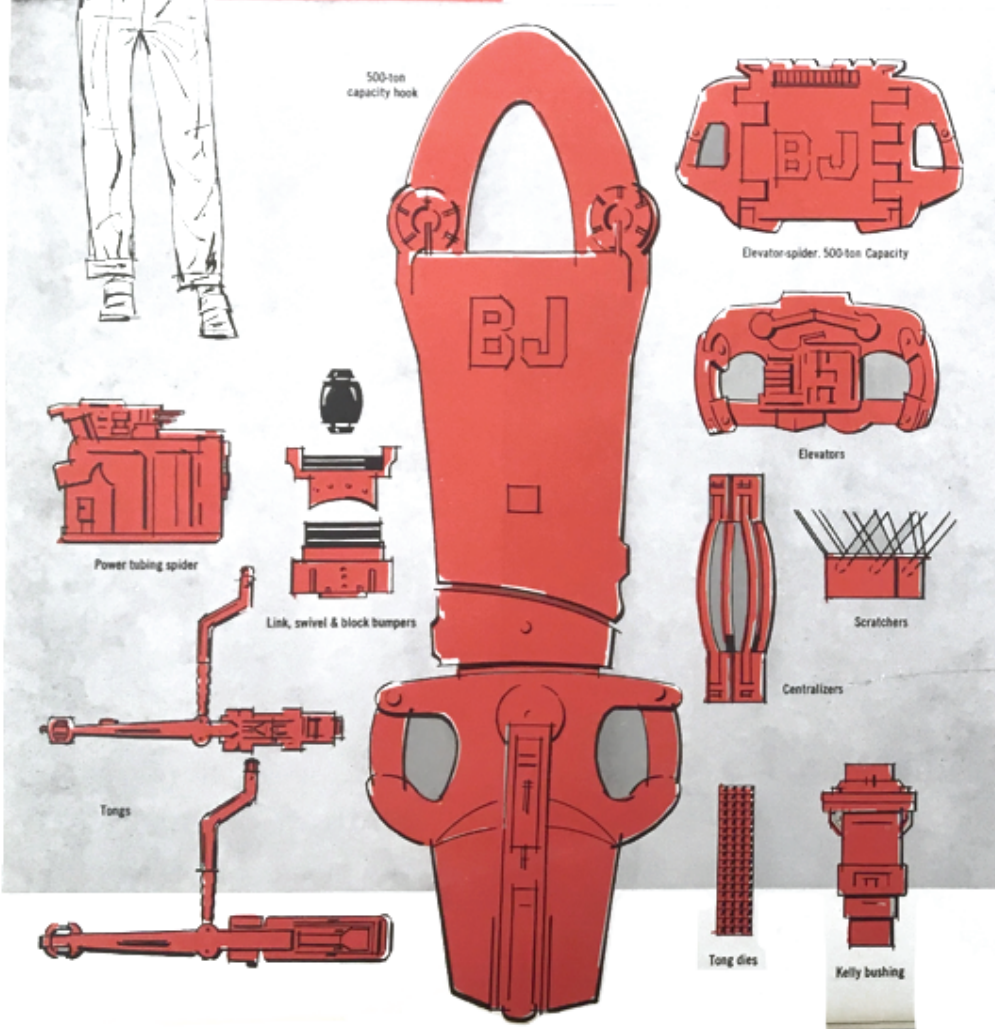
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Economically these states have tended to neglect their human development because they are blinded by their resource wealth.

Development of the concession was being pushed as rapidly as seemed feasible. More Saudis were added to the payroll, and ships continued to bring more Americans.

the village schoolteachers were leaving their schools to take well-paying construction jobs on the pipeline.



The More Remote the Well...The Greater the Need for

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SHAFFER TYPE B and TYPE E BLOWOUT PREVENTERS

are ideal for the great majority of general drilling applications. Both types feature:

"Swinging Side-Opening" Doors for quick, convenient ram changes without dismantling the hook-up or losing operating fluid... Positive "In-Line" Ram and Piston design that eliminates yokes, levers and other complicated assemblies... and many other important advancements!

Type B has non-rotating locking shafts for those preferring maximum compactness... Type E has rotating locking shafts for those preferring quick indication of ram position. Otherwise they are the same in their many operating advantages!



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are ideal where extra high well pressures are a problem. The 7-1/16" bore size safely handles working pressures to 15,000 PSI... the 9" and 11" bore sizes safely handle working pressures to 10,000 PSI. All three feature:

"Swinging End-Opening" Doors for quick, easy ram changes without dismantling the hook-up or losing operating fluid... Positive "In-Line" Ram and Piston design, with no levers, yokes or other complicated operating connections... and many other Shaffer field proven advantages!

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combine a Blowout Preventer and a Stripper in one trouble-free unit that maintains continuous pressure protection automatically as long as the drill string is in the hole.

There's nothing to forget—or remember—with this unit because it is always packed off around the drill string, whether the string is rotating, being raised or lowered, or is stationary. Moreover, the self-adjusting Stripper Rubber expands and contracts automatically to fit the varying diameters of drill pipe, couplings and tool joints—as well as the varying shapes of square, hexagon and octagon Kellys!

You can use this unit for regular drilling; for drilling with air or gas; for drilling with reverse circulation; and for drilling under pressure—wide range versatility to fit your drilling requirements!



SHAFFER TYPE LWS BLOWOUT PREVENTERS

are particularly designed to simplify pressure protection on quick in-and-out production and re-work jobs where light weight and minimum rig-up time are vital factors.

In the 7-1/16" Bore Size, Type LWS Preventers weigh only 780 lbs. for easy transportation and handling... In addition to a conventional hydraulic pressure system, operation can be by portable hand-pump where emphasis is on the simplest possible installation.

These features, plus all the other Shaffer advancements (Swinging End-Opening Doors, Positive "In-Line" Ram and Piston design, etc.) make the Type LWS ideal for modern repair and re-work jobs!

REMEMBER—Shaffer's line of pressure control equipment also includes a complete range of Mechanically-Operated Blowout Preventers... plus Shaffer Landing, Casing and Tubing Heads... Shaffer Flow Beans... Shaffer Kelly Cocks... Shaffer Plug Valves... and other advanced pressure control units.

Also the Shaffer "Two-In-One" Down-Hole Tools (Shaffer Waggoner Bumper Safety Joints and Shaffer Jar Safety Joints) are simplifying drilling and fishing jobs wherever difficult operations are a problem!

WRITE FOR HELPFUL LITERATURE that describes the above products in greater detail!

37 years
OF THE FINEST
EQUIPMENT



Socal [Standard Oil Company of California] would and did.

On a short test, oil flowed from it [a drill site in Bahrain] at a rate equal to nearly four thousand barrels per day. In San Fransisco, joy again flowed with equal abundance.

Shell, TotalFinaElf, ExxonMobil, ChevronTexaco. They produced around 75 percent of all oil exported from the region. Two were European, and two were American.

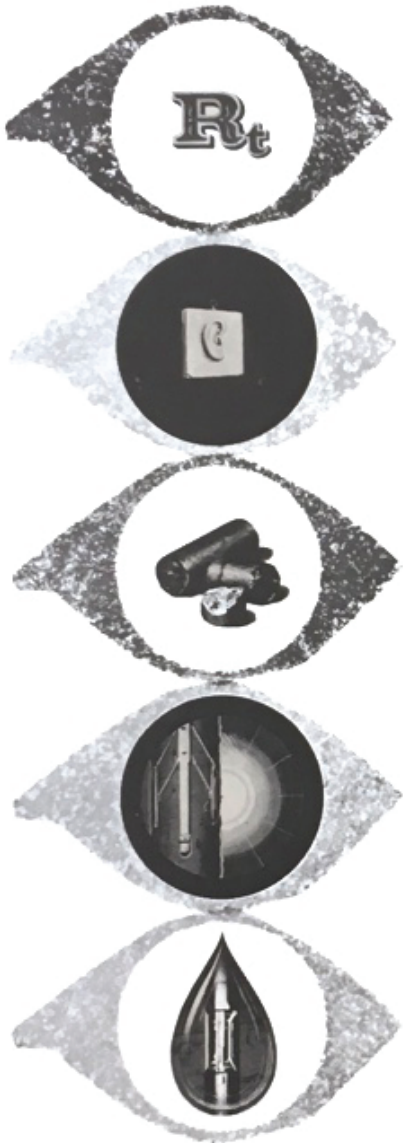
With the advent of the Americans and their search for oil, a portion of the [Saudi] population entered a world of engines and motors, of spinning flywheels and humming gears.

For half a century, foreign oilmen followed a colonial pattern of investment in Africa. Money came from Europe. Geologists came from Europe. Companies came from Europe.

A war was raging in faraway Europe; but the world of Dharan was at peace. A hum and rumble of motors grew in the air. [...] the quiet was shattered by the roar of explosions [...] half-clad people were pouring into the streets.

Examination by the light of morning disclosed that the total direct damage from the bombing was confined to punctures in two small pipelines.

*HOW TO
FIND OIL
... by
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THE WORLD OF THE OIL INDUSTRY
SCHLUMBERGER

By the time the pipeline was finished in 2013 a series of grievances from local communities affected by the pipeline (and not just those entirely wiped off the map by the football-field-wide corridor cut through the forest) included a significant migration of people from other regions who spontaneously settled in their region. There were also complaints about excessive dust caused by the construction, and the contamination of water reservoirs by the underground burial of the pipe.

But who could be trusted to hunt for the buried treasure? [...] Only men from the west seemed qualified.

Inflation in the prices of basic commodities and housing also occurred as foreign workers arrived in their villages.

The Dammam fire was history, but it remained as a vivid memory of the struggle and success achieved by a united community.

The government of Cameroon even created two national parks in compensation for the environmental damage caused by the pipeline's construction. But Chad did not.

In it's project appraisal document on the pipeline the World Bank claimed, contrary to the evidence, that 'Chad has successfully put in place democratic political institutions' but Chad's republican institutions were flagrantly violated by presidential and legislative elections which even the US State Department has reported to be "fraudulent," with "wide-spread vote rigging"

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SUCCESS REPORT

Saved 29 days
on 3 recent fishing jobs.



A North Texas
Driller Reports:

"OUR 'KLUSTRITE' ROTARY SHOE SPLIT A DRILL COLLAR IN RECORD TIME

We stuck a 3" change over sub 8" OD - 2 1/2" ID and a 6" by 24" bit collar under the surface pipe. Sub and collar were partly embedded in the side wall beneath surface pipe. Using three Klustrite rotary shoes the sub and drill collar were split longitudinally. The 6" ID of the collar was blasted so that half of the collar was left in the side wall; the other half was brought out of the hole. The hole was then cemented to full diameter and normal operations resumed. Using Klustrite shoes this job required only three days. Try to leave jobs in the normal equipment when using conventional rotary shoes.



An Operator in
Oil Center, W.M. Reports:

"THE KLUSTRITE SHOE WE USED PENETRATED 20 TIMES
FASTER THAN A CONVENTIONAL ROTARY SHOE

We used a Klustrite fish bottom shoe to work over a North Texas pocket in an open hole well. We had penetrated just a conventional fish bottom shoe but were able to penetrate into 3" in 39 hours. Klustrite rotary shoe had made 18" in 12 hours when pocket started moving down hole. Packer was lowered to TD and was recovered in the workshop. Shoe was in near perfect condition when job was completed.



"Klustrite"
Rotary
Shoe



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Beneath these aberrations of state power live poor and deprived societies that have been traumatized by five centuries of bloody exploitation, handicapped by low levels of education and health, primitive economies of accumulation, high rates of unemployment, limited capital, and few opportunities for advancement

Jim Suter was reminded of his language limitations when he was working on a pipeline soon after his arrival in Saudi Arabia. [...]

"What's wrong?" Jim asked.

The interpreter was vague.

"Can the man speak English?"

"No, Sahb."

Jim, somewhat irritated was guilty of a foolish question.

"If he's so smart, why doesn't he learn English?"

Why has nationalization not succeeded in Africa? Why do foreigners still rule African oil?

This question, posed by Yates, is answered through McConnell's glorification of the Western men who went in search of oil in Africa and the Middle East. African control of their land and oil is dependent on a shift in Western perceptions of the region. In 1985 McConnell demonstrated this Western attitude, and in 2012 Yates analyzed the effects. Without an updated view of African states as independent, the economic, social, and environmental unrest will continue as a consequence of unjust land grabs in the area.

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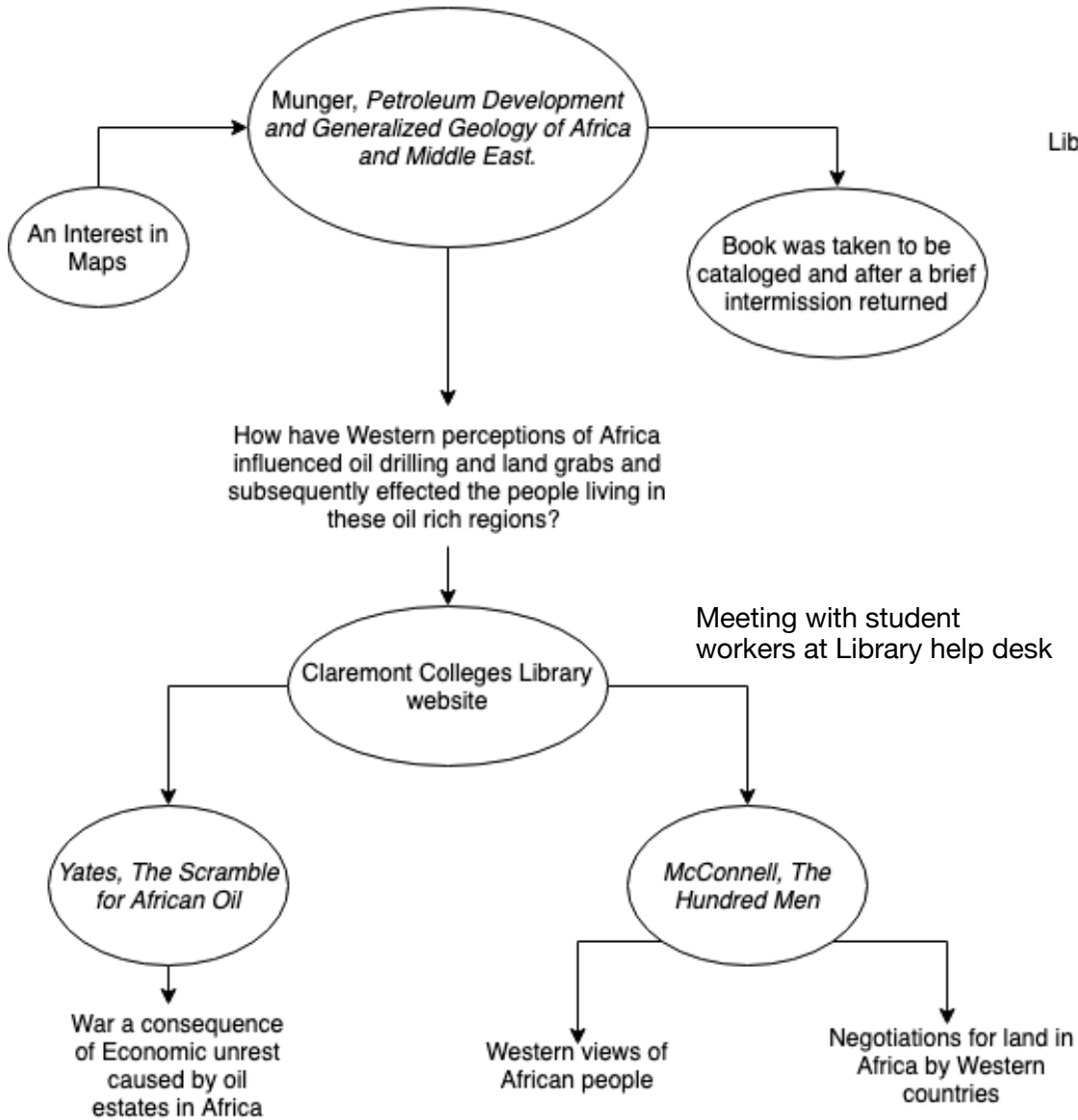
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The Cost of Liquid Gold: The Consequences of Western Claims to African Land



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